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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE OSCE
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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and has the honour to submit the reply of the Republic of Cyprus to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for 2025.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the OSCE Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the CPC, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 April 2025



- Permanent Missions and Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE
- Conflict Prevention Centre

Vienna



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

QUESTIONNAIRE

ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

A. Conventions

- (1) Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft - Tokyo 14/09/1963 - Ratification Law No. 31/1972
- (2) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft - The Hague 16/12/1970 - Ratification Law No. 30/1972
- (3) Convention for the Suppression of the Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation - Montreal 23/09/1971 - Ratification Law No. 37/1973
- (4) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Personnel - New York 14/12/1973 - Ratification Law No. 63/1975
- (5) European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism - Strasbourg 27/01/1977 - Ratification Law No. 5/1979
- (6) Convention against the Taking of Hostages - New York 17/12/1979 - Ratification Law No. 244/90
- (7) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials - Vienna 03/03/1980 - Ratification Law No. 3(III)/98
- (8) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation - Rome 10/03/1988 - Ratification Law No. 17(III)/99
- (9) International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings 15/12/1997 - Ratification Law No. 19(III)/2000
- (10) International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism - New York 10/01/2000 - Ratification Law No. 29(III)/01
- (11) International Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection - Montreal 01/03/1991 - Ratification Law No. 19(III)/2002
- (12) Offences against the Safety of Civil Aviation - Montreal 23/09/1971 - Ratification Law No. 79/1973

- (6) Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters-Strasbourg 8.11.2001 - Ratification Law No. 5(III)/2012
- (7) The Extradition of Fugitives Law No. 97/1970
- (8) The International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Law No.23(I)/2001
- (9) The European Arrest Warrant Law No.133(I)/2004
- (10) Joint Investigation Teams Law No.244(I)/2004
- (11) European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters - 09/02/2000 - Ratification Law No.20(III)/2000
- (12) The European Police Office (Europol) Law No. 102(I)/2011
- (13) Convention on Mutual Judicial Assistance in Criminal matters among Member States (EEC 197 of 12.7.2000) and its protocol (EEC 326 of 21.11.2001) - Ratification Law 25(III)/2004 as amended by Law No.9(III)/2008

CBRN terrorism

Concerning the area of CBRN terrorism, Cyprus has ratified a number of relevant Conventions:

- (1) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (OPCW) - Geneva, 3 September 1992, Ratification Law No. 8(III)/1998
- (2) The Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban-Treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - New York, 24 September 1996, Ratification Law No. 32(III)/2003
- (3) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - Basel, 22 March 1989
- (4) Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – Geneva, 22 September 1995
- (5) Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater - Moscow, 5 August 1963, Ratification Law No. 13/1965
- (6) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - London, Moscow and Washington, 1 July 1968, Ratification Law No. 8/1970
- (7) Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof - London, Moscow and Washington, 29 March 1972, Ratification Law No.63/1974
- (8) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction - London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972, Ratification Law No.56/1973
- (9) Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident - Vienna, 26 September 1986
- (10) Convention on Nuclear Safety - Vienna, 20 September 1994, Ratification Law No.20 (III)/98

- (10) On 14/02/2002 the Criminal Code was amended by Law 12(1)/2002 to include a definition of a criminal organization according to the Common Act adopted by the Council of the European Union.
- (11) On 25 July 2005 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and Government of the United States of America signed a bilateral agreement concerning Cooperation to suppress the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by sea, Law No. 38(III)/2005.
- (12) In June 2007, Cyprus joined the Global Initiative to Combat Acts of Nuclear Terrorism initiated by Russia and the USA that is an international partnership of 82 nations and 4 official observers working to improve capacity on a national and international level for prevention, detection, and response to a nuclear terrorist event.
- (13) Cyprus is a member of the International Initiative for Combating Nuclear Terrorism, which numbers 31 member-states.
- (14) The Republic of Cyprus, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), proceeded with the destruction of 324 Man Portable Air Defense Systems, 2SA - 7, from the 9th to the 12th of June 2009.

The Republic of Cyprus has also acceded to and participates in other bilateral agreements or measures undertaken to prevent and combat terrorist activities:

The anti-terrorism policy of Cyprus lies on its commitment to join forces at EU level, with all governments on a bilateral level as well as in international fora in the fight against terrorism. Cyprus concluded bilateral police cooperation agreements, which, inter alia, provide for the exchange of information on terrorism or other related matters.

Furthermore, several of these agreements provide for cooperation on combating terrorism while others for police and/or judicial cooperation in criminal matters in general. These agreements are listed below:

- (1) Agreement between the Ministries of Interior of Cyprus and the Syrian Arab Republic in the fields of Crime and Illicit Trafficking and Smuggling of Drugs (4/04/1989) and its Protocols, Ratification Law 6(VII)/1992.
- (2) Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China on Public Security Matters, (18/10/1994), Ratification Law 24(VII)/1994.
- (3) Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt on Security Matters (7/6/1994), Ratification Law 16(VII)/1994.
- (4) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Israel in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes (09/01/1995), Ratification Law 2(VII)/1995.
- (5) Agreement between Cyprus and Romania on Co-operation in the Fight Against International Crime (07/06/1995), Ratification Law No. 16(VII)/1995.

- (18) Agreement on Co-operation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of France on security matters, (04/03/2005), Ratification Law No. 49(III)/2005.
- (19) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, (11/04/2005), Ratification Law No. 48(III)/2005.
- (20) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Poland on co-operation in Combating Organized and other Forms of Crime (18/02/2005), Ratification Law No.34(III)/2005.
- (21) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in Combating Crime, (16/06/2006), Ratification Law No. 20(III)/2006.
- (22) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime and other Forms of Crime, (23/11/2006), Ratification Law No. 42(III)/2007.
- (23) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of India on Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, (25/05/2007), Ratification Law No. 43(III)/2007.
- (24) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, (30/04/2007), Ratification Law No. 41(III)/2007.
- (25) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on Security Matters and police cooperation (3/12/2007), Ratification Law No. 13 (III)/2008.
- (26) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Immigration and Other Criminal Offences, (23/02/2009), Ratification Law 8(III)/2010.
- (27) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Police Cooperation. (14/07/2010) Ratification Law 20(III)/2011.
- (28) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Kuwait on cooperation in fighting terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, illegal migration and other criminal offences" (08/10/2013), Ratification Law No. 3(III)/2014.
- (29) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Uzbekistan (05/04/2012), Ratification Law No. 18(III)/2014.
- (30) Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Montenegro on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Migration and Other Criminal Offences (20/03/2015) Ratification Law 5(III)/2016.

