



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly**Letter dated 2 June 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to enclose herewith our joint letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, regarding the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session (see annex).

We kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 4.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(Signed) Andreas **Mavroyiannis**
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session

We refer to your letter dated 27 May 2020, by which you place under silence procedure, until 1 June 2020, at 5 p.m., in line with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, a decision by the General Assembly to elect Volkan Bozkir of Turkey as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

We have reviewed Mr. Bozkir's vision statement and we have duly noted the assurances provided by him during the interactive dialogue with the candidate held on 15 May 2020: (a) to represent solely the Office to which he is elected, based on the Charter of the United Nations and the body of resolutions, decisions, rules and practices that will bind him as President of the General Assembly; and (b) to treat all Member States equally, upholding the spirit of multilateralism and the rules-based international order, at the core of which is the United Nations.

Transparency and openness in all election and selection processes are essential for the United Nations membership to make informed choices, through proper consideration of the priorities, viewpoints and intentions of candidates, as well as their backgrounds. We cannot overstate the importance of ensuring that every President of the General Assembly fulfils his or her responsibilities in an independent and impartial manner, with the United Nations *acquis*, superseding all other considerations. This is particularly important for electing a non-divisive President to lead the General Assembly during its landmark seventy-fifth session and guide it to recommit to the multilateral system and the rules that underpin it.

Over and above the qualities of any candidate, we consider that the leadership of the sole universal principal organ of the United Nations should be held by a national of a Member State that is exemplary in its compliance with the norms and values of the United Nations. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the State nominating Mr. Bozkir.

Turkey threatens peace and security in its entire region by consistently violating the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including United Nations sanctions regimes, in order to realize its aspirations for regional domination. It does so by displaying a pattern of aggressive behaviour towards its neighbouring countries, encroaching on their territory, undermining their sovereignty and territorial integrity, questioning their sovereign rights and instrumentalizing the plight of refugees and migrants for political ends.

By imposing and sustaining an illegal land blockade on Armenia for almost three decades, Turkey effectively impedes the transit through and access to the sea of the neighbouring landlocked country. Turkey's persistent policies of denying and attacking the memory and the dignity of the victims of the genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire 105 years ago continue to pose a security threat for Armenia and the wider region.

Turkey invaded Cyprus and has continued to occupy more than a third of its territory for almost 50 years; continues to deny its very existence by insisting on not recognizing it, having unilaterally proclaimed an illegal, secessionist entity in the area that it occupies, which it tries to oppose to the sole legitimate Government, despite the clear condemnation of its actions by the Security Council; is responsible for egregious violations of human rights in Cyprus, which it continues to deny despite

being condemned by the European Court of Human Rights; and continues to violate Cyprus' sovereignty and sovereign rights on land, sea and air on a daily basis.

It is for these reasons that our delegations object to the election of Mr. Bozkir by silence procedure and request that the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session be held by secret ballot.

We would be grateful if you could inform Member States accordingly and have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 4.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(Signed) Andreas **Mavroyiannis**
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations
