



Security Council

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Letter dated 1 August 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you concerning the Security Council open briefing held on 24 July 2025 in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, which addressed cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), during which unfortunate and unrelated references were made to the Cyprus issue and to the Turkish minority in Western Thrace and the Dodecanese by the Representative of Greece.

Türkiye regrets the attempts to divert the agenda of a Security Council debate – intended to foster cooperation between the United Nations and OIC – by asserting irrelevant claims against OIC.

Cooperation between OIC and Turkish Cypriots dates back to 1975. The first OIC resolution on Cyprus was adopted in 1976 and expressed support for the legitimate rights of the Turkish Cypriots. In 2004, following the rejection by the Greek Cypriots of the Comprehensive Settlement Plan (Annan Plan), another resolution was adopted at OIC that recognizes that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots and that the Turkish Cypriot side would henceforth take part in OIC meetings under the name envisaged by the Annan Plan. This resolution also called on the international community to abolish the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, echoing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who had called on all States to “eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development”.

Since then, Turkish Cypriots have been represented at OIC as the “Turkish Cypriot State”. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which has effectively functioning State mechanisms, a democratically elected Government and legislative body, an independent judiciary and all other State institutions, continues to take part in OIC summits and ministerial meetings.

Türkiye values the continued engagement between OIC and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and encourages other regional organizations to establish communication channels with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

On the other hand, Greece regrettably continues to deny the inalienable rights of the Turkish minority in Western Thrace and the Dodecanese. Due to systemic discriminatory policies, the Turkish minority is stripped of the right to elect its own religious leaders.



Their demands to open private bilingual (Greek-Turkish) kindergartens are being rejected. The Turkish minority living in the islands of Rhodes and Kos are deprived of basic needs such as education in Turkish and the availability of places of worship.

The European Court of Human Rights has found Greece in violation of the principle of freedom of association in four separate rulings related to the denial of ethnic identity. Yet, nearly two decades after the first judgments, Greek authorities continue to avoid implementation and persistently refuse to register minority associations bearing the words “Turkish” and “minority” in their names.

Türkiye expects Greece to take concrete steps to improve the situation of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace and the Turkish Muslim population in the Dodecanese through effective consultation and dialogue with the communities themselves.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet **Yıldız**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