In addition, Law on Combating Terrorism and Protection of Victims Law of 2019 (L.75 (I)/2019), was amended on March 2022, with the Law No. 39(I)/2022, in order to fully comply with the Directive 2017/541 on Combating Terrorism.

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Cyprus Police is continuously fighting terrorism by all means. The Counter-Terrorism Office of Cyprus Police was established after the events of September 11, 2001 due to the demands that followed both on National and International level. The Counter-Terrorism Office operates under the Combating Crime Department of Police Headquarters.

The Counter-Terrorism Office is dealing with the analysing, evaluation and utilization of intelligence, the enforcement of measures on Combating Terrorism deriving from International Conventions, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the Lisbon Treaty, Regulations, Decisions, as well as other primary or subsidiary legislation of the European Union.

Furthermore, if it is necessary, the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) has the power to involve additional Police Units/Departments/Services for the prevention and combating terrorism related matters.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, Cyprus Police have taken the following additional preventive measures:

- Increased security measures at the entry and exit points of the Republic of Cyprus including additional checks of passengers and hand luggage at departure gates.
- Upgraded the already existing mechanisms and continues and reinforces the cooperation with other countries, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels
- Increased the guarding/patrolling and continuous surveillance of vulnerable and possible targets.
- Patrolling and surveillance of the coastal areas and territorial waters of Cyprus, by air and sea, so as to prevent and combat any illegal activity including the unlawful entry of terrorists into the Country.
- Checking/Surveillance of suspected illegal immigrants.
- Close cooperation with other relevant organizations and services.

The Cyprus Police also gives great emphasis in the area of international cooperation. Indeed, the Counter-Terrorism Office as well as the offices of Interpol and Europol of the Cyprus Police are closely cooperating with counterpart units of other countries in the framework of the universal effort to combat terrorism.

Additionally, in Cyprus Police, the Special Anti-terrorist Squad (S.A.S.) of the Emergency Response Unit (E.R.U.) is specially trained in order to meet emergency situations such as terrorist acts. The S.A.S. Unit is trained alongside other International and European antiterrorist units.

c. Promote the Republic internationally as a country, which complies with all the conventions, resolutions and decisions of international bodies in respect of combating laundering and financing of terrorism offences;

d. Designate the third countries outside the European Economic Area which impose procedures and take measures for preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism equivalent to those laid down by the EU Directive. For this purpose, it applies the relevant decision of the European Commission according to Article 40(4) of the EU Directive. Furthermore, it notifies the competent Supervisory Authorities who in turn notify the persons falling under their supervision of the said decision.

The Advisory Authority is composed of representatives of:

- a. The Unit of Combating Money Laundering;
- b. The Central Bank of Cyprus;
- c. All other Supervisory Authorities;
- d. The Ministry of Finance;
- e. The Ministry of Justice and Public Order;
- f. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- g. The Police;
- h. The Customs and Excise Department;
- i. The Association of Cyprus Commercial Banks;
- j. The Association of International Banks;
- k. The Cyprus Bar Association;
- l. the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus;
- m. The Registrar of Companies;
- n. The Tax Commissioner;
- o. The National Betting Authority;
- p. The National Authority for Gambling and Casino Supervision;
- q. Any other Organization or Service the Council of Ministers may prescribe.

Regarding legislation pertaining in particular to terrorism financing, the Law Ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism which was enacted on 22.10.2001 (Ratification Law No. 29(III)/2001 as amended by Law No. 18(III)/2005) and Law No. 15(III)/2019 includes:

(1) Settings of penalties for relevant criminal acts in the fulfilment of the obligations arising from provisions of the convention.

(2) Inclusion in the National legislation, of provisions necessary for the enactment of provisions in the Convention, which are not self-implemented.

(3) Determining, with the view to facilitating conformity with the provisions of the Convention, those criminal acts defined as such by the provisions of National legislation on concealment, investigation, and confiscation of assets from certain crimes.

The national legal framework on combating terrorism, including the financing of terrorism, was amended in 2019, with the adoption of the Law on Combating Terrorism and Protection of Victims (L.75 (I)/2019). This legislation aligns national law with the EU Acquis in this area, transposing into the national legislation the Council Framework Decision 2005/671/JHA and Directive 2017/541 on Combating Terrorism. Furthermore, the Republic of Cyprus fully implements the eight Special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations on Terrorism Financing in the field of terrorist financing.

(3) A person who violates any of the obligations set forth herein, is guilty of an offence and, if convicted, is subject to –

(a) In the case of a natural person sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding eight (8) years or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (€ 50,000) or in these two sentences, and

(b) in the case of a legal person, a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand euros (€ 500,000).

(4) For the purposes of this Section, "designated person or entity" means any natural or legal person, group or entity included in a list, including a person, group or entity falling within the provisions of Article 4 of the European Union Act entitled "Council Common

Position of 27 December 2001 implementing special measures to combat terrorism (2001/931 / CFSP)". Funds means "...assets of every kind, tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, however acquired, and legal documents or instruments in any form, including electronic or digital evidencing title of or interest in, such assets, including bank loans, traveller's checks, bank checks, money orders, shares, securities, bonds, foreign monetary exchange and letters of credit".

Further to the above, Section 24 provides that "a person carrying on the activities of a liable entity as defined in paragraphs (a) to (e) of Section 2A of the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering, reports accordingly to the appropriate Supervisory Authority and the said Supervisory Authority shall report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs all frozen assets or any action that has been taken in relation to compliance with the prohibition requirements of the European Union and the United Nations Security Council, as referred to in Section 25".

