

Statement by the Republic of Turkey regarding the report entitled “National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2020” of the Greek Cypriot side

Turkey would like to express its views concerning certain allegations about Turkey and the situation in the island of Cyprus, raised in the 2020 National Greenhouse Gas Inventory of the Greek Cypriot side and without entangling into a political discussion, underline certain facts already well-known by the international community.

The Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960 on the basis of a partnership between the two peoples of the Island, through international treaties concluded between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots as well as the guarantor powers Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom. These international treaties were based on the political equality and equal status of the Island’s Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples.

This state of affairs and the legitimacy has ceased to exist as such after the constitution of the “Republic of Cyprus” was unilaterally violated in 1963 by the Greek Cypriot side, through the use of force and the ousting of Turkish Cypriots from state mechanisms, not through voluntary withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriots. Since December 1963, there has not been a joint authority or administration which is in law or in fact entitled to represent jointly the two peoples of Cyprus, namely the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, and consequently Cyprus as a whole.

In this regard, the Cyprus problem is not an issue of “invasion” or “occupation”. The division of the Island began in 1963, much earlier than 1974, when the Greek Cypriots expelled the Turkish Cypriots from the partnership state organs and institutions as well as from their homes, in violation of the Treaties of 1960 and all human rights norms. When this culminated with a coup d’état carried out by the Greek Junta in 1974 aiming at annexing the Island to Greece, Turkey was left with no other option but to exercise its Treaty rights. Since then, Turkish forces have been the only factor preventing the repetition of earlier tragedies.

Therefore, the allegation of occupation is not compatible with the facts in Cyprus, the 1960 Treaties and the nature and contents of the UN comprehensive settlement process. The existence of the Turkish forces on the Island stems from 1960 international treaties, within the framework of Turkey’s rights and obligations as a guarantor power.

Turkey, along with the Turkish Cypriots, remains committed to finding a political settlement to the Cyprus issue. Turkey will continue to support efforts towards achieving a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus based on the inherent constitutive powers of the two peoples, their political equality and their co-ownership of the Island. Pending such a comprehensive settlement, however, the position of Turkey on Cyprus will remain unchanged.

In the light of this legal and political situation, we do not accept the misleading allegations in the said report about Turkey and the situation in the Island.