



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

at the

Security Council meeting with Troop Contributing Countries

to the

UN Peacekeeping force in Cyprus

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New York**

**-Check against
delivery-**

Thank you Mr. President,

We commend convening this important debate with Troop Contributing Countries to the UNFICYP mission in Cyprus and thank for the latest Report of the Secretary General as well as the update on the latest developments.

We would like to welcome the new UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of UNFICYP Mr. Colin Stewart and to wish him all the best in his new position. Slovakia looks forward to cooperating with Mr. Stewart in promoting peace and stability in Cyprus, be it here in New York, or directly on the island.

Slovakia remains committed to the resolution of the Cyprus problem by deploying our military and police personnel as well as by way of promoting inter-communal dialogue between political parties of both communities under the auspices of our Embassy in Nicosia.

Unfortunately, we see the lack of progress in the intercommunal talks with not especially bright expectations in the near future. It is more regrettable because the resumption of political process as soon as possible is essential before more time passes and new "faits accomplis" on the ground are entrenched.

Slovakia, therefore, urges the leaders of all sides involved to demonstrate the so needed political will to resume substantive negotiations toward a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem and to engage in confidence-building measures.

Slovakia currently deploys 247 military and police personnel to the UNFICYP, of which 31 (or 12,5%) are women. We remain committed to further increase the participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping missions in line with the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy.

We appreciate that the mission fulfilled its mandate during the pandemic restrictions and considered challenges caused by sides ignoring relevant UN Security Council resolutions (550/1984 and 789/1992) in Sector of our responsibility - Sector 4 - in Varosha and Pyla.

We observe the increase in the use of surveillance and reconnaissance technologies, drones, and CCTV systems by both sides. It remind us that we must be ready to conduct peacekeeping in 21st century and points to the need for adequate use of the technology by UNFICYP in order to reduce the technological gap between the sides

and the mission and to turn this development into more effective delivery of the mandate.

As stated by the Slovak Minister of Defence during the 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, Slovakia is supporting the employment of modern technological solutions to the UN missions and is willing to review our possibilities to provide new technological capabilities to UNFICYP if requested.

We are looking forward for the next Military Capability Study recommendations and support the effective deployment of the UNFICYP **in house** capacities, such as our engineering unit in support of the confident building measure aimed at mine-free Cyprus.

Questions:

Using the presence of both briefers, we would like to raise the following questions:

First, what is the UN's intent to progress with formal negotiations between the parties?

Second, how is the mission prepared to cope with the increased use of technologies by both sides and what are the plans to implement the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping in support of the UNFICYP mandate?