The Law on Combating Terrorism and Protection of Victims (L.75 (I)/2019) entails also implementing provisions regarding "Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism", as well as "Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 of 27 May 2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 467/2001 prohibiting the export of certain goods and services to Afghanistan, strengthening the flight ban and extending the freeze of funds and other financial resources in respect of the Taliban of Afghanistan". In particular, Sections 20 and 21 of the law criminalize the infringement of the provisions of these Regulations and determine the penalties to be imposed to natural persons as well as to legal persons in these cases.

The penalties provided for in these Sections in case of conviction are imprisonment not exceeding eight years and/or fine not exceeding €50.000 with regard to natural persons and a fine not exceeding €500.000 with regard to legal persons. Similar provisions and penalties are provided for in Section 22 of the Law, with respect to the infringement of the UN Security Council Resolutions relating to the combating of terrorism.

The Law provides also for the circulation and monitoring of the updates of the UN and EU sanctions lists (Section 25).

It is noted that a person or entity whose funds, other financial assets or other economic resources have been frozen pursuant to the UN and EU lists, may challenge such a measure before the Supreme Court of Cyprus under Article 146 of the Constitution, acting as an Administrative Court and may claim damages or compensation for any costs or damage sustained. In particular, Article 146 of the Constitution, which is the principal provision creating competence in administrative law, provides that the Supreme Court "shall

- Travel document security

The border control at the entry/exit points of the Republic of Cyprus is carried out by the Aliens and Immigration Unit. Within this framework, border control officers carry out checks in order to prevent and combat the use of false/falsified documents. If it is necessary travel documents checks are carried out on two levels according to EU standards. It must be mentioned that existing mechanisms were upgraded for travel document security, e.g. Installation of the Interpol "FIND" system and Europol Information System (EIS) at entry / exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.

Any information for forged/falsified documents that may be used for terrorist activities are forwarded by the Counter-Terrorism Office to the Aliens and Immigration Unit.

- Container and supply chain security

- Security of radioactive sources

Security of the limited number of radioactive sources that exist in the Republic of Cyprus is provided by the Ministry of Labor. This Ministry has prepared an action plan for this purpose.

- Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes

The Counter-Terrorism Office of Crime Combating Department is nominated as contact point to the EU IRU, and participates in the Analytical File "Check the Web" of Europol by contributing and exchanging information for the prevention of the communication of terrorists or terrorism messages through the internet.

- Legal co-operation including extradition

Please refer to point 1.1 (International cooperation)

- Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations

Please refer to points 1.3 and 1.4.

- Other information

- The National Counter Terrorism Coordinator:

On 2010, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus appointed the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order as the National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (NCTC), to enable Cyprus to better fulfil its obligations that emanate particularly from EU actions in this field.

The NCTC is responsible for:

- Advising the Government on policymaking with regard to the prevention/combating terrorism;
- Representing the Government on EU and International fora;
- Coordinating and supervising the implementation of the international and European obligations of the Republic on issues of terrorism, including EU Action Plans related to terrorism. For this purpose, the NCTC decided the establishment of a National Counterterrorism Strategy and is supervising the work of the ad hoc team to which he assigned this project.

- Existing mechanisms were upgraded, and reinforced for a quick and direct exchange of information with other countries and institutions. (Installation of the Europol information System (EIS)).
- Security measures were increased at the entry and exit points of the Republic and at the crossing points to and from the Turkish occupied areas of the Republic.
- Continual guarding, patrolling and surveying of possible identified targets (soft targets, critical infrastructures, embassies, airports etc.).
- Strict passport scrutiny at the arrival and departure of passengers at airports and ports. (Installation of Interpol "FIND" system at entry / exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.)
- Patrolling and surveying of the coastal areas under the control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus by aerial and naval means.
- Increased checking / surveying of suspected irregular immigrants.
- Extensive check of the irregular immigrants' personal details and dactyloscopic data in national and international databases.
- Thorough interviews and surveys of persons that may be identified with certain risk indicators (age, wounds, etc), with regards to foreign fighters' profile.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

The Republic of Cyprus does not currently maintain any armed forces stationed on the territory of other participating States.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence - and security - building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

All actions undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus, in the context of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures, are duly notified to the participating States of the OSCE, via the OSCE communications network, but also at the relevant meetings of the Forum for Security and Cooperation. Thus, in the spirit of good faith, openness and transparency, Cyprus notifies all States of its initiatives in the aforementioned areas.

The Republic of Cyprus has signed and ratified the following Conventions, in the field of disarmament:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (OPCW) - Geneva, 3 September 1992, Ratification Law No. 8(III)/1998
- The Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban-Treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - New York, 24 September 1996, Ratification Law No. 32(III)/2003

as air bases where appropriate, and are summarized as follows:

- June 2001: 42 Participants from 27 OSCE pS.
- June 2006: 36 Participants from 22 OSCE pS.
- May 2009: 29 Participants from 17 OSCE pS.
- May 2016: 30 Participants from 17 OSCE pS.
- Sep 2022: 35 Participants from 20 OSCE pS.

With regard to arms control and disarmament, the Republic of Cyprus, recognizing the threats from the unauthorized proliferation and use of Man Portable Air Defence Systems, proceeded with the destruction of 246 Man Portable Air Defence Systems, Mistral 1 Block 1, in 2023. In addition, Cyprus in Cooperation with Specialized Company, destroyed 381 tons of propellants, in 2023.

The National Guard's Centre for the Laboratory Testing of Gunpowder and Ammunition, since the start of its operation, has conducted a significant number of tests on ammunition propellants. These tests are conducted according to international standards, in order to evaluate the chemical stability of ammunition and achieve their categorization based on quality. All tests are conducted on a priority basis for the ammunition which is used in training activities, whilst all testing procedures concerning the accreditation of the Centre are carried out according to the ISO 17025 standard.

