

**Statement of the Republic of Cyprus in the Fourth Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly at its 75th session on agenda item 54
Comprehensive Review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all
their aspects**

efforts for greater deployment of women in UN PKOs. UNFICYP has been a pioneer in implementing policies directed in promoting gender balance, being the first UN PKO to appoint a woman as its Force Commander. It now has its second female Force Commander and the heads of all three of its components are women

Mr. Chairman,

Despite its long-running presence, since its 1964 deployment at the request of the Cyprus Government, UNFICYP remains indispensable for the safety and security of Cyprus and the Cypriots. The ongoing foreign occupation of more than a third of Cyprus' territory, the constant attempts by the occupation army to move forward, the daily violations of Cyprus' sovereignty and sovereign rights by the occupying power on land, at sea and in the air, and the numerous violations of relevant UNSC resolutions, make UNFICYP essential in preventing the recurrence of fighting

Recently, the occupying power has created a new fait accompli by opening of the fenced area of Varosha in direct violation of relevant Resolutions of the Security Council and contrary to the latter's warnings against altering the status of Varosha. The far reaching implications of a violation of this magnitude jeopardise the legacy of UNFICYP as a successful Mission and point to the significance of PKOs acting as a bulwark against the consolidation of the effects of aggression. In this vein, Cyprus would like to stress that PKOs should have unimpeded access and freedom of movement in all areas that are relevant to the conflict they are mandated to oversee, something which is necessary for reporting to the UNSC, enabling the latter to fulfil its responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Cyprus' gratitude to the Member States that have contributed military and police personnel to UNFICYP over all these years and to the men and the women who have served under the blue beret in Cyprus throughout these years, so