Country: Cyprus
Committee: General Assembly

Cyprus believes that the work of the General Assembly is important for addressing the concern of the world.

**I. Conflict Diamonds**

Rebel forces use the sell of conflict diamonds to fuel their actions in their attempts to overthrow legitimate and established governments. Conflict diamonds have been shown to be problems in the countries of Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Once these diamonds are mined by the rebels, and then polished they become untraceable.

Cyprus in the past has supported and will continue to support the Kimberly Process. Cyprus has done this by making sure all diamonds imported contain forgery proof certificates, and are registered in the universal database. Cyprus also supports the 1998 Security Council resolution which placed an embargo on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which used the diamond sales to fund a civil war on the recognized government of Angola.

Cyprus believes the best plan of action to stop these diamonds from serving their purpose to Rebel Forces is be trace ability. By making all non-conflict diamonds traceable and registered you decrease the value of the conflict diamond. This why Cyprus is in support of the Kimberly Process. The Kimberly Process’s goal is to make all non-conflict diamonds traceable, and registered in a universal database. To keep conflict diamonds from being sold as non conflict diamonds the Kimberly process provides tamper proof containers, as well as a forgery proof export certificate. To further on the Kimberly Process Cyprus believes that states that do not follow these guidelines have a diamond embargo placed on their state. No diamonds would be exported or imported to or from such states. Cyprus also believes a UN police force sent to Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to monitor borders to make sure diamonds are not leaving these states and weapons are not coming in would help to eliminate the problem.

**II. Children**

Protecting the children of the world is something that every nation should be involve din and have a concern with. Children of the world no matter where they are from our are future and should be protected and represented. Children all across the world suffer from threat of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, polio, tuberculosis, and malnutrition. Other threats include landmines, and war. Over all half of refugees from things such as wars, and natural disasters are children.

Cyprus is a supporter of UNICEF, an organization that helps to make sure children are well fed. Cyprus will help support UNICEF by donation money and food when available or needed. Cyprus will also continue to support the World Declaration on the Survival,
Protection, and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for implementing the World Declaration. Cyprus will offer its support in cleaning the water for children to drink, as well as open its borders for refugees from war torn countries to be brought to Cyprus and stay until the conflict is resolved, or a new home is found.

Cyprus believes that greater implementation of the Plan of Action for implementing the World Declaration is the answer to most of the world’s problem with children. Countries in war where the children are at great risk shall have UN peacekeepers deployed to such countries. Also Cyprus would be open to work with other nations in the removal of landmines, as well as aiding the countries with children in need.
Country: Cyprus  
Committee: General Assembly First Committee  

I. The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East  
The issue of nuclear proliferation is extremely important to the Republic of Cyprus. Although not a nuclear power, Cyprus is concerned about the spread of nuclear technology for the sake of international peace and security. The Republic is a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, later extended indefinitely in 1995, and strongly supports the enforcement of the policies it establishes. With the introduction of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996, both signed (9/24/96) and ratified (7/18/03) by Cyprus, the United Nations took another positive step towards the reduction of the nuclear threat. Cyprus also recognizes and gives full support to the efforts made by the United Nations Security Council through Resolution 1540 (2004) to take all appropriate actions against the threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Cypriot government has taken many steps to ensure that Cyprus maintains a broad range of legislative measures to prevent the proliferation of dangerous and destructive technologies. These measures include the regulation of the exportation and exchange of certain goods, and laws against dangerous substances.

The Republic of Cyprus reaffirms its support for all international efforts that reinforce the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime, through the universal adherence to the existing legally binding international instruments. The Republic is also in favor of the complete ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. If enforced, the CTBT would prove to be a useful and effective method of limiting the spread of the knowledge and feasibility of destructive nuclear technology. With the recent surge in violent activities in the Middle East, Cyprus believes that any continuation of the development of nuclear technology in the region needs to be approached with extreme caution. Although the potential for nuclear energy is promising, the risk of that technology being used to develop nuclear weapons is very high. Every possible precaution and safe guard needs to be taken in order to assure the international community that those with malicious intent are not able to gain control of this dangerous technology. Cyprus encourages the allocation of increased funding for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). An increase in funds will improve the abilities of this agency to monitor and report on nuclear development and control. The surveillance and control of exports of sensitive materials, equipment and technologies, as well as other interim measures, such as the introduction and the signing of confidence-building agreements, will help prevent the acquisition of nuclear weapons by those with malicious intents. Cyprus is also willing to provide economic and security incentives to those countries willing to completely comply with these international precautionary measures. Finally, while respecting the sovereignty of all nations, in order to guarantee that any technological development that occurs is for peaceful means only, Cyprus strongly advocates the development of effective verification mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, and encourages those states developing nuclear technologies to adhere to new and existing safety precautions and monitoring methods of the international community.
II. The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and All its Aspects

The illicit trafficking in small arms is of paramount importance to every nation. There are over 600 million small arms and light weapons in circulation around the world and their misuse results in the death of 300,000 to 500,000 people each year. Ninety percent of civilian causalities are caused by small arms. The widespread availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons is like a pandemic spreading across the world. The illegal trade of small arms has brought havoc to civilian populations and regional infrastructures around the world, and has created an expansive international black market. The Cypriot government has a vested interest in seeing the end of this illegal trade because of its potential to increase difficulties along the border of the occupied Northern region of the country. Cyprus has shown its support for every resolution adopted by the United Nations on this issue since the first conference was convened by the General Assembly in 1995.

More recently Cyprus reaffirmed its dedication to combating the small arms trade at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects that was held on July 9-20, 2001. At this conference the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN, Ambassador Sotos Zackheos, called for “international standards in order to coordinate and reinforce regional and national measures against the uncontrolled proliferation, excessive accumulation and misuse of small arms.” Cyprus also gives full support to the Program of Action proposed by the European Union.

Much of the battle against illