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# Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

**Post-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): United Nations Foundation

Travel date(s): Sept. 14-19, 2021

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____
Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Expenses for Employee:**

| | Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Good Faith Estimate<br>☒ Actual Amount | $3,483.99 | $566.80 | $383.91 | $35.12 (2 covid tests) |

**Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child** (if applicable):

| | Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Good Faith Estimate<br>☐ Actual Amount | | | | |

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See* Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.):

please see attached itinerary.

10/13/2021 (Date)

Katie Abrames (Printed name of traveler)

(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

10/13/2021 (Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 1/3/11) **Form RE-2**

# PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

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1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): United Nations Foundation (UNF)

2. Description of the trip: Over the course of this trip, the delegation will learn what recent diplomatic developments mean for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus…(please see attached).

3. Dates of travel: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 - Sunday. Sept. 19, 2021

4. Place of travel: Larnaca, Nicosia, and North Nicosia, Cyprus

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached.

6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:

   ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

   – OR –

   ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) *(see question 9)*.

7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

   – AND –

   ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

8. I *certify* that:

   ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.

   – AND –

   ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**
I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10)*.

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**
If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:
UNF is the sole sponsor of this trip, organizing all aspects of the program and logistics. UNF handles all outreach to congressional staff and is the contact for planning purposes.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:
UNF works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to observe UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus…(please see attached)

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:
UNF regulalry organizes congressional learning trips to observe the UN's work abroad. From 2015-2020, UNF sponsored trips to Mali, Niger, Lebanon, Jordan, and Rwanda, for example.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

UNF regulalry hosts/sponsors Captiol Hill briefings, forums, and related events to educate policymakers, businesses, NGOs, and the general public on the UN's role in advancing American interests abroad.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

| | Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meal Expenses | Other Expenses |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☒ Good Faith estimate<br>☐ Actual Amounts | $3,325.85 (airfare)<br>$152.97 (local transport) | $613.36 | $385 | $50 (Covid test to return to U.S.) |

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation **or** b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

This trip involves an event that is arranged specifically WITH regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

While the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus has successfully prevented major hostilities between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, recent diplomatic and political developments... (please see attached)

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Hilton Nicosia Achaion 1, Egkomi 2413, Cyprus

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Favorable rate and location.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Daily expenses for lodging will be $153.34 per participant and daily expenses for M&E will be $105 per participant.

The State Department's 2021 maximum per diem rates for Nicosia are $211 for lodging and $113 for M&E.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Roundtrip premium economy (refundable) airfare from Washington, DC to Larnaca, Cyprus connecting in London, UK.

All in-country travel be via rented vans and/or SUVS.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: [signature]

Name and Title: Peter Yeo, Senior Vice President

Name of Organization: United Nations Foundation

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Telephone Number: 202-887-9040 (please ask for Micah)

Fax Number: 202-887-9021

E-mail Address: mspangler@unfoundation.org

0000000001248 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: October 13, 2021

# UN Foundation Learning Trip to Cyprus
# Answers to PSTCF Questions 2, 5, 13, and 18

**2. Description of the trip:**

Over the course this trip, the delegation will learn what recent diplomatic and political developments in Cyprus mean for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), stability on the island, and the future of the overall peace process. The delegation will meet with Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP; Major General Ingrid Gjerde, UNFICYP Force Commander; U.S. Amb. Judith G. Garber; Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot authorities; members of civil society, and more. The delegation will, in addition, visit various sections of the 111-mile-long buffer zone that UN peacekeeping forces regularly patrol to prevent escalatory actions.

**5. Name and title of Senate invitees:**

Sarah Arkin, Deputy Staff Director
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Charlotte Oldham-Moore, Senior Professional Staff Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Katie Abrames, Policy Analyst
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Megan Reiss, National Security Advisor
Sen. Mitt Romney

Brandt Anderson, Legislative Assistant
Sen. Todd Young

Molly Cole, Foreign Policy Advisor
Sen. Chris Van Hollen

Joel Rayburn, Special Advisor
Sen. Bill Hagerty

Alexandra Davis, Legislative Assistant
Sen. Chris Coons

Dan Burgess, Legislative Director
Sen. Roy Blunt

**13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:**

UNF works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to observe UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus—one of the world's most intractable political conflicts. While UNFICYP is among the longest-serving UN peacekeeping missions, its continued presence is critical to stability in the

Eastern Mediterranean. Through UNFICYP and the Secretary-General's Good Offices, the UN preserves international peace and security, contributes to the maintenance and restoration of law and order, and supports the conduct of negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders. These small investments (UNFICYP is the second least expensive peacekeeping mission) have helped prevent a return to the violence and volatility that broke out across Cyprus in 1974.

