

60 years UNFICYP

Event and Photo Exhibition

“60 Years in the Service of Peace: Tribute to the Peacekeepers of the United Nations Force in Cyprus” 14 June 2024, 10:00-11:15 EDT, Conference Room 5, UNHQ

CONCEPT NOTE

For over seven decades, Peacekeeping Operations have been helping countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace, making UN peacekeeping one of the most effective instruments for conflict mitigation and stabilization. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and as one of the longest-running peacekeeping operations in the world, it retains its significance in maintaining the ceasefire on an island where peace remains elusive. Recent developments in Cyprus underscore the necessity of sustaining a peacekeeping force that prevents the recurrence of fighting.

UNFICYP was established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 186 adopted on 4th March 1964, with the consent of the Government of Cyprus, to prevent the recurrence of fighting, as well as to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and to facilitate a return to normal conditions. UNFICYP's mandate was expanded following the Turkish invasion in 1974, to include observance of the ceasefire and maintenance of the military status quo, including the supervision of the buffer area between the ceasefire lines, as well as to carry out humanitarian functions. UNFICYP has also been supporting the efforts of the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General in the continued search for a peaceful settlement.

In the span of these 60 years, more than 150,000 men and women have served in UNFICYP, from 44 troop contributing countries. A total of 187 military and civilian personnel have lost their lives in Cyprus in the line of duty. The Republic of Cyprus is grateful to those countries that have supported UNFICYP over the years and pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers.

Organised by the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations, this event and the accompanying photographic exhibition dedicated to the 60 years of UNFICYP, looks at the multifaceted contribution of UNFICYP as a whole and the invaluable contributions the military, police and civilian peacekeepers have made in the last six decades, while encapsulating the spirit of collective action towards the pursuit of peace.

