



Security Council

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United Nations operation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 12 December 2024 to 11 June 2025. It brings up to date the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution [186 \(1964\)](#) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#), since the issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General dated 3 January 2025 on UNFICYP ([S/2025/6](#)) and on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#) and [S/2025/7/Rev.1](#)).

2. As at 11 June 2025, the strength of the military component stood at 800 (686 men and 114 women, or 14 per cent women for all ranks, compared with the global peace operations target of 12 per cent women by 2025), while that of the police component stood at 68 (39 men and 29 women, or 43 per cent women compared with the overall global target for 2025 of 25 per cent women) (see annex).

II. Significant developments

3. In the context of increased dialogue between the sides, no significant crisis was observed in and along the buffer zone during the reporting period. Military violations on both sides continued to occur with concerning frequency but at somewhat lower numbers than the previous period. The worrying long-term trends of the eroding integrity of the buffer zone and continued indifference towards the mandated authority of the United Nations persisted on both sides.

4. During the reporting period there was an increase of activity in the political process, leading up to an informal meeting that the Secretary-General convened in a broader format with the two Cypriot leaders and the representatives of the guarantor powers Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in March in Geneva, where six trust-building initiatives were announced. The leaders subsequently met under the auspices of the United Nations on two occasions to move those initiatives forward. María Angela Holguín Cuéllar was appointed on 2 May 2025 as the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on Cyprus to re-engage with the parties to work on next steps on the Cyprus issue. More details are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/448](#)). Political tensions have risen over a spate of arrests of individuals



accused of selling or marketing Greek Cypriot property in the north without permission from the dispossessed owners.

III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

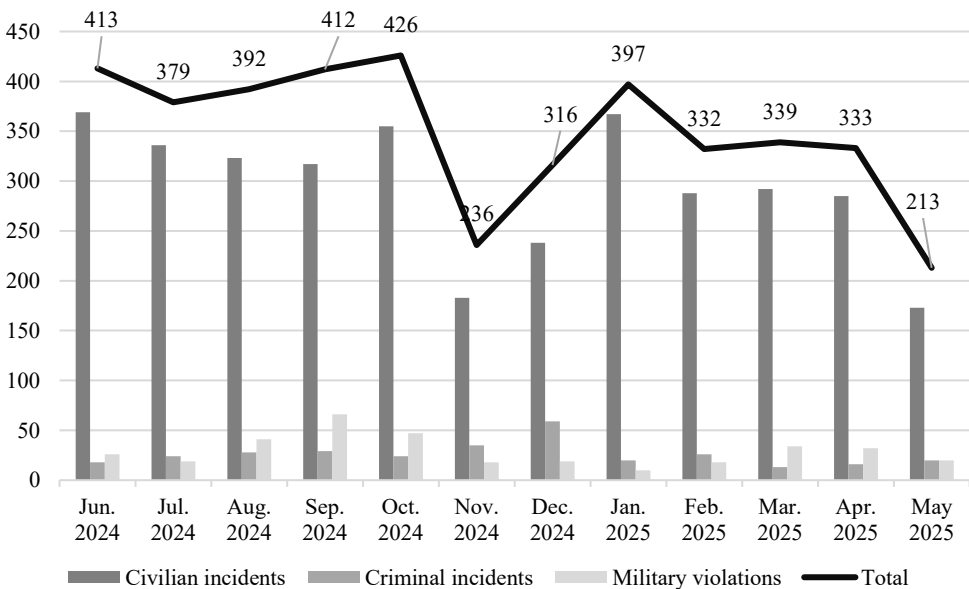
5. During the reporting period, the mission undertook 14,000 patrols, both ground and air, throughout the buffer zone to ensure that both sides observe and maintain the military status quo. The constant liaison and engagement by the military, police and civilian components contributed to keeping the situation calm.

6. Grass-roots groups showed a greater willingness during the period to organize and participate in intercommunal events. UNFICYP continued to encourage and facilitate such activities and through them foster sustained interaction and collaboration between interested groups and individuals across the island.

A. Prevention of tensions in and around the buffer zone

7. A particular source of tensions in the buffer zone during the reporting period came from a small number of Greek Cypriot civilians who persisted in undertaking unauthorized activities, flouting the mandate of UNFICYP to preserve the integrity of the buffer zone. These activities were often exacerbated by incidents of misinformation and disinformation regarding the role of UNFICYP (see section C below).

Figure I
Number of incidents in the buffer zone (June 2024–May 2025)



Source: Unite Aware.

8. Nearly 12 out of the 14 km of discontinuous concertina wire fence inside the buffer zone erected, despite United Nations protests, by the Republic of Cyprus in 2021, ostensibly to deter irregular movements of refugees and migrants, remains in place.

9. The situation on the Pyla/Pile plateau remained stable, notwithstanding the almost daily incursions by Turkish Cypriot police into the buffer zone there and the

new construction of a building at the TK15 advanced position of the Turkish Forces. Despite UNFICYP continued engagement, there has been no breakthrough yet in finding a way to implement the understanding on arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau, which has been on pause since November 2023.

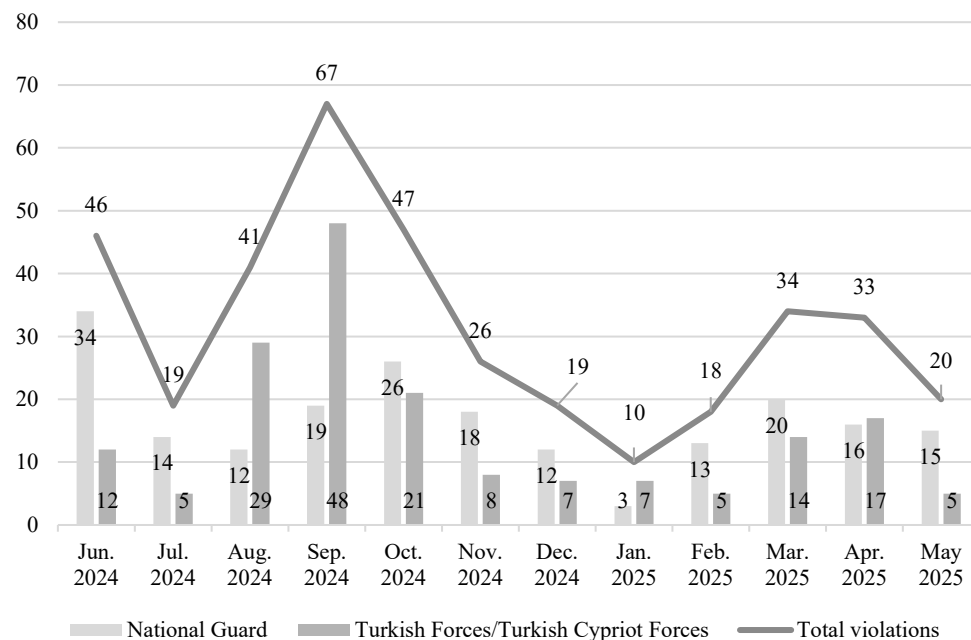
10. In Varosha, no steps were taken to address the call made by the Security Council in its resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#) for the immediate reversal of the actions taken since October 2020. UNFICYP did not observe any significant change in the 3.5 per cent of the area of Varosha for which it was announced in July 2021 that the military status had been lifted in preparation for renovation. However, during the reporting period, UNFICYP observed the installation of 18 new closed-circuit television cameras in Varosha, bringing the total to 53 cameras since 2020. Light exterior works on a civilian building were also noted. No change was observed to the previously reported trench and berm system constructed by the Turkish Forces south of the built-up part of Varosha and stretching nearly 4 km along the northern ceasefire line, which remains a military violation. Many visitors continued to visit the parts of the town progressively made accessible to the public. UNFICYP continued to observe the repeated use of commercial drone overflights. Access to the entire area of Varosha by UNFICYP patrols has remained significantly constrained since 1974. In relation to the status of Varosha, UNFICYP continues to be guided by relevant Security Council resolutions. Accordingly, the mission and the Secretariat have repeatedly expressed concern over any developments in the fenced-off part of the town. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Türkiye responsible for the situation in Varosha.

11. In Strovilia, the mission's freedom of movement remains limited, and the liaison post continues to be overstaffed by Turkish Cypriot security forces.

B. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

12. Military violations committed by both sides remained a concern as they continued to add to the militarization of the buffer zone and undermine the authority of the United Nations. Nonetheless, the frequency of such violations has decreased this reporting period in comparison with the same period in 2024. As at 31 May 2025, the mission observed 133 military violations – 78 by the National Guard and 55 by the Turkish Forces – compared with 227 violations (109 by the National Guard and 118 by the Turkish Forces respectively) between 13 June and 30 November 2024.

