



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 October 2026

Original: English

Eighty-first session

Agenda items 39 and 74

Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 6 October 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to unlawful actions by the Republic of Türkiye concerning the conduct of marine scientific research activities by the Turkish-flagged research vessel *Akdeniz Arastırma 1* in the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus.

In particular, between 15 and 30 June 2026 and 3 and 29 August 2026, the aforementioned vessel carried out water-sampling operations in the maritime area between Cyprus and Türkiye, including within the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Cyprus, without the consent of the Republic of Cyprus (relevant maps are attached as Annexes I and II, respectively).

The unauthorized entry of the vessel into the territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus and the conduct of marine scientific research therein without the express consent of the Republic of Cyprus constitute a violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, as enshrined in articles 2 and 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In the exercise of its sovereignty, the Republic of Cyprus has the exclusive right under Article 245 of the Convention to regulate, authorize and conduct marine scientific research in its territorial sea. These provisions reflect customary international law.

Moreover, the conduct of marine scientific research within the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, where the Republic of Cyprus exercises jurisdiction with regards to such activities, constitutes a further violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Article 56 (1) (b) (ii) of the Convention confers upon the coastal State exclusive jurisdiction with regard to marine scientific research in its exclusive economic zone. Furthermore, pursuant to article 246 (2) of the Convention, marine scientific research in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf shall be conducted only with the consent of the coastal State. No such consent was sought from, or granted by, the Republic of Cyprus.

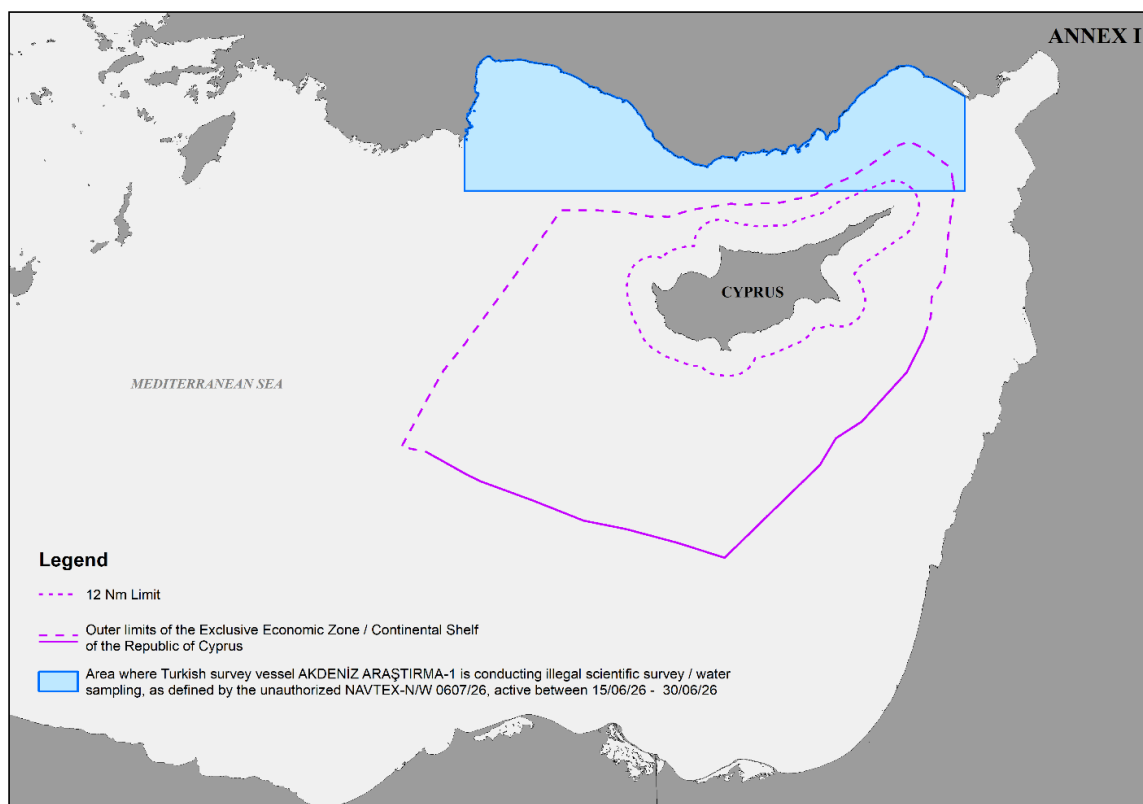
Türkiye therefore has no legal basis whatsoever to undertake, purport to authorize or facilitate marine scientific research activities within the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus without its consent.

Against this background, my Government respectfully requests your assistance in conveying a clear message to Türkiye that it must fully comply with its obligations under international law, respect the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus, and refrain from conducting, purporting to authorize, or facilitating marine scientific research activities within the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus without its consent.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39 and 74 , and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Maria **Michail**

Annex I to the letter dated 6 October 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General



Annex II to the letter dated 6 October 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