As far as the anti-personnel landmines are concerned, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus cleared all minefields in the area under its effective control, including within the buffer zone, by 1st July 2013, which was the deadline set by the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The only area in Cyprus where mined areas containing anti-personnel mines is known to exist is the part of its territory which remains under Turkish military occupation and which is not accessible to the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus. At least 21 minefields laid and maintained in the occupied areas by the Turkish forces are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines and one of them is situated within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

The Republic of Cyprus, having taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in the areas occupied by Türkiye, submitted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) information on 28 known minefields, which were laid prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion. Concerning these minefields, UNFICYP initially informed the Republic of Cyprus that only 3 required further technical surveys, whilst according to the latest assessment of UNMAS, these minefields are now accepted as free from Explosive Hazards.

While the Republic of Cyprus maintains jurisdiction over the whole of the island, it is prevented from exercising effective control over those areas under Turkish military occupation, and is thus unable to fulfil its obligations stemming from the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

As a result, Cyprus requested and was granted an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines by the 1st of July 2025.

First and foremost, our primary aim is to safeguard our territorial integrity and ensure the protection of Cypriot citizens from external threats, given the continued occupation of part of the island by Turkey and persistent threats to our sovereignty.

Moreover, recent global developments, particularly the ongoing war in Ukraine, have demonstrated the importance of international defence cooperation. In this framework, the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), as well as EU defence initiatives that highlight the need for an EU - led rapid deployment capacity to respond to crisis within and beyond the Union's borders, are important.

Due to its geographical position, Cyprus plays a crucial role in fostering regional security cooperation and can thus act as a bridge between the EU and the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Partnerships with key regional actors are essential for enhancing operational resilience, securing maritime routes, and addressing regional crises. By leveraging its strong bilateral ties, Cyprus contributes to broader EU efforts to maintain stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa.

Cyprus is fully committed to the EU Maritime Security Strategy, recognizing the critical importance of safeguarding Europe's seas and maritime interests. In this context and as a maritime state, we are actively involved in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy naval Missions. We firmly believe that these missions are crucial to safeguard the interests and security of the Union, by achieving freedom of navigation and preventing the disruption of trade routes and supply lines.

To this end, we participate the European Union Naval Force IRINI (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI), in EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and in EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, which reflects our commitment to work alongside our partners to protect maritime routes, prevent illegal activities, and ensure safe passage through key areas.

The protection of maritime infrastructure, particularly against the rising threats of hybrid and cyber operations is another priority. Malicious actors are increasingly likely to use hybrid and cyber tactics to target maritime infrastructure, such as undersea cables, pipelines, ports, and ships. Cyprus actively supports the enhancement of regional security measures, promoting international cooperation, and safeguarding essential maritime assets in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Cyprus is also in a position to contribute significantly to the EU's goal of achieving long-term stability, security, and regional cooperation. Our established experience with humanitarian missions and non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO) from the Middle East and Africa further enhances our potential to contribute to this objective. Cyprus has demonstrated effective capabilities to facilitate the swift evacuation and provision of humanitarian assistance to those affected by regional conflicts, thereby reinforcing the EU's role as a global actor in times of crisis.

In conclusion, Cyprus' defence strategy is shaped by both national and regional threats, as well as broader geopolitical shifts. By strengthening its defence capabilities, enhancing EU cooperation, and building strategic partnerships, Cyprus ensures its national security while contributing to European and regional stability.

(e) Police

The Cyprus Police is a governmental body and since 1993 it forms part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. Previously (1960 - 1993), the Police was under the auspices of Ministry of Interior.

The Cyprus Police functions on the basis of the following legislation:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus
- The Police Law (73(I)/2004)
- The Police Regulations, including Promotion and Disciplinary Regulations
- The Police Standing Orders, which are issued by the Chief of Police
- The Criminal Law (Cap. 154)
- The Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 155), concerning prosecution and relevant court procedures.

It is important to note that in accordance with the Constitution, the Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief of Police are appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus.

Also, the Police carries out its duties in conformity with the national legal framework, international treaties and conventions to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, as well as the European Union acquis related to police matters.

According to the Police Law (article 6, L.73(I)/2004), the Cyprus Police has the authority to carry out its mission throughout the territory of the Republic of Cyprus for:

- The Maintenance of Law and Public Order
- The Preservation of peace
- The Prevention and detection of crime
- The Apprehension and prosecution of offenders

The main powers mentioned in the Police Law include:

- Search
- Arrest
- Detention
- Interrogation
- Other powers specifically vested within the Police by virtue of any law in force.

It should be noted that the Cyprus Police is the main Law enforcement Body in the Republic. The Customs and Excise Department as well as the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) also have law enforcement authorities.

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

(a) Armed Forces

The Armed Forces are under political control, both during peace and wartime. The following institutions, foreseen by the Constitution, exercise their democratic control:

- The President of the Republic

The need to maintain the National Guard's operational readiness remains to this day, because of the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the ongoing military occupation of over 36% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus ever since.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Military Service

Compulsory military service was first introduced in 1964 with the National Guard Law (no. 20/1964). According to the current National Guard Law, all citizens of the Republic between the ages of 18 and 50 are obliged to serve in the National Guard of the Republic.

Recruitment procedures or calling up to service in the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus, are defined in the National Guard Law and the relevant Regulations stipulating the extent of compulsory military service, types of military service and procedures for the calling up of civilians for compulsory military service. Enlistment in the National Guard is conducted upon a decree of the Minister of Defence, which is publicized in the official gazette of the Republic.

Military Service is compulsory for all male citizens. Recently, the compulsory conscript service was reduced to 14 months, following a relevant Ministerial Council Decision and the introduction of professional service personnel (men and women) into the National Guard, in the framework of the restructuring and reorganization of the force.

Military Service commences in the year that individuals reach the age of 18. From then on, male citizens who complete their compulsory conscript service, continue to serve in the armed forces as reservists until they reach the age of 50. Men over 50 and women over 18 are appointed to the Civil Defence.

Pre-requisites for recruitment in the Cyprus Police

Vacant positions in the Cyprus Police are published in the official gazette of the Republic of Cyprus and any interested individual may apply.