Figure II
Number of military violations (June 2024–May 2025)



Source: Unite Aware.

13. The installation of military-grade surveillance systems (towers with camera and/or sensor devices) along the buffer zone continued during the reporting period, which remains a major concern for UNFICYP due to their destabilizing effect. The National Guard added 17 new camera and/or sensor devices for a total of 25 devices on their 34 surveillance towers. The Turkish Forces erected five new surveillance towers and installed four new devices, for a total of 63 towers and 60 devices since 2022.

14. Separately, the National Guard added 19 new closed-circuit television camera sites along the southern ceasefire line for a total of 120 closed-circuit television camera sites, of which two remain inside the buffer zone. Five new additions were observed along the northern ceasefire line bringing the total number of Turkish Forces closed-circuit television camera sites to 119.

15. With the installation of one new prefabricated concrete firing position in Nicosia, the Turkish Forces now have a total of 12 such positions along the northern ceasefire line. The number of unauthorized National Guard prefabricated concrete firing positions along the southern ceasefire remained at 339, 13 of which are deep inside the buffer zone.

16. The mission also observed a decrease in the occurrence of moves forward and overmanning violations. In part this was due to the increased senior-level military engagement between UNFICYP and the sides specifically targeting such violations. The liaison efforts continue to be an important channel for de-escalating lower-level/local tensions in the buffer zone. The period under review saw 13 instances of moves forward by the National Guard and two by the Turkish Forces compared with 23 by the National Guard and 15 by the Turkish Forces in the previous reporting period. At the same time, the mission's freedom of movement in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, known as Wayne's Keep, inside the buffer zone in Nicosia remains partially curtailed by the Turkish Forces.

17. UNFICYP made renewed efforts to encourage the two sides to establish a direct mechanism for military contact and for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#) which calls for a de-escalation of tensions in and around the buffer zone.

18. Progress by the sides to address previously reported serious violations in and around the buffer zone remains challenging. This includes the camera and satellite dish installed in November 2023 by the Turkish Forces on the top of an abandoned house, known as Maria's House, inside the buffer zone and the corresponding two camera sites installed by the National Guard in the same area, along with the 13 National Guard prefabricated concrete firing positions inside other parts of the buffer zone. Installations inside the buffer zone are of particular concern because, in essence, the sides have moved forward from the United Nations-established ceasefire lines and in so doing have undermined the neutral status and integrity of the buffer zone. Similarly, the previously reported trench system comprising 11 concrete bunkers along the southern ceasefire line, installed by the National Guard in the middle of a civilian photovoltaic park located partly inside the buffer zone, has not been removed.

19. UNFICYP continued to protest to the Republic of Cyprus authorities the policy of the Ministry of Defence requiring civilian buildings along the southern ceasefire line to incorporate military positions. Such installations are military violations and obscure the distinction between civilian and military facilities, putting civilians at potential risk. The previously reported research institute on the edge of the buffer zone, in close proximity to the United Nations protected area, continued building its integrated military positions.

20. The Security Council's call in its resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#) for the sides to agree on "a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus" received a boost during the reporting period when the participants in the informal broader meeting convened by the Secretary-General in March agreed to include demining as one of six trust-building initiatives. The agreement lent some political impetus to efforts to find a way forward on clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island, including the four active minefields in the buffer zone, three of which belong to the National Guard and one to the Turkish Forces. However, the previously-held positions of the sides remain.

