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Republic of Cyprus
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Rule of Law I
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The delegation of Cyprus would like to remind that the HDIM is neither a political forum nor a platform for channeling political positions and/or historical revisionism through non-governmental organisations.

Regarding law-making in Cyprus, it is reminded that Turkish Cypriots are absent from the legislative branch of Cyprus since they unilaterally withdrew from state institutions of the Republic of Cyprus in 1964. The parliamentary seats allocated to the Turkish Cypriot community by the Cyprus Constitution remain vacant, pending their return to State institutions. Legislation has and will continue to be adopted in conformity with the Cyprus Constitution and with norms of international law (which supersedes domestic law according to the Cyprus Constitution).

The Cyprus Government continues to hope that the occupying power's pursuit of partition will be abandoned, allowing the Turkish Cypriots to return to State institutions and Cyprus's communities to live in peace. Despite its difficult circumstances, the Republic of Cyprus has and will continue to uphold all its obligations, including as regards the rule of law.

Since the invasion of Cyprus and the occupation of a large part of its territory, the Republic of Cyprus exercises no effective control over its territory which is occupied and is thus not in a position to implement its laws therein. The application throughout the island of the high standard of the rule of law implemented in the government-controlled area of the Republic of Cyprus will only become feasible once, *inter alia*, all occupation troops are withdrawn from Cyprus.

At the same time, we recognize that Turkish Cypriots, the majority of whom reside in the occupied areas, are additionally disadvantaged as they exist in the legal vacuum created by the occupying power and its subordinate local administration and may only protest the violation of their

rights to the occupying power (see European Court of Human Rights judgments of 1996 and 2001, in *Loizidou v. Turkey* and *Cyprus v. Turkey*).

Neither the aggression against and partial occupation of Cyprus nor the unilateral withdrawal of Turkish Cypriots from state institutions of the Republic of Cyprus in the 1960s affect the constitutional order of Cyprus in any way or the fact that the Republic of Cyprus is the only subject of international law, which represents all its citizens, and is recognized internationally as such.

The Republic of Cyprus has one people, comprising two communities and other religious groups. Presenting the Turkish Cypriot community as a "people" has the sole objective of promoting partition and creates concrete obstacles to the reunification of Cyprus.

The same secessionist logic permeates the invention of the so-called isolation of Turkish-Cypriots it should be stressed that this fallacy has been the façade of efforts to partition Cyprus in recent years. No sanctions or embargoes have ever been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot community, either by the United Nations Security Council, by the Government of Cyprus or by any other State. The lack of sufficient economic development of Turkish Cypriots was the result of the invasion, occupation and constant attempts by the occupying power to set up an illegal separatist regime in occupied Cypriot territory, attempts that have been condemned by the UN Security Council.

The Government of Cyprus is committed to addressing the occupying power-inflicted economic underdevelopment of the Turkish Cypriot community, notwithstanding the continuing occupation and its consequences or the fact that most Turkish Cypriots reside in the occupied area of Cyprus. As citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots have equal access to all the rights and benefits enjoyed by all other Cypriots and have recourse to independent courts if any of their rights are violated.