

Greek Turkish Forum Statement

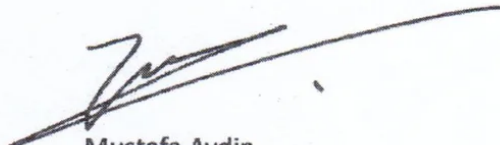
08 October 2019, Cyprus

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF), having met in Cyprus on 7 and 8 October 2019, had contacts with prominent personalities from both communities on the island, as well as UN officials, and decided to release the following statement to the attention of the public in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.


Based on its meetings and deliberations in Nicosia, the GTF urges the two leaders of the respective communities to come to an agreement on the terms of reference (ToR), which would facilitate the resumption of result-oriented negotiations in an attempt to reach an agreement within a foreseeable horizon without undue delays. The common aim remains to achieve a fair and viable permanent solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of a bi-zonal bi-communal federation with political equality of both communities living on the island, as summarized in UNSC Resolutions and the reports of the UN Secretary General. The GTF stresses the need to protect the body of work already carried out by the UN and to build, in the renewed negotiation process, on the convergences already achieved.

The GTF welcomes the positive spirit shown during the recent high-level meeting between Greece and Turkey in New York on the occasion of the UN General Assembly, as also the decision to prepare the next meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council in Thessaloniki.

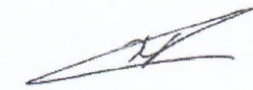
The GTF stresses again the need to avoid counterproductive statements regarding Cyprus to prevent an increase of tension in Greek-Turkish relations, and urges all the parties involved to consider the issue of the natural resources in the Eastern Mediterranean as a source of mutual interest and cooperation.



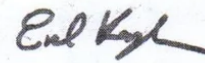
Mustafa Aydin



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