C. Management of civilian activity and maintenance of law and order

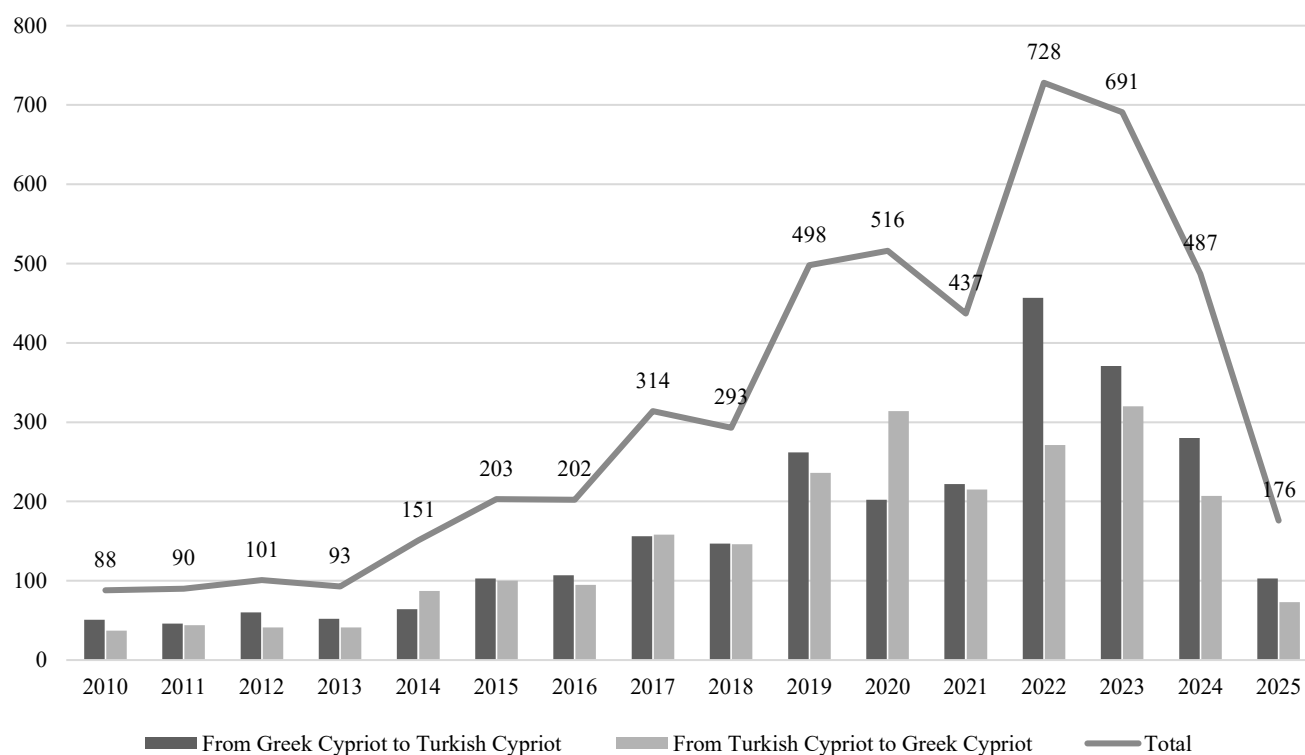
21. The integrated military-police-civilian farming team's sustained engagement through 25 outreach meetings with local communities, farmers, local authorities and the opposing forces, as well as regular media outreach helped keep farming-related incidents under control and civil-military tensions low during the period under review. As of 31 May 2025, there were 77 farming-related incidents compared with 131 in the previous reporting period.

22. At the same time, the persistent attempts by a Greek Cypriot civilian to occupy their property in a sensitive area of the buffer zone in Nicosia threatened to disrupt the stability in an area previously prone to tensions. Disinformation about the role of UNFICYP and the buffer zone was actively promoted by the individual on social media, who also encouraged others to disregard the authority of the United Nations. UNFICYP personnel engaged with the individual to cease his unauthorized activities and were at times met with threats of violence. Republic of Cyprus authorities have also engaged with the individual who has subsequently reduced his aggressive activities.

23. The number of law enforcement incursions has returned to previous levels. The spike in Greek Cypriot law enforcement incursions associated with the pushback of asylum-seekers into the buffer zone in the previous reporting period has not recurred and no asylum-seekers were reported being pushed back into the buffer zone during the reporting period. Turkish Cypriot police persisted in their daily incursions into the buffer zone on the Pyla/Pile plateau. No confirmation has been received of the promised investigations by the Republic of Cyprus on the threats against United Nations peacekeepers and personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the Aliens and Immigration Unit.

24. The Joint Contact Rooms, facilitated by UNFICYP under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, continued to regularly exchange information and to serve as effective coordination mechanisms. During the reporting period, the Joint Contact Rooms focused their exchanges primarily on serious crimes, such as a possible case of human trafficking, abandonment of a third-national minor and a rape case, which led to the handover of two suspects. Meanwhile, the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters finalized a set of guidelines to ensure a smoother handover process of detained persons.

Figure III
Number of information exchanges in the Joint Contact Rooms



Source: Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System.

25. In the bicomunal village of Pyla/Pile, the number of casinos grew, bringing the total number of illegal establishments to 11 casinos and one nightclub. These establishments continue to operate with seeming impunity and their presence has seen a concomitant rise in criminality and deterioration in public safety in the village and surroundings. The trust of the community in law enforcement authorities on both sides appears to have diminished due to their inaction. UNFICYP continued to encourage the sides to cooperate with the mission to address the illegal establishments and

maintained its community-oriented policing foot patrols throughout the village to increase its engagement with the local population.

