

20 June 2022

Dear Nicos,

As the fifth President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Leader of my People, I am writing in response to your letter dated 19 May 2022, which was handed to my Special Representative, M. Ergün Olgun by your Negotiator Menelaos Menelaou, at their weekly evaluation and coordination meeting held on 20 May 2022.

Upon receiving the letter, as an initial response my Special Representative reminded your Negotiator that it is unacceptable to assume that the exhausted basis of negotiations were still valid. This was also confirmed by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, at the 5+UN informal meeting held in Geneva last April that no common ground exists between the two Sides.

The mandate I received from my People is to solve the Cyprus issue once and for all. I am confident that this is your objective as well. We cannot achieve this objective by insisting on a process and design that has repeatedly failed. After 59 years of repeated failures and the denial of our inherent rights for decades, it is high time we comply with the realities and needs of sustainable settlement in Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriot People are entitled to the same rights and privileges exercised by the Greek Cypriot People. Consequently, to re-establish the needed equilibrium and prepare the ground for sustainable settlement, it is essential that our sovereign equality and equal international status are reaffirmed and secured. This will open the door for meaningful and formal negotiations, which will aim at establishing a structured cooperative relationship between the two equal States.

The so-called CBMs you refer to in your letter had been on the table for a long time and had failed because they overlook our inherent sovereignty, amount to the extension of your authority over us and only contribute to the sustenance of the unacceptable status quo. They are a component of the failed and exhausted basis, which also makes them null and void.

I would like to believe in your sincerity in building confidence and my expectation from

you is to put an end to your obstructionist policies towards my People, which is the main reason for the lack of confidence between the two Sides.

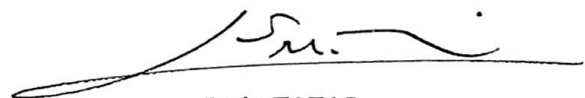
Dear Nicolas,

In the coming weeks I will be sharing with you concrete areas of cooperation on which we, as the two Sides, can work together for the mutual benefit of our respective Peoples and of our island, while contributing to peace and stability in our region.

I hope that you will approach these areas of cooperation with an open mind and in a constructive manner.

Yours sincerely,

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ersin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Ersin TATAR  
President