**18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:**

While the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus has successfully prevented major hostilities between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, recent diplomatic and political developments have led many to worry that stability on the island is in jeopardy. During UN-led talks in April 2021, Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar formally proposed a two-state solution to the island's conflict. The move had immediate diplomatic ramifications, endangering the prospects for the bizonal, bicommunal federation that has been the long-standing resolution to the crisis supported by the UN Security Council. Then, in July 2021, Turkish Cypriot authorities and Ankara announced plans to revert a section of Varosha from military to civilian control and open it for potential resettlement. This act would violate several UN Security Council resolutions and seriously endanger the potential for any future negotiations, which led the Security Council to stress "the need to avoid any unilateral action that could trigger tensions on the island and undermine the prospects for a peaceful settlement."

These somber events raise critical questions about the future of UNFICYP, the Secretary-General's Good Offices, and U.S.-UN coordination efforts in the Eastern Mediterranean. Through meetings with a wide array of key stakeholders and an up-close view of UNFICYP's operations, participants will gain a keen understanding of the changing political landscape in Cyprus, the increasing significance and value of the UN's overall work on the island, and consider measures necessary to maintain a strong U.S-UN relationship as tensions in Cyprus appear on the rise.

# UNF Learning Trip to Cyprus
# September 15-19, 2021

***All Times Local***
*+7 hours from Washington, DC*

## Tuesday, September 14 --- Travel

*Attire: Casual*

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:30pm | Depart Dulles International Airport (IAD) on British Airways 292 to London Heathrow International Airport (LHR)<br>*Flight time 7h 15m* |

## Wednesday, September 15 --- Travel/Arrival

*Attire: Casual*

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:45am | Arrive LHR<br>*Layover 1h 00m* |
| 11:45am | Depart LHR on British Airways 662 to Larnarca International Airport (LCA)<br>*Flight time 4h 40m* |
| 6:25pm | Arrive LCA |
| 7:00pm | Transit via hired car to Hilton Nicosia hotel |
| 8:00pm | Arrive at the hotel |
| 8:30pm | Informal dinner at the hotel |
| Overnight | *Hilton Nicosia hotel*<br>*Achaion 1, Egkomi 2413, Cyprus*<br>*+357 22 695111* |

## Thursday, September 16 --- Nicosia

*Attire: Business*

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00am – 8:30am | Breakfast at the hotel |
| 8:30am – 8:45am | Transit via hired car to NIPD Genetics Lab for COVID-19 testing |
| 8:45am – 9:30am | COVID-19 testing (PCR test)<br>*Location: NIPD Genetics Lab Neas Engomi 31, Egkomi 2409* |

9:30am – 9:45am Transit via hired car to the Headquarters of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), United Nations Protected Area (UNPA)

9:45am – 10:30am **Meeting with Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Advisor on Cyprus**

The delegation will have a high-level discussion with the Head of Mission to learn about UNFICYP and the Good Offices' work to support peace and stability work in the country, its mandate renewal, and recent political developments that impact overall mission objectives.

This meeting is an important introduction for the delegation to gain an understanding of the Cyprus dispute, UNFICYP's overall footprint in the country, and the environment in which the mission and its 1,000+ personnel operate.

*Location: Olive Tree conference room/Olive Tree Camp/UNPA*

10:30am – 11:00am Transit via hired car to the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia and adhere to security screening

11:00am – 12:30pm **Meeting with Ms. Yaryna Ferencevych, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, and the U.S. Country Team**

The delegation will meet with the Deputy Chief of Mission and the U.S. Country Team to discuss U.S.-Cyprus relations and U.S-UNFICYP coordination efforts.