26. The University of Central Lancashire branch operating in Pyla/Pile continued to operate in the buffer zone without authorization from UNFICYP. No progress was registered in resolving the matter of the large unauthorized construction project associated with the university.

D. Intercommunal relations, cooperation and trust-building

27. UNFICYP increased its efforts to build trust among communities and organized intercommunal activities that reached new audiences and fostered sustained cooperation. As of 31 May 2025, UNFICYP had organized and supported 297 activities during the reporting period, of which 46 were intercommunal events.

28. During the reporting period, UNFICYP focused on programmatic capacity-building activities that aim to form strong connections among participants, promote dialogue and understanding, as well as joint action. The United Nations Youth Champions for Environment and Peace programme, in its fourth iteration, continued to attract significant island-wide interest from young people looking to participate in developing youth-led peacebuilding initiatives. Over a four-month period, from October 2024 to February 2025, 24 changemakers implemented nine intercommunal activities reaching more than 150 people, demonstrating how collaboration can overcome barriers, drive impactful solutions and nurture the emergence of grass-roots leadership. UNFICYP also supported a series of conflict-transformation and mediation workshops for young people, organized by the Cyprus Academic Dialogue, an intercommunal organization of academics, in partnership with the youth group Cypology, formed as a result of the mission's Peacebuilding in Divided Societies programme.

29. UNFICYP continued to support the trust-building efforts of local partner organizations in bringing communities together through engagement on issues of shared interest. In the western part of the island, elderly residents of abandoned villages in the buffer zone explored their connection to the villages and their links to biodiversity. In Pyla/Pile, community relations are strengthening. In May, for the first time since 2019, UNFICYP brought together more than 100 participants – families from both communities to mark international children's day with an art exhibit by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot children and teachers, which enjoyed broad support from community stakeholders.

30. The two Cypriot leaders agreed to establish a Technical Committee on Youth, which held its inaugural meeting on 5 May, co-facilitated by the good offices mission of the Secretary-General and UNFICYP. The technical committees continued to serve as an avenue to address issues of shared importance across the island. For more details, see the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2025/448).

31. The European Commission continued to support north-south trade under the Green Line Regulation, among other things by advocating for the removal of obstacles to additional products crossing and by assisting Turkish Cypriot producers to comply with European Union product standards. However, owing to the persistence of administrative (non-tariff) barriers, Green Line trade remains very low and even declined slightly in 2024 compared with the corresponding period in 2023, amounting to 15.2 million euros. For context, the total value of Republic of Cyprus exports in 2024 to other parts of the world totalled 4.12 billion euros.

32. Representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties held monthly meetings under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia (see the report of Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/448](#)) for more details).

E. Facilitation of access and humanitarian functions

33. UNFICYP maintained its assistance and facilitation of access to essential services for Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the north and Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, through visits to both communities, humanitarian deliveries, post-mortem transfers, visits to detention facilities and monitoring of court proceedings. During the reporting period, UNFICYP carried out deliveries of basic supplies to 272 Greek Cypriots and 45 Maronites in the north, facilitated three post-mortem transfers of Greek Cypriots through the checkpoints and monitored six court hearings.

34. Opportunities to visit and hold services at religious sites across the island remained essential for both communities. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated access for 35 religious and commemorative events across or inside the buffer zone. The Turkish Cypriot authorities approved 39 of 56 requests channelled through UNFICYP for religious services in the north, an increase from 32 during the same period in 2024. The continued smooth cooperation between UNFICYP and law enforcement services on both sides enabled the facilitation of two successful pilgrimages of 1,039 pilgrims from the north to the Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque in Larnaca in March and June. In this work, UNFICYP continues to engage with the Embassy of Sweden which facilitates the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process.

35. Operations of the crossing points across the island remained smooth, despite heavy congestion in Nicosia. The anticipated enlargement project to alleviate the long wait times at the Ayios Dometios/Metehan crossing point is planned to commence in September. More details are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/448](#)).

