



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

The situation in Cyprus

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings, including four private/closed meetings with the troop-contributing countries,¹ and adopted four resolutions on the situation in Cyprus. The Council considered various aspects of the political situation in Cyprus, including developments relevant to the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).² In addition, the Council focused on the good offices of the Secretary-General on demarcation of the buffer zone separating the two rival communities, as well as efforts to enable both sides to continue to work with UNFICYP and reach a comprehensive settlement.

The Council further extended the mandate of UNFICYP four times for periods of six months,³ in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General.

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of this agenda item, as well as related information, including resolutions adopted and speakers.

June 2010 to December 2011: extension of the mandate of UNFICYP

On 15 June 2010, the Council adopted [resolution 1930 \(2010\)](#), in which it welcomed the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations and extended the

¹ See [S/PV.6331](#), [S/PV.6435](#), [S/PV.6550](#) and [S/PV.6676](#).

² For more information on the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I, with regard to peacekeeping operations.

³ [Resolutions 1930 \(2010\)](#), [1953 \(2010\)](#), [1986 \(2011\)](#) and [2026 \(2011\)](#).

mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months until 15 December 2010. The Council called on both sides to continue to engage in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues. The Council further called on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000.

On 14 December 2010, by [resolution 1953 \(2010\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months ending 15 June 2011. Taking note of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General,⁴ the Council called upon the two leaders to intensify the momentum of negotiations, and engage in the process in a constructive and open manner, including by developing a practical plan for overcoming the major remaining points of disagreement in preparation for their meeting with the Secretary-General in January 2011. In addition the Council also called on the parties to improve the public atmosphere in which the negotiations were proceeding, including by focussing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonised messages, as well as to increase the participation of civil society in the process as appropriate.

Both [resolutions 1930 \(2010\)](#) and [1953 \(2010\)](#) were adopted by votes of 14 in favor to 1 against (Turkey). The representative of Turkey, in an explanation of its vote, maintained that since the adoption of [resolution 186 \(1964\)](#), which had originally established UNFICYP, all subsequent Council resolutions extending the mandate of the UNFICYP were still being formulated as if there was only one ethnic group on the island. He stated that since 1963, there had not been a joint and constitutional Government representing the whole of Cyprus. According to him, considering the Greek Cypriot Government to be the Government of the whole island had been the main obstacle in the way of finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the crisis. He therefore expressed the view that decisions on the mandate of UNFICYP should be based on an

⁴ [S/2010/603](#).

open consent of both parties on the island. In addition he expressed concern that the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a broader assessment, which was strongly emphasized in both reports, was not reflected in the Council's decisions. He, however, expressed support for the Secretary-General's good offices mission and reaffirmed the willingness of the Turkish side to continue to implement the provisions of the relevant resolutions and to cooperate with UNFICYP.⁵

On 13 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted [resolution 1986 \(2011\)](#), by which it further extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months ending 15 December 2011. It called upon both sides to work in reaching convergences on the remaining core issues in preparation for their meeting with the Secretary-General in July 2011 and to allow access to deminers and facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone. In addition the Council urged both sides to be more forthcoming in accommodating the Committee for Missing Persons exhumation requirements throughout the island including in military areas in the north and to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone.

On 14 June 2011, by [resolution 2026 \(2011\)](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 19 July 2012. It also welcomed the encouraging progress made so far in the fully-fledged negotiations, and the prospect of further decisive progress in the coming months towards a comprehensive and durable settlement.

⁵ [S/PV.6339](#), pp. 2-3; and [S/PV.6445](#), pp. 2-3.

Meetings: the situation in Cyprus

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6339 15 June 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2010/264)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/311)	Turkey	Resolution 1930 (2010) 14-1-0 ^a
6445 14 December 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2010/238)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/311)	Turkey	Resolution 1953 (2010) 14-1-0 ^b
6554 13 June 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2010/605)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/631)		Resolution 1986 (2011) 15-0-0
6685 14 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2011/332)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/355)		Resolution 2026 (2011) 15-0-0
	Assessment report of the Secretary-General on the status of the negotiation in Cyprus (S/2011/112)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/746 and S/2011/746/Corr. 1)		

^a For: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States; against: Turkey.

^b For: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States; against: Turkey.