This meeting is important for the delegation to underscore U.S. perspectives on the situation in Cyprus, including recent diplomatic and pollical announcements made by the Turkish Cypriot and Turkish authorities.

The entirety of the allotted time for this meeting will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including the U.S. view of the July 20th Varosha announcement and its impact on future peace negotiations

*Location: US embassy in Nicosia*

12:30pm – 12:45pm Transit via hired car to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General in Cyprus, UNPA

12:45pm – 2:00pm **Working Luncheon with the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (Good Offices mission)**

The delegation will meet with the Coordinator and the Head (Officer-in-Charge) of Good Offices mission Ms. Angela Bargellini, as well as the Political Affairs Officers Ms. Mari Warne-Smith, Mr. Arnaud Amouroux, and Ms. Obiageli Nwuba, who will brief on the work of the

mission in supporting the negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

This meeting will help the delegation understand how the Good Offices mission provides technical expertise and facilitates the negotiation process to promote a sustainable and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

*Location: Olive Tree conference room/Olive Tree Camp /UNPA*

2:15pm – 3:15pm **Meeting with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)**

The delegation will meet with the Force Chief of Staff Colonel John Hanson, Deputy Joint Mission Analysis Center Major Matt Walker, Deputy Chief of Civil Affairs Section Mr. Munehiko Harada, and Political Affairs Officer Mr. Remi Clavet, who will brief on the mandate of UNFICYP, which is to prevent a recurrence of fighting, contribute to law and order, and support a return to normal conditions.

The UN leadership will discuss the Mission's efforts to maintain calm and stability in and around the buffer zone and promote trust-building, as contributions to building conditions conducive to a return to successful talks. They will also discuss how they facilitate confidence-building measures between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

*Location: Olive Tree conference room/Olive Tree Camp /UNPA*

3:15pm – 3:20pm Transit via hired car to the Office of the Committee on Missing Persons

3:20pm – 4:20pm **Meeting with the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP): Mr. Leonidas Pantelides, Greek Cypriot Member of CMP; Mr. Hakkı Müftüzade, Turkish Cypriot Member of CMP; and Mr. Paul-Henri Arni, Third [U.N.] Member of CMP. Tour of the CMP Anthropological Laboratory**

The delegation will meet with the three Members of CMP. The CMP is a tripartite Committee that was established in 1981 under the auspices of the UN. The Committee is comprised of a UN Member who is appointed by the UN Secretary-General and two Cypriot Members, each appointed by the Leaders of their respective communities. Following the establishment of an agreed list of 2,002 missing persons (492 Turkish Cypriots and 1,510 Greek Cypriots), the CMP's bicommunal project aims to locate, recover, identify, and return the remains of the missing persons who went missing during the intercommunal fighting of 1963 to 1964 and the events of 1974 to their families for dignified burials.

Up to 31 August 2021, the remains of 1,010 missing persons have been identified and returned to their families.

This meeting will help the delegation understand the island's missing persons issue and its ongoing impact on the two Cypriot communities.

*Location: Meeting room of the CMP Anthropological Laboratory /UNPA*

4:10pm – 4:25pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Nicosia hotel

4:25pm – 6:15pm Executive Time

6:15pm – 6:30pm Transit via hired car to Syrian Arab Friendship Club restaurant

6:30pm – 8:00pm **Working Dinner with Senior Adviser Mr. Aderemi Adekoya, Senior Police Adviser, Assistant Police Commissioner Satu Koivu, Force Chief of Staff Colonel John Hanson, Gender Affairs Officer Ms. Lauren Mcalister, Civil Affairs Officer Mr. Anton Hookes, Political Affairs Officer Mr. Remi Calvet, Associate Mission Planning Officer Ms. Sophi Elsamni**

The delegation will have a working dinner with the Senior Adviser, Senior Police Adviser, and Force Chief of Staff to discuss, among others, UNFICYP's operations in the buffer zone and the overall security situation along the Green Line given recent diplomatic announcements.