F. Refugees and asylum-seekers

36. In 2024, 6,777 applicants lodged asylum claims, a 42 per cent decrease compared with 2023. This reduction reflects the sharp decrease in the number of applications submitted since the Republic of Cyprus implemented its interception policy, both at sea and across the Green Line. Syrians made up 4,213 of these applicants, representing 62 per cent of the total number of persons seeking asylum in Cyprus in 2024. Subsequent to the regime change in the Syrian Arab Republic, some 572 Syrians returned voluntarily to their country.

37. Reflective of the suspension of the processing of Syrian asylum claims, as well as the suspension of the processing of the claims of applicants originating from a number of conflict-affected areas, the number of persons granted international protection has also drastically decreased in comparison with the previous year – representing a 75 per cent decrease in the number of refugee statuses granted and a 93 per cent decrease in the number of persons granted subsidiary protection.

38. As at 31 March 2025, 788 asylum applications had been registered in 2025, a further 73 per cent decrease compared with the same period in 2024. The backlog of pending applications reached 19,168 by the end of March.

39. Access to the territory and asylum procedures improved after the decision and interventions of the European Court of Human Rights (*M.A. and Z.R. v. Cyprus*, no. 39090/20, ECHR, 8 October 2024), in relation to pushbacks at sea and in the

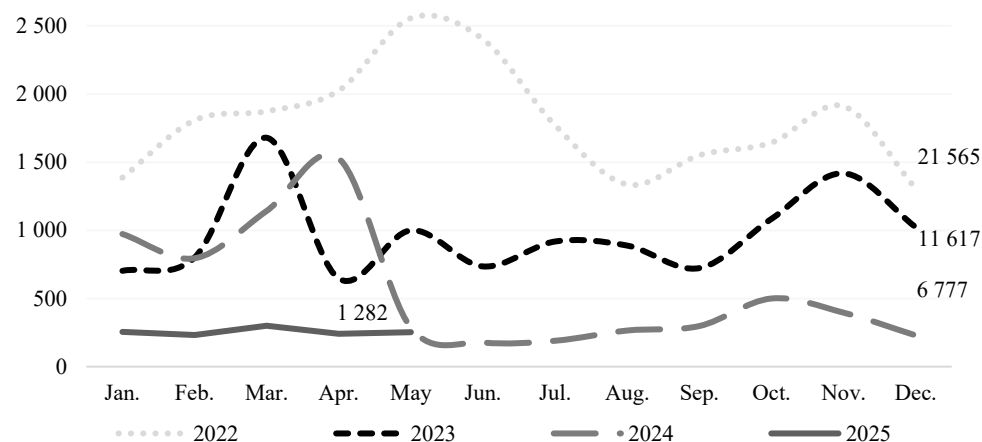
buffer zone, through changes in practices and procedures, resulting in reduction of reported pushbacks and greater admission of sea arrivals.

40. Incidents of refoulement were also noted in the northern part of Cyprus. One Syrian national was subjected to onward refoulement, while at least seven Sudanese nationals were returned to their country of origin.

41. On 6 January, a former asylum-seeker was found dead in an empty plot in the centre of Nicosia. It later emerged that he had been shot by police in the mixed village of Potamia on the edge of the buffer zone, while attempting to cross from the north. The investigation rapidly concluded in February resulted in the exoneration of the police officers involved in the incident. On 26 January 2025, two Afghan nationals were initially denied access to asylum procedures and left stranded in the buffer zone for three days, despite their declared intention to seek asylum. They were subsequently allowed access to asylum procedures.

Figure IV

Number of asylum applications registered in the Republic of Cyprus (2022–2025)



Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

G. Gender and women and peace and security

42. UNFICYP expanded and diversified its engagement on advancing gender equality and the women and peace and security agenda, holding 34 meetings and events with civil society actors, including in partnership with international organizations and Member States, to support gender-responsive intercommunal and trust-building programmes.

43. Following the success of an intergenerational workshop among Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots held in November 2024 in the formerly mixed village of Agios Theodoros, a follow-up event was organized on 4 May in Yeniboğaziçi/Aysergi in the northern part of the island. These activities aim to empower women from formerly mixed villages to normalize intercommunal collaboration and further develop intercommunal ties. Approximately 150 (120 women and 30 men) participants attended the event, which featured shared cooking, a communal meal, storytelling and cultural exchange.

44. UNFICYP supported a women's civil society organization that developed a series of intercommunal workshops, 10 in total, for women from all generations who have experienced direct or intergenerational trauma related to the intercommunal

fighting between 1963 and 1974. The goal is to recognize and share the common experiences and intergenerational trauma faced by both communities, build trust and foster connections and healing among participants.

