

GREEK TURKISH FORUM
CYPRUS CHAPTER

November 2018

Your Excellencies,

The Cyprus Chapter of the Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) congratulates you on your tireless commitment to a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue.

The Cyprus Chapter of the Forum welcomes the ongoing efforts for the resumption of negotiations in Cyprus with a “Terms of Reference” that should reflect the statements of the UNSG, and that should entail a result-oriented process which is not open-ended but is aimed exclusively at agreeing to terms for a bi-communal, and bi-zonal federal republic. Recent discussions on “decentralized” or other variations of federation should not obscure the essence of the settlement sought to entail federalism and political equality.

Much is at stake. In recent months the United Nations has been prompted to reflect on its commitment to Cyprus, both in terms of its Good Offices services and regarding the extension of the UNFICYP peacekeeping mandate. Moreover, disputes over the extraction of fossil fuels from the Mediterranean basin pose a threat to the interests of all parties concerned and have regional implications.

The Cyprus Chapter of the GTF welcomes the opening on 12 November of the two new crossing points, Deryneia/Derinya and Apliki/Apliç as well as the initiatives to implement other Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) already agreed. It also considers that the success of a new round of negotiations would require greater engagement of civil society and the wider public, especially women and the youth to help build confidence in a solution as well as a new series of CBMs.

For the Cyprus Chapter of the GTF,

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