In addition, the Senior Police Advisor and the Gender Affairs Officer will talk about the role of women at the UN, their path to success and challenges that remain and initiatives by the SG to increase women in leadership roles at the UN being implemented in the field. This meeting will help prepare the delegation for the field visits to Sectors 2 and 4.

The entirety of the allotted time for this working dinner will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including the work of British, Argentinian, and Slovakian peacekeepers; intercommunal tensions; and the impact of the Varosha announcement.

*Location: Syrian Arab Friendship Club*

Overnight Hilton Nicosia hotel

*Location: 1 Achaion Street, Engomi, Nicosia, 2413, Cyprus*

**Friday, September 17 --- Nicosia/North Nicosia**

*Attire: Business*

7:45am – 8:15am Breakfast at the hotel

8:15am – 8:30am Transit via hired car to Sector 2

8:30am – 10:00am **Visit to Joint Contact Room and Meeting with the British Contingent of UN peacekeepers, and Rooftop Briefing Inside the Buffer Zone**

The delegation will first visit the Joint Contact Room (JCR) to receive a briefing by UNPOL Liaison Officer Nenad Duric as well as his counterparts, Greek Cypriot Mr. George Karydes, and Turkish Cypriots Mr. Ibrahim Yaman and Mr. Mehmet Hansoy.

Afterwards, the delegation will visit Ledra Palace, Sector 2 HQ, to receive a briefing by the Integrated Office of Sector 2 (Lieutenant Colonel Andy Richardson, Civil Affairs Officer Mr. Anton Hookes, and UNPOL Officer Francesco Schincariol) on the current situation in and around the buffer zone. This meeting is important for the delegation to understand the work on the ground of UNFICYP's peacekeepers in the sectors, and general conditions in Sector 2, in particular.

*Location: Sector 2*

10:00am – 10:15am Transit via hired car to the Office of the Greek Cypriot Negotiator

10:15am – 11:15pm **Meeting with Greek Cypriot Negotiator, Ambassador Andreas D. Mavroyiannis**

The delegation will meet with Amb. Mavroyiannis to discuss the status of the Cyprus peace process.

This meeting will help the delegation understand the history and the state of play in the Cyprus peace process. Amb. Mavroyiannis has been intensely involved full time in the Cyprus peace process, which is conducted in the framework of the Secretary-General's Good Offices mission in Cyprus, since 2013.

*Location: Office of the Greek Cypriot Negotiator*

11:15am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to the Presidential Palace, Republic of Cyprus

11:30am – 12:15pm **Meeting with the Director of the Diplomatic Office of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Kyriacos Kouros**

The delegation will meet with a representative from the Office of President Anastasiades to discuss political developments on the island.

This meeting is an important opportunity for the delegation to hear directly from government officials on the status of the Cyprus peace process and explore what the recent Varosha announcement means for the process going forward.

*Location: Presidential Palace, Nicosia*

12:15pm – 12:30pm Transit to lunch in H4C

12:30pm – 2:00pm **Working Lunch with representatives of Civil Society Organizations at Home for Cooperation (H4C)**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the following representatives of civil society organizations to discuss intercommunal cooperation and ongoing peacebuilding projects.

- Kalliope Agapiou: Cypriot antennae, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network
- Ozge Ozogul: Association for Historical Dialogue and Research and Med. Women Mediators Network
- Steven Stavrou: CyprusInno
- Erbay Akansoy: Cyprus Dialogue Forum

This meeting is important for the delegation to understand civil society's point of view on the conflict and how recent diplomatic and political developments are impacting the local community. H4C is a unique community center located in the heart of Nicosia that contributes to the collective efforts of civil society in their engagement with peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue. H4C acts as a bridge-builder between separated communities by providing working spaces and opportunities for NGOs and individuals to design and implement innovative projects.

The entirety of the allotted time for this working lunch will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including how local NGOs and community leaders are working across the two communities to help young people develop their conflict resolution skills and become social action leaders and change-makers.

