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**Statement by
H.E. Dr. Yannis Valinakis
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic**

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New York, 2 October 2007

Monsieur le Président, Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les grands défis et problèmes à l'échelle mondiale et régionale demandent des réponses urgentes et cohérentes. Les responsabilités et le rôle de l'ONU pour assurer une prise de conscience et une unité de direction sont maintenant encore plus importants et accrus. C'est exactement pour cela que le respect des principes de l'ONU doit être

A clear indication of the importance that Greece attaches to the environment is the fact that the Greek Chairmanship of the Human Security Network has decided to focus on climate change and human security.

Your Excellencies,

This summer my country suffered enormously from devastating wildfires. May I take this opportunity, addressing the international community, to express our deep gratitude and thanks to all those countries and friends who have extended to us their valuable help, assistance and solidarity.

Working for peace is not an easy task. The pursuit of international peace and stability, if it

Your Excellencies,

I deeply regret to note that thirty three years after the Turkish invasion in 1974, the Republic of Cyprus remains a divided island. Turkey continues to occupy part of a UN and EU member state with over 40,000 troops, violating UN resolutions and international law.

Our steadfast objective remains the withdrawal of all occupation troops and the
restoration of the island to the status of a united, bi-communal federation. To this end

the relevant UN resolutions and the EU principles and values, provide a clear framework for a comprehensive settlement, agreed upon by the two communities.

Greece has always and consistently welcomed the UN initiatives for finding a just and viable solution. In this vein, we strongly support the rapid implementation of the 8th of July of 2006 Agreement, reached under the auspices of the UN

In this context UN Security Council Resolutions 817 and 845, calling for a mutually

need to be respected in practice by all.

Our efforts to secure a truly European future for the Balkans will remain inconclusive if

remain convinced that this goal can only be attained: if, first, the achievement of effective compromises between the two parties in the course of the ongoing negotiations is attained, and second, if the legitimization of the settlement through a Resolution of the