

## **Greek Turkish Forum Statement**

**22 December 2016**

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) recognizes the significance of the upcoming Geneva meeting that commences on 9 January 2017. The summit in Geneva is the culmination of a Cypriot-led process building convergences across most chapters under negotiation. Whilst outstanding issues remain, the Cypriot leaders have demonstrated leadership and vision in progressing to this stage. The presentation of maps by both during the 11 January meeting will prove to be a milestone, as it is unprecedented in the history of Cyprus peace talks that span half a century.

It is imperative that the guarantor powers, as well as other relevant parties, do everything possible to support the process and build on the convergences achieved by the Cypriot leaders. There is a palpable sense that the meeting of 12 January may constitute a watershed moment for the entire process. While significant remaining differences may prove difficult to overcome, negotiations on the international dimension of the Cyprus issue should underpin and augment the painstakingly achieved progress on the internal aspects.

This is truly an historic moment, the significance of which cannot be overstated. The successful conclusion of the meeting and of preparations for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus promises to pave the way for social and economic prosperity of the communities on the island, as well as wider regional peace.

As members of the Greek Turkish Forum and its Cyprus Chapter, we are determined, in collaboration with other civil society organisations, to support a negotiated settlement for Cyprus in our respective societies.

Coordinators of the Greek Turkish Forum are:

Costa Carras (Greece), Ustun Erguder (Turkey)

Erol Kaymak (Cyprus Chapter, Turkish Cypriot), Charis Psaltis (Cyprus Chapter, Greek Cypriot)