45. To mark International Women's Day, UNFICYP held a series of activities, including a workshop for youth to discuss the barriers to gender equality and opportunities to reduce these challenges in peacebuilding. With UNFICYP's support, the Famagusta Cultural Association and Klotho women's groups organized an event that showcased a patchwork installation in the buffer zone made by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women to symbolize intercommunal trust and cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to peace. Within the mission, a day-long series of events was held to boost interaction among staff and personnel and strengthen the informal women's network. Uniformed gender focal points were also featured in the UNFICYP women's day themed podcast, allowing for discussion on the practical experiences that women peacekeepers have faced within the police and military.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

46. The bicommunal teams of scientists of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, supported by the United Nations, are mandated to recover, identify and return the remains of persons who went missing during the events of 1963/64 and 1974. Eight teams of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists carried out excavations throughout the island and exhumed the remains of 17 persons during the reporting period. Since the start of its operations in 2006, the Committee has exhumed or received the remains of 1,707 persons on both sides of the island.

47. To date, of the 2,002 missing persons on the Committee's official list, 1,054 have been formally identified and their remains returned to their families for dignified burials, including two during the reporting period.

48. On the occasion of the Committee's 1,000th meeting on 2 April 2025, the two Cypriot leaders met with members of the Committee on Missing Persons and reaffirmed their commitment to the Committee's operation and encouraged Committee employees to continue their bicommunal endeavours.

49. The Committee continued its efforts to gain access to additional information on the location of the burial sites of missing persons from the archives of countries that maintained a military or police presence in Cyprus between 1963/64 and 1974. The Turkish Cypriot office of the Committee continued to have access to Turkish army aerial photos taken in 1974 and the Greek Cypriot office of the Committee continued to research the Republic of Cyprus National Guard archives of 1974. The Committee is also utilizing a web-based geographic information system application which facilitates the seamless sharing of information among its three offices.

V. Conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse

50. UNFICYP maintained its efforts to ensure strict adherence to the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. In close coordination with the Regional Conduct and Discipline Section based at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the mission conducted induction trainings for newly deployed personnel and annual refresher trainings for all personnel on sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.

51. As of 31 May, the mission had not received any allegations of sexual exploitation and/or abuse, or sexual harassment, and had received 13 allegations of possible unsatisfactory conduct.

VI. Financial and administrative aspects

52. The General Assembly, by its resolution [78/300](#) of 28 June 2024, appropriated the amount of \$56.4 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to \$19.4 million, from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

53. As at 30 May 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP amounted to \$20.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all United Nations peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,795.3 million.

54. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 December 2024 and reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024.

55. As a result of the current liquidity crisis and ensuing recruitment freeze, 9 per cent of UNFICYP civilian posts remain vacant in core enabling functions, which hampers the mission's ability to respond effectively to operational needs and risks compromising the timely and safe execution of mandate-related activities. In addition, the mission has implemented cost-saving measures and deferred several infrastructure projects designed to strengthen safety and security of peacekeepers, delayed acquisition of goods and services and suspended all non-critical training and travel.

VII. Observations

56. The reporting period saw no major security crises. This trend has been observed over the years in which periods of greater dialogue and activity in the peace process also see a parallel restraint from unilateral actions that threaten the security situation on the island.

57. I note, however, that little effort has been made to heed my calls for the sides to de-escalate the continuing militarization and to reverse their actions in and around the buffer zone. In particular, I continue to urge both sides to cease their military construction violations, which in effect seek to permanently alter the military status quo of the buffer zone. At the same time, the policy of deliberately blurring the distinction between military and civilians by disguising military positions within civilian structures raises serious humanitarian concerns, as it may put civilians at risk. Invoking the imbalance of forces on the island cannot justify such violations. I reiterate my call to both sides to engage in a direct military contact mechanism and encourage them to actively pursue avenues for dialogue with the facilitation of UNFICYP. I stress the need, once again, for all parties to respect and abide by the United Nations' impartial delineation of the buffer zone – the only delineation recognized by the Security Council.

58. The ability of UNFICYP to curb unauthorized activity is limited without the full cooperation of both sides. I echo the call of Security Council resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#) and stress that it is incumbent on both sides to respect the integrity of the buffer zone and prevent unauthorized military and civilian activities within and along the ceasefire lines. The de-escalation efforts by UNFICYP to mitigate these challenges

and ensure that tensions do not become flashpoints are essential, but must not be relied upon by the sides in lieu of assuming their responsibilities.