POLICE CONSTABLES

Candidates must-

- (a) Be citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.
- (b) Submit satisfactory character references. If she/he has previously served in the Army of the Republic of Cyprus, the National Guard, the Public Service or has held any government position or a position in any organization of public law or in any Police Service or Force, then s/he must present satisfactory evidence that during the work period in question s/he was of good conduct.
- (c) Be over eighteen years of age and not older than thirty-five, unless s/he has served previously as a member of the Cyprus Police up to the date that the current Regulations came into effect:
Provided that the provisions of this subparagraph do not apply for regular special constables or special constables who are candidates for recruitment or appointment to the Police.

- (d) Be certified, following an examination by a government medical officer, to be of good health, sound in mind and body and physically and mentally fit to perform the duties s/he will be assigned following recruitment. In addition to other criteria, it must also be certified that s/he:
 - (i) has good eyesight with or without the use of spectacles and good hearing without the use of hearing aids;
 - (ii) is not colour blind, not flatfooted, does not suffer from any form of physical handicap and does not have any impairment or deformity on his/her body or any part of it, and
 - (iii) is of general physical and mental fitness.
- (e) Hold a leaving certificate from an accredited secondary school.
- (f) Have passed a written examination, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Special constables (Procedures for Appointment and Terms of Service) Regulations and has achieved a total score of at least 50% on average, and a score of at least 40% in each of the subjects included in the examination.
- (g) Be able to provide information which may be requested of them regarding their past or former employment, or any other issue that may relate to their appointment to the Police: Provided that if any candidate makes any false declaration in his/her application or in relation to his/her application for appointment, and subsequently is appointed to the Police, s/he has committed a criminal offence, and in case of conviction will be dismissed from the Police.
- (h) Have fulfilled their military service obligations, or have been legally discharged from them, but not due to health reasons.
- (i) Not have been discharged or his/her services were not terminated in the Public Service of the Republic or a body of public law on account of a criminal offence or breach of discipline.
- (j) Have not been convicted of a serious offence that entails lack of integrity or moral indecency.
- (k) Have passed physical fitness tests conducted by a Committee especially set up for this purpose. The tests and the required levels for success are set out below.
- (l) Have a Body Mass Index of less than thirty (30): Provided that, the Body Mass Index is calculated by dividing the body weight of the candidate, in kilos, by his/her height in meters, squared ($BMI = \text{weight kg/m}^2$).
- (m) Have passed the psychometric examination conducted by the Committee appointed by the Chief of Police for this purpose and consists of a Senior Police Officer, one (1) registered psychiatrist and two (2) registered clinical psychologists or one (1) registered clinical psychologist and one (1) psychologist holding an academic position, provided that there is one available in the Republic.

SPECIALISED PERSONNEL

Cyprus Police recruits, from time to time according to its needs, specialized personnel for carrying out specialized duties. The Chief of Police may, upon approval by the Minister of Justice and Public Order, appoint as a specialized member of the Police at the combined position of Constable (Scale A5 2nd grade), Sergeant (Scale A8), Inspector (Scale A9), Chief Inspector (Scale A10) and Superintendent B' (Scale A12), as provided for in the current state budget in force, a person who under current legislation is a holder of an accredited University Degree or diploma or other equivalent qualification relevant to the duties of the combined position, as these are set out in its announcement.

- (d) **RESULTS:** The procedure is executed twice and the best attempt is recorded. The examiner checks that the applicant's knees do not bend. The applicant's score is determined by the point on the calibrated scale that the applicant can reach with the tips of his/her fingers. The results are recorded in centimetres (cm).
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 0 cm
 - (ii) For Women: 5 cm
- 3. **VERTICAL JUMP TEST**
 - (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the maximum muscle power and explosiveness of the legs and the jumping ability of the lower limbs.
 - (b) **EQUIPMENT:** Electronic Bosco jump mat.
 - (c) **PROCEDURE:** The applicant stands on the electronic mat where s/he performs a vertical jump with a swinging motion and the use of the arms. The electronic mat records the duration of the flight of the jump and on this basis, it calculates the vertical jump height, the work produced and leg power. A basic prerequisite is that the applicant must land at the same point on the mat from s/he jumped or began the vertical jump.
 - (d) **RESULT:** The applicant must perform two attempts, with a short period of rest allowed between each of the two attempts. The best attempt is recorded in centimetres and to the nearest tenth of a centimetre.
 - (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 40 cm
 - (ii) For Women: 30 cm
- 4. **30 METRE RUN**
 - (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the body's ability for speed and acceleration, that is the ability of the body to move and respond quickly and promptly.
 - (b) **EQUIPMENT:** Two timers (stop watches), two cones marking the finishing line and a flat and clear 50metre surface.
 - (c) **PROCEDURE:** Before the test applicants must prepare appropriately by completing a warm up and stretching exercises. The test begins with the applicant standing with his/her feet behind the starting line, one foot behind the other. As soon as s/he is given a signal by the administrator of the test, s/he begins to run alone, in a straight line, a distance of 30 meters, as fast as possible, without competition.
 - (d) **RESULT:** The applicant must perform two attempts, with a short period for rest allowed between each of the two attempts. The best attempt is recorded in seconds and to the nearest tenth of a second.
 - (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 4.5 seconds
 - (ii) For Women: 5.0 seconds
- 5. **12 MINUTE ENDURANCE TEST**
 - (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To evaluate cardiopulmonary performance under fatigue and the ability of the body to produce prolonged physical activity.
 - (b) **EQUIPMENT:** 400 meter running track, at least two timers with the capacity to record multiple measurements, a whistle for signalling the start and termination of the test,

Public Sector follow the working hours of the Department/ Division, within which they are placed.

According to the provisions of the National Guard Law, the duration of alternative service for conscientious objectors is as follows:

Alternative Communal Service in the Public Sector

The conscripts, who would have served the 14 - month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 5 months.

The conscripts, who would have served 6 months or less than the 14 - month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 4 months.

The conscripts, who would have served less than 6 months, are obliged to serve an additional 3 months.

Alternative Military Service on Military Premises

The conscripts, who would have served the 14 - month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 4 months.

The conscripts, who would have served 6 months or less than the 14 – month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 3 months.

The conscripts, who would have served less than 6 months, are obliged to serve an additional 2 months.

3.2.3 Postponements of Military Service Obligation

Certain categories of conscripts are entitled to postponements of their compulsory military service, according to the provisions of the National Guard Law.