*Location: H4C*

2:00pm – 2:15pm Transit via hired car to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2:15pm – 3:15pm **Meeting with Ms. Katja Saha, Representative of UNHCR Cyprus**

The delegation will meet with Katja Saha, Representative of UNHCR Cyprus to discuss the UN Refugee Agency's work in the region, including its efforts to assist the Government to refine and improve its asylum legislation and the procedures and capacities for a refugee protection system fully in line with international standards.

This meeting will help the delegation understand how UNHCR undertakes a number of activities, including monitoring and promoting respect for refugee rights and the standards of treatment of asylum-seekers, influencing legislation affecting refugees and asylum-seekers by providing expert advice

and comments on relevant draft laws, and providing technical assistance, legal advice and other forms of support to assist the authorities to further strengthen their refugee status determination procedures and ensure quality decision-making.

*Location: UNHCR Nicosia Office*

3:15pm – 3:30pm Transit via hired car to Office of the 'President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus', H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar

3:30pm – 4:15pm **Meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader, H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar**

The delegation will meet with Turkish Cypriot leader as well as his relevant advisers to discuss Geneva's 5+1 meeting and the status of future negotiations.

This meeting will help the delegation understand the Turkish Cypriot perspective on the Cyprus dispute and is critical to ensuring the learning trip captures a comprehensive view of the political landscape and the UN's role as a neutral arbiter.

*Location: 'Presidential Palace', North Nicosia*

4:15pm – 4:20pm Transfer to the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Special Representative

4:20pm – 5:20pm **Meeting with Turkish Cypriot Special Representative, H.E. Mr. Ergün Olgun**

The delegation will meet with the Turkish Cypriot Special Representative, the counterpart of the Greek Cypriot negotiator, to discuss the status of the Cyprus peace process.

This meeting will help the delegation understand the Turkish Cypriot perspective of the status and the history of the Cyprus peace process.

*Location: Office of the Turkish Cypriot Special Representative*

5:20pm – 5:40pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Nicosia hotel

5:40pm – 7:15pm Executive Time

7:15pm – 9:00pm **Working Dinner with British High Commissioner to Cyprus, Stephen Lillie, U.S. Ambassador Judith Garber, and SRSG/DSASG Elizabeth Spehar**

The delegation will have a working dinner with the British High Commissioner to Cyprus to discuss the UK's critical role as one of three guarantor powers in Cyprus and the prospects for peace following the informal 5+1 meeting in April.

This working dinner will help the delegation understand the UK's overall diplomatic and military footprint in Cyprus. As the UNSC's pen holder on UNFICYP's mandate and a significant Troop Contributing Country (200+ British peacekeepers in Sector 2), the UK has significant influence on the future of the mission.

The entirety of the allotted time for this working lunch will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including UK and U.S. perspectives on the April talks and the role of the UN in the peace process, including the prospects for future talks.

*Location*: *Dionysos Room, Hilton Nicosia hotel*

Overnight — Hilton Nicosia hotel

*Location: 1 Achaion Street, Engomi, Nicosia, 2413, Cyprus*

**Saturday, September 18 --- Nicosia/North Nicosia/UN Buffer Zone**

*Attire: Field Dress*

7:30am – 8:00am — Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am – 8:15am — Transit via hired car to NIPD Genetics Lab for COVID-19 testing

8:15am – 9:00am — COVID-19 testing (rapid test)

*Location: NIPD Genetics Lab Neas Engomi 31, Egkomi 2409*

9:00am – 9:45am — Transit via hired car to Pyla, Sector 4

9:45am – 10:15am — **Integrated Briefing about Community Leaders, Relationship Between the Two Communities, and UNFICYP Bicommunal Initiatives**

The delegation will receive a briefing from Integrated Office of Sector 4, Lieutenant Colonel Jan Hric, Civil Affairs Officer Ms. Jurga Didziokaite, and UNPOL Officer Thomas Mullarkey, to provide a full understanding of the challenges peacekeepers face in Pyla.

This briefing and visit are important for the delegation to understand local perspectives on bicommunal living and the UN's role in promoting dialogue and stability. Pyla is one of only four villages located within the UN buffer zone and one of the few ethnically mixed villages on the island, inhabited by both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It is administered by the government of the Republic of Cyprus but policed by UN peacekeepers. The delegation then will proceed to OP123 for a briefing about challenges in Sector 4 and way forward.