59. The continued pause in the implementation of the understanding regarding arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau is not conducive to stability. I urge both sides to redouble their constructive engagement with the mission to find a way forward and resume the implementation of the agreement. UNFICYP remains committed to the preservation and implementation of the understanding.

60. Beyond the buffer zone, I reiterate the importance of the parties refraining from taking unilateral actions that could raise tensions and compromise a return to talks, and call upon all parties to engage in dialogue to resolve their differences. In that respect, I reiterate my concern over the situation in the fenced-off area of Varosha and the lack of response to the Security call by the Council for a reversal of the actions taken since the announcement of the partial reopening of the fenced-off town in October 2020. I further recall the Council's decisions related to Varosha, notably its resolutions [550 \(1984\)](#) and [789 \(1992\)](#), and the importance of adhering fully to those resolutions, reiterating that the position of the United Nations on this matter remains unchanged. I also deplore the restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNFICYP imposed in Varosha, in Strovilia and elsewhere, and I reiterate my expectation that the ability of the mission to patrol and implement its mandated activities be restored in full. I recall that the mandate provided by the Council to UNFICYP is not limited to the buffer zone but extends to the entire island.

61. I call upon the Republic of Cyprus to undertake its investigations into the previously reported actions of the Aliens and Immigration unit and look forward to a swift conclusion of the matter. The safety and security of peacekeepers remains an utmost priority for the United Nations and cannot be compromised.

62. It is deeply concerning that divisive narratives on the island are often overshadowing those of peace. I remain concerned about the harmful impact of disinformation, which continues to erode trust, polarize communities and undermine efforts towards a shared and peaceful future. I urge the leaders to make further progress on inclusivity in facilitating reconciliation and supporting intercommunal contacts, while also ensuring that the voices of civil society organizations are meaningfully included in political decision-making. I am encouraged, however, that youth groups continue to be active agents of peace and their advocacy has achieved the establishment of a new technical committee dedicated to youth.

63. Notwithstanding my previous calls, and those of the Security Council, efforts in Cyprus to achieve greater economic and social parity between the two sides and to broaden and deepen economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation remain limited. Crossing points, including the opening of four new ones, as agreed during the meeting held in March in Geneva, should facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, and the full implementation of the Green Line Regulation would represent meaningful steps to increase the volume of intra-island trade and should be pursued with vigour. Increased trade, together with deeper economic, social, cultural, sporting and other ties and contacts, would help enhance intercommunal contacts, address the longstanding concerns of the Turkish Cypriots regarding their isolation, and promote trust between the communities.

64. In their efforts to promote closer cooperation between the communities, local and international actors continue to be confronted with challenges and obstacles linked to the status of the north and concerns relating to "recognition". While the United Nations policy on Cyprus is maintained and decisions of the Security Council on the matter are upheld, I reiterate that concerns about recognition should not in themselves constitute an obstacle to increased cooperation.

65. I would like to thank the partners, in particular the European Commission, that have provided support for the work of both United Nations missions in Cyprus, the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and that have contributed to the implementation of important confidence-building measures. I also thank the 45 countries that have contributed troops, police or both to UNFICYP since 1964 and pay tribute to the 187 peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace in Cyprus.

66. Finally, I express my gratitude to my Special Representative, Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus, Colin Stewart, for his dedicated leadership of the United Nations presence on the island for the past three and half years. I also extend my thanks to all the women and men serving in UNFICYP for their steadfast commitment to the implementation of the mandate of the mission and the cause of peace on the island.

Annex

Countries providing military and police personnel to the United Nations operation in Cyprus (as at 11 June 2025)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of military personnel</i>
Argentina	247
Austria	3
Bangladesh	1
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	6
Ecuador	2
Ghana	1
Hungary	11
India	1
Mongolia	3
Pakistan	3
Paraguay	12
Russian Federation	4
Serbia	8
Slovakia	232
Slovenia	6
Ukraine	–
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	257
Total^a	800

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of police personnel</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7
Brazil	1
China	4
Germany	6
Indonesia	5
Ireland	12
Italy	4
Jordan	7
Montenegro	5
Nepal	4
Romania	3
Russian Federation	4
Serbia	2
Slovakia	4
Total^a	68

^a Of the military personnel, 686 are men and 114 are women. Of the police personnel, 39 are men and 29 are women.

Map