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces' personnel as well as conscripts?

The international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016, the National Guard Law of 2011 (L.19 (I)/2011 G.G. Ap. No. 4271, 25/2/20211 and other legislation, ensure that all military personnel are treated fairly and equally in legal and administrative matters.

In particular, regarding the administrative procedures, every member of the army has the right to lodge administrative complaints against any act or order which he/she considers unfair, according to the Disciplinary Regulations of the National Guard. Moreover, special administrative appeals are provided for promotions and retirements of officers and non-commissioned officers according to the relevant Regulations. In general, all members of the Army have the civil right to table petitions as a direct and meaningful democratic instrument which is provided for both in the Constitution and in the General Administrative Law Principles Law 1999 (158(I)/1999).

In the field of judicial protection, the rights of all military personnel are protected by judicial system of the Republic and the military justice system, consisting mainly of the Military Court.

It is noteworthy to mention that certain rights of military personnel are limited during military service, in accordance with the provisions of part IX of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016

4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?

The international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016, the National Guard Law of 2011 (L.19 (I)/2011 G.G. Ap. No. 4271, 25/2/20211 and other legislation ensure that all military personnel are treated fairly and equally in legal and administrative matters.

Although military personnel enjoy their constitutional and legal rights during military service, certain rights are subject to restrictions in accordance with the provisions of part IX of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016).

The members of the armed forces are allowed to exercise their civilian rights as individuals, through Article 31 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus of 1960, which amongst other, mentions that a citizen has the right to vote in any election, conducted according to the Constitution or other legislation.

The Ministry of Defence disseminates the text of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security to the military personnel who are regularly familiarized with the content of the Code.

The political neutrality of the armed forces is ensured, according to the provisions of article 56 of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016).

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

The Defence Policy of the Republic of Cyprus has developed around the following four basic pillars and targets:

- To preserve peace on the island by creating the necessary level of deterrence against any kind of military threat and to reinforce the necessary security conditions needed for Cypriot citizens to live, prosper and contribute to the Republic's economic growth and welfare.
- To defend the Republic's territorial integrity, national independence and sovereignty and the security of its people from any armed attack or threat.
- To participate in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union.
- To contribute towards international peace, security and stability. In this context, the defence policy and doctrine of the Republic is always implemented in a manner that takes into account all the deriving obligations from international law.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1325 – WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

(Report according to Indicative List of Issues Pertaining to Women, Peace and Security to be provided in the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct)

1. PREVENTION

A. Checklist of key commitments taken by participating States

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to protecting women, peace and security. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing inter-ministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.)

Name of the treaty		Party by: ratification P(R), accession P(a), succession P(s), acceptance P(A), approval P(AA), or Not party	Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, acceptance, or approval
Universal legal instruments			
1.	Protocol Supplementary to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)	P(R)	Law No.11 (III)/2003 06/08/2003
2.	United Nations Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	P(a)	Law No.78/1985 23/07/1985
The Council of Europe legal instruments			
3.	European Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) CETS No: 197	P(R)	Law No.38 (III)/2007 24/10/2007
4.	European Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2011) CETS No: 210	P(R)	Law No.14 (III)/2017 10/11/2017

C. More detailed information for sharing good practice between participating States

1 National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

1.1 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how is your NAP developed, implemented and its impact assessed, including involvement of women's organizations and other civil society organizations and co-ordination across government?

The first National Action Plan (NAP) was adopted in 2020 after broad consultation with all relevant parties and through a substantial dialogue with the civil society. That plan is to be implemented for the period 2021-2025. In particular, the preparation of the NAP was coordinated by the Office of the Gender Equality Commissioner in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the input of the National Mechanism for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order - Police and the Equality Unit, Ministry of Defence - of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of the Interior - Asylum Service, Department of Population and Immigration Records - Civil Defence, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights, the Office of the Greek - Cypriot Negotiator for the Cyprus Conflict, Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society in general. It is a comprehensive action plan with four main pillars: Participation and Empowerment, Protection, Prevention, and Promotion and Information about the Resolution. In order to implement the main pillars, a series of targeted actions have been adopted, which will be systematically monitored and evaluated. More specifically, through the Action Plan, the framework is set for a coherent horizontal policy, which creates the appropriate synergies between the agencies involved and aims to further strengthen cooperation in order to fill an existing gap and offer substantial protection to girls and women. The Action Plan includes and involves almost all Ministries/ Departments of the Republic of Cyprus.

Additionally, a National Strategy for Gender Equality was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus and entered into force beginning of January 2024, including different thematic areas and a great number of actions and policies to be implemented by the government within a period of three years, 2024-2026.

1.2 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, who takes the lead and owns the budget? What contribution is made by your defense ministry and security forces?

The Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality has an overall budget of €180000 plus an additional amount (approximately €60000) for the implementation of NAP's actions. Ministries, Deputy Ministries and Commissioners who participate in the NAP, include in their annual budgets, the amounts needed to implement their actions regarding UNSC Resolution 1325.

1.3 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how does the NAP support enhancement of institutional capacity in defense and security?

As part of the National Strategy, adopted in 2024, an action has been adopted with a view to mapping the needs and knowledge of male and female members of the National Guard and the Ministry of Defence on equality issues (indicative budget of

- How do you plan to address and gather information from local women's populations in areas at risk of conflict?

The Republic of Cyprus participates in one peacekeeping mission (UNIFIL), with a low number of military personnel (2), hence it has not developed information gathering mechanisms.

2.3 Awareness and understanding of WPS at all levels and types of security personnel.

- What training do you give on incorporating a gender perspective and protecting the rights of women and girls to security personnel at basic education, officer training and specialized in-service training?

By organizing seminars and experiential workshops to train members of the Army, regardless of their position. Training of this nature is included in all basic schools from which each member of the National Guard is required to graduate for promotion to a higher rank.