*Location: Pyla square and OP123*

11:00am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to OP 146

11:30pm –12:30pm **Briefing on the Maritime Security Line and Varosha**

The delegation will receive a briefing the Integrated Office of Sector 4 on UNFICYP's work monitoring the Maritime Security Line and the procedures for reporting breaches and military violations. From this vantage point, the delegation will also be able to view Varosha -a recent source of diplomatic and political tension on the island. In July 2021, Turkish Cypriot authorities and Ankara announced plans to revert a 1.35 square mile section of Varosha from military to civilian control and open it for potential resettlement.

This meeting is important for the delegation to understand UNFICYP's proximity and relationship to Varosha, and the recent declaration's impact on tensions in the region.

12:30pm – 1:00pm Transit via hired car to Larnaca

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Working Lunch with Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer Mr. Munehiko Harada, Civil Affairs Officer Ms. Jurga Didziokaite, Special Assistant to the SRSG and HoM UNFICYP Ms. Maria Laroussi**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Team to discuss the UN System's religious freedom and cultural and historical preservation work in Cyprus.

This working lunch will help prepare the delegation for visits to Hala Sultan Tekke and the Venetian Walls, underscoring an often-overlooked extradimensional component of the UN's stability and intercommunal dialogue efforts and its important role in the peace process.

The entirety of the allotted time for this working lunch will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including UNFICYP's and UNDP's historical and cultural preservation work and its success building open and honest channels of communication between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

*Location: Almar Seafood Bar*

2:30pm - 2:35pm Transit to Hala Sultan Tekke

2:35pm – 3:15pm **Visit Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque and Field Briefing**

Imam Shakir Alemdar will welcome the delegation at Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque. Hala Sultan Tekke is one of the world's most revered mosques; it has been restored and preserved with the active support of USAID, UNDP, and the UN Office for Project Services.

Hala Sultan Tekke was first built in 648 AD and renovated in 1816 and again between 2001 and 2005, with considerable financial and administrative assistance from USAID, UNDP, and the UN Office for Project Services. Hala Sultan Tekke and the Larnaka Salt Lake Complex have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site candidate since 2016. Commonly referred to as the third or fourth holiest place for Muslims in the world (after Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem), the delegation will receive a briefing on the site's critical importance in Cyprus, including its role shaping conversations about religious freedom, human rights, and reconciliation.

This visit will help the delegation understand how the U.S. and the UN's support for cultural preservation and religious freedom helps Cypriots from all communities find vehicles for cooperation that can build mutual trust—a requisite for any future peaceful resolution to the conflict.

3:15pm – 3:2-pm Transit via hired car to Larnaka Medieval Castle

3:20pm – 3:30pm **Larnaka Medieval Castle**

The Medieval Castle of Larnaka (also referred to as Larnaka Fort) is believed to have been originally built during the Middle Ages, and took its present form during Ottoman rule, although there is some contestation regarding its origins. Some experts believe it was built between 1382-1389 to protect the harbor. However, 18th century sources insist that the castle was built by the Turks in 1625AD, even though a Turkish garrison was stationed there since 1570AD.

3:30pm – 3:31pm **Walk to Church of Saint Lazurus, Larnaca**

3:31pm – 3:45pm The Church of Saint Lazarus is a late 9th century church named after a figure in the New Testament figure Lazarus of Bethany. Located in its own square in the town center, the magnificent stone church of Agios Lazaros is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus and lies over the tomb of the saint. Built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century, the church was restored in the 17th century. Although the three domes and original bell tower of the church were destroyed in the first years during Ottoman rule, the gold-covered iconostasis has survived today and is a superb example of baroque woodcarving.

3:45pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to the Venetian Walls, Nicosia

4:00pm – 5:30pm **Visit Venetian Walls and Field Briefing**

The delegation will visit the Venetian Walls in the buffer zone, a series of defensive walls surrounding Nicosia, that has been restored and preserved with the active support of UNDP.

