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Letter dated 22 July 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 15 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to you ([A/75/929](#)), I would like to state the following.

Greece strongly rejects all unsubstantiated Turkish allegations, legally unfounded claims and misleading interpretations raised in the above-mentioned letter. In that regard, Greece reiterates its positions as set out repeatedly in letters addressed to the United Nations, to the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as in numerous notes verbales addressed directly to Turkey.

Furthermore, I would like to reiterate that Greece possesses ipso facto and ab initio sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which reflects customary international law, and its national legislation. This position has been registered on numerous occasions with the United Nations (indicatively: note verbale dated 24.2.2005, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, vol. 57, p. 129; note verbale dated No. 974/8.5.2012, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, vol. 79, p. 14; note verbale No. 389/20.2.2013, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, vol. 81, p. 23; and letters from the Permanent Representative of Greece dated 23 May 2016 ([A/70/900-S/2016/474](#)); 25 April 2019 ([A/73/850-S/2019/344](#)); 19 March 2020 ([A/74/758](#)); and 20 April 2020 ([A/74/819](#))), and has also been communicated bilaterally to Turkey (notes verbales No. 187/AS 2207/24.7.2009, No. 187/AS 2648/15.11.2011, No. 187/1066/30.4.2012, No. 156.3/1675/12.7.2012, and No. 2019/503.14/267/15.1.2019).

In that context, I would also like to reiterate the position of Greece as contained in my letter dated 15 February 2021 addressed to you ([A/75/753](#)) and to recall the strong commitment of Greece to continue the exploratory talks with Turkey, which provide both sides with the opportunity to explore the matter in order to proceed, later on, to meaningful and good-faith negotiations regarding the delimitation of their exclusive economic zones and continental shelves in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean on the basis of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, failing which the two countries should agree to the judicial settlement of their dispute.



Lastly, the practice of misrepresenting or even distorting reality invariably followed by Turkey, including in its aforementioned letter addressed to you, has never done a good service to promoting peace; it also betrays an obvious lack of will to unequivocally adhere to international law as the only means ruling the relations among nations. Turkey does not hesitate to promote such practices even within the United Nations while blatantly disrespecting successive Security Council resolutions that show the right path forward that Turkey keeps ignoring. Such attitudes on the part of Turkey have always been the cause of tensions in our region, including the recent escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean; it will remain so, unless Ankara decides at last to comply with the principles of international law, the threat of war against one of its neighbours definitely not being among them.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Maria **Theofili**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