Within the framework of the new National Strategy for Gender Equality 2024-2026, the efforts are to mainstream gender horizontal in all ministries actions and policies. Towards this direction gender focal points in all ministries have been appointed. The office of the commissioner has organized three different rounds of discussions with gender focal points discussing gender equality and protecting of the rights of women. Furthermore, and in the context of the Ministry of Defence, specifically, targeted and systematic trainings of all ranks serving in the National Guard, including soldiers on a contact basis, Ministry of Defence personnel and National Guardsmen (through different means – workshops, electronic and/or audio-visual materials, conferences) are being programmed. The main scope is to train the military personnel in the basic principles governing gender equality, with the aim of deconstructing stereotypes and establishing a culture.

- How do you train security personnel to protect women and girls, men and boys from sexual and gender-based violence?³

Cyprus Police and the National Guard organize seminars for their personnel which include training on human rights and preventing violence against women. The new strategy includes a provision for the creation of gender equality committee at the Cyprus Fire Service and Prison Department. One of the aims is the systematic trainings on gender equality.

2.4 Vetting of security personnel, especially pre-deployment

- What measures do you take to vet and prevent the recruitment, retention, promotion and deployment of security personnel with a record of sexual or gender-based violence or other violations of human rights?⁴

³ See also similar question 6a in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

⁴ See also similar question 2 and 8 in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

of a more general nature in the context of the trainings they receive and the schools from which they graduate compulsorily for their advancement.

The Gender Advisor of the National Guard organizes educational seminars to provide all the necessary information about WPS.

- What systems or measures do you use to co-ordinate specialist advice on WPS throughout your security forces and to provide democratic oversight?

The aforementioned seminars are coordinated, where necessary, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies of the Republic of Cyprus that have a policy making role on WPS issues, by co-shaping the National Action Plan.

4 Sharing of good practice

4.1 How do you share good practice and learn from others?

2 PARTICIPATION

A. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States

Please indicate if your State has the following measures in place to increase women's participation in security forces and decision making, including at all stages of any peace-making process. More detailed information of such measure can be included in Part B below.

	Type of Measure	Yes	No
1.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics on applicants to armed forces	X	
2.	Policies to attract female candidates (targeted campaigns, review of accession tests etc)	X	
3.	Policies to promote equal opportunities for women and men across the security sector	X	
4.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of armed forces personnel: - By rank - By promotion - By retention	X	
5.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by armed forces personnel of: - Discrimination - sexual harassment - gender based harassment - sexual violence - gender-based violence	X	
6.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by civilian personnel in the security sector of: - discrimination - sexual harassment - gender based harassment - sexual violence - gender-based violence	X	

- c) Staff Sergeants and equivalents: 192 women, 803 men (19,29% women, 80,71% men)
- d) Master Sergeants and equivalents: 99 women, 631 men (13,56% women, 86,44% men)
- e) Warrant Officers and equivalents: 66 women, 244 men (21,29% women, 78,71% men)

1.3 If you regularly analyze retention and promotion statistics disaggregated by gender and rank, what are the trends and what action, if any, are you taking as a result?

In accordance with the legislation retentions and promotions are carried out regardless of gender.

1.4 What are the numbers and percentages of complaints raised by women and men about discrimination, harassment, sexual or gender-based violence?

In the last two years there were 2 cases of sexual harassment reported by women.

1.5 How do you monitor outcomes?

For each complaint, an administrative investigation is carried out and the whole procedure is monitored by the competent Department of Personnel of the National Guard Staff. If criminal responsibilities arise, the case is followed by the judicial authorities.

1.6 How is a gender-perspective integrated into a 'climate assessment' or similar anonymous staff survey, if used?

Given that gender equality is provided for in the legislation, there are no procedures to integrate gender-perspective into a climate assessment.

2 Measures to increase the numbers of women and specialist WPS advisers in peacekeeping forces.⁶

2.1 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men in peacekeeping forces, disaggregated by rank?

The National Guard participates in UNIFIL with 1 male Officer (Major) and one male NCO. No interest was expressed in filling the position by women personnel.

2.2 What are the numbers and percentages of international missions to which you appointed Gender Advisers, Gender Focal Points or Women Protection Advisers?

The National Guard General Staff has not appointed any personnel to the aforementioned positions.

3 Democratic oversight of Security Forces and WPS

3.1 How do your security forces publicize, report on and account for their actions on policies and plans related to WPS?

⁶ See also similar question B1 in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

- *Does it include victims of terrorism or other armed groups?*

1.2 Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

The Republic of Cyprus does not participate in international peacekeeping missions in postings especially related with issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports, due to the small number of its military personnel.

1.3 How are military, para-military and security forces trained to respond to sexual violence and gender-based harm?

The Gender Advisor of the National Guard organizes occasionally educational seminars to provide all the necessary information about sexual violence and gender-based-harm.

2 Investigating alleged violations

2.1 How do you identify, record, investigate and prosecute any alleged violations, cases of exploitation and abuse perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces? What experience do you have of such investigations and prosecutions?

Alleged violations are reported to the competent administrative authorities and administrative investigation procedures are carried out with a potential engagement of judicial authorities, in case of indication of a criminal offense violation. Due to the significantly small number of reports, no reliable conclusions can be drawn. The reports were related with sexual harassment and no other kind of violation such as sexual abuse or exploitation was ever reported.

2.2 What are the number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces that are referred, investigated and acted upon?

There was no reported case of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by National Guard military personnel.

2.3 How do you ensure access to justice for victims of conflict related violence including cases of exploitation and abuse by military, para-military and security forces?

3 Other measures to protect women and girls

3.1 What lessons could you share in relation to protective measures?

In the context of the continuous strengthening of the position of women in the National Guard, especially after the recruitment of female contract soldiers in 2017, the facilities for their safe and comfortable living within the military premises have been improved and will be further improved for the performance of their normal duties as well as for the performance of special tasks with an overnight stay.

It is also considered very important to note that the training (e.g. participation in military exercises, participation in military training schools or colleges, etc.) provided to both men and women performing the same duties is not differentiated in any way. The same

We aim to create an environment that will enable women to actively participate in order to use both women's and men's diverse experiences as an added value to security and defense to lead to peace. In parallel, we are under the process of drafting and implementing our own plans with a gender angle. At the same time, we aim to also involve the civil society in this process and communicate better with them and support women's movements.