The first city walls were built in the Middle Ages, but they were completely rebuilt in the mid-16th century by the Republic of Venice. The walls are still

largely intact and are among the best-preserved Renaissance fortifications in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Co-Chairs of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, Mr. Ali Tuncay and Mr. Glafkos Constantinidesand UNDP representative, Ms. Fatma Terlik, will accompany the delegation for this visit and provide a briefing on their significance and as a medium for intercommunal cooperation. The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage was established in 2008 by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders under the auspices of the UN, to recognize, promote, and protect the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Cyprus.

This visit will help the delegation understand how the UN's support for cultural and historical preservation helps Cypriots from all communities find vehicles for cooperation that can build mutual trust -a requisite for any future peaceful resolution to the conflict.

5:30pm – 6:00pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Nicosia hotel

6:00pm – 7:00pm Executive Time

7:00pm – 7:15pm Transit via hired car to Kathodon Greek restaurant

7:15pm – 8:45pm **Dinner Reflections and Lessons Learned**

The delegation will have a working dinner with UN staff to discuss lessons learned and explore opportunities for future collaboration and dialogue between the U.S. Congress and UNFICYP.

This working dinner is important to underscoring the importance of a strong U.S.-UN partnership in Cyprus and providing participants with a forum for transparent feedback and input.

The entirety of the allotted time for this working dinner will be spent covering officially connected topics and issues, including U.S. political perspectives on the Cyprus conflict and congressional sentiments and attitudes relating to U.S. engagement and support for UNFICYP and the Secretary-General's Good Offices.

8:45pm – 9:00pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Nicosia hotel

*Location: Kathodon Greek restaurant*

Overnight Hilton Nicosia hotel

*Location: 1 Achaion Street, Engomi, Nicosia, 2413, Cyprus*

**Sunday, September 19 --- Nicosia/Travel**

*Attire: Casual*

5:00am Depart Hotel

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|---|---|
| 6:00am | Arriva LCA |
| 8:00am | Depart LCA via British Airways 673 to LHR<br>*Flight time 5h 05m* |
| 11:05am | Arrive LHR<br>*Layover 5h 55m* |
| 5:00pm | Depart LHR via British Airways 293 to IAD<br>*Flight time 8h 15m* |
| 8:15pm | Arrive IAD |

0000000001262 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: October 13, 2021

July 23, 2021

Ms. Katie Abrames
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Katie,

On behalf of the UN Foundation, I am writing to invite you to participate in a congressional learning trip to observe the peacebuilding work of the United Nations in Cyprus from Tuesday, Sept. 14–Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

As you may know, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), was established in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island and bring about a return to normal conditions. The mission's responsibilities expanded in 1974, following a coup d'etat by elements favoring union with Greece and a subsequent military intervention by Turkey. Since a de facto ceasefire in 1974, UNFICYP has supervised the ceasefire lines; provided humanitarian assistance; and maintained a buffer zone between the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces in the north and the Greek Cypriot forces in the south.

While the mission has successfully prevented major hostilities following the events of 1974, recent political developments make this a critical moment for the future of UNFICYP's work. During UN-led talks in April 2021, Turkish-Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar formally proposed a two-state solution to the island's conflict, jeopardizing the prospects for a bizonal, bicommunal federation, which has been the long-standing position of the UN Security Council. Additionally, just a few days ago, Turkish Cypriot authorities and Turkey announced that a small part of Varosha—an abandoned southern quarter of the city of Famagusta—would come under civilian control and be open for potential resettlement.

Over the course of three days, we will learn about what these serious developments mean for UNFICYP, stability on the island, and the overall Cyprus peace process. We will meet with Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP; Major General Ingrid Gjerde, UNFICYP Force Commander; U.S. Amb. Judith G. Garber; and Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot authorities. We will, in addition, visit various sections of the 111-mile-long buffer zone that UN peacekeeping forces regularly patrol to prevent escalatory actions.

We would be honored if you would consider joining us for this unique learning opportunity. **We also kindly note that, per conditions established by the government of the Republic of Cyprus, you must have received all necessary doses of an authorized COVID-19 vaccine to travel the island without quarantining**. If you are interested in joining, please let us know as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday, August 3.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Yeo
Senior Vice President
United Nations Foundation