2. Would you like to share any additional information, clarification or details?

The Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality issued a Conduct Guide for Personnel Serving in Military and Political Missions. The Conduct Guide is a useful and supportive document from which military and civilian mission personnel can draw guidance in the performance of their duties and mission. From this they can get information about good practices of other countries as well as practical examples of incident management. They can additionally study the multi-level guidelines that have been prepared specifically for them based on international and European practices, so that their action is consistent with the requirements of Resolution 1325. With the Guide, staff also have the opportunity to come into contact with the main concepts concerning the dimension of gender, as the conceptual clarification is a crucial process for the correct evaluation of their actions. Finally, the Conduct Guide includes useful sources of information for military and civilian mission personnel that can—and should—be used in the performance of frontline officer duties.

For the preparation of this Guide and a better understanding of the conditions and needs of each service, interviews have been conducted with various services of the Republic. Specifically, they have conducted interviews with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of its National Guard Republic of Cyprus.

It is also important to be noted that:

- (a) With the enactment of amending Regulations 28/2016 concerning non-commissioned Officers (NCO's) and the simultaneous abolishment of Regulations on women who served in the army as NCO's (Regulations 311/1993), matters concerning both women and men NCOs are regulated by the same legislation.
- (b) In addition, in 2016 the National Guard Law [Law 19(I)/2011] has been amended with Law 82(I)/2016 in order to be possible for women to be recruited as contract soldiers.

There is no other legislation under the competence of the Ministry of Defence that requires amendment for eliminating any form of discrimination.

of Piracy and Other Unlawful Acts Law" [Law 77(I)/2012] is applicable. This law allows ship operators to employ private maritime security companies under specific conditions:

(1) **Risk Assessment:** Ship operators must conduct a thorough risk assessment to determine the necessity of engaging a private maritime security company. If deemed necessary, they can apply to the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) for authorization.

(2) **Certification:** private maritime security companies must hold a valid certificate of approval and maintain indemnity insurance. They are obligated to comply with Cypriot legislation and adhere to the lawful orders of the ship's master.

(3) **Application Process:** Operators must submit detailed applications to the DMS, including information about the vessel, the security company, risk assessments, lists of weapons and equipment, and copies of contracts between the operator and the private maritime security company.

(4) **Use of Firearms:** The law specifies conditions under which firearms and other security equipment can be used on board. The ship's master has the authority to permit their use, especially in high-risk areas, and is responsible for supervising their handling and storage.

2. The Republic of Cyprus ensures that private military and security companies (PMSCs) operating under its jurisdiction comply with international law through a combination of national legislation, adherence to international agreements, and rigorous oversight mechanisms. So, beyond the implementation of its own legislation, as mentioned above, the Republic of Cyprus has demonstrated its commitment to international law concerning PMSCs through participation in key agreements, such as the United Nations Mercenary Convention. The Republic of Cyprus ratified the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing, and Training of Mercenaries on July 8, 1993, thereby committing to prohibiting and penalizing mercenary activities under its jurisdiction.

3. The Republic of Cyprus also employs stringent oversight mechanisms to ensure PMSCs comply with international standards:

a. **Vetting and Certification:** The Cypriot government conducts extensive vetting processes for private maritime security companies authorized to operate on Cyprus-flagged ships. As of January 2025, Cyprus had authorized 12 such companies, all subjected to rigorous due diligence checks to ensure adherence to legal and ethical standards.

b. **International Scrutiny:** United Nations officials have recognized Cyprus's robust regulatory framework. During a visit in January 2025,

**INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

A. International legal framework and commitments

1. Please indicate if your State is a party to or has endorsed the following international legal instruments or voluntary commitments. Please also kindly elaborate in case of any reservations or interpretative statements.

	YES	NO	Reservations/ Interpretative Statements
Convention on the Rights of the Child	X		
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	X		X
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	X		X
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on a communication procedure	X		X
ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour	X		
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction	X		
Safe Schools Declaration	X		
Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups	X		
Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers		X	
Political Declaration on EWIPA (Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas)	X		

B. National measures to end and prevent CAAC violations.

1. What is the minimum legal age for recruitment (including voluntary recruitment) for service in military, paramilitary and security forces in your State?

According to Article 18 (1) of the National Guard Laws of 2011 to 2022, all citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, from 1 January of the year in which they reach the eighteenth (18th) year of age and until 31 December of the year in which they reach the fiftieth (50th) year of age, are obliged to perform military service in the Force.

Given the aforementioned considerations, the Ministry of Defence has been actively implementing necessary reforms in alignment with both domestic developments and the European legislative framework. These reforms have been ongoing for several years, particularly addressing issues pertinent to the National Guard, notably the duration of full military service. However, it is essential to acknowledge the unique circumstances persisting on our island, primarily stemming from the occupation of part of the territory by Turkish troops. The exigencies of the National Guard cannot be overlooked in light of these circumstances, a reality that partially constrains our ability to swiftly adhere to the directives periodically issued by European Institutions. This is particularly evident concerning conscripts stationed in hostile areas, a constraint acknowledged during the ratification of the Protocol.

3. Please indicate if your State has any national reference document (for example in the form of laws, regulations, policies or action plans) on issues related to the protection of children in armed conflicts. YES

4. Do the military doctrine and guidance of your State include issues related to children and armed conflict, with particular regard to the six grave violations identified by the UN Security Council: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, abduction, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals and military use of schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access to children? YES

5. How is the protection of children – especially with regard to the above-mentioned six grave violations - included in military planning and other operational considerations, including rules of engagement as relevant? Are there mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of such specific child protection procedures into operations? YES

<i>If relevant, please also indicate if your States has:</i>	YES	NO
reporting mechanisms specifically related to incidents involving children from operations to chiefs of defence or military planners and between forces leading multi-national missions and forces providing personnel to such missions	X	
mechanisms to collect and monitor reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces	X	
mechanism to assess risk of abuse of small arms to commit or facilitate serious acts against children	X	
mechanisms to collect within military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects disaggregated information per sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity of children affected by armed conflicts	X	
mechanisms to protect the anonymity and personal data of children affected by armed conflicts collected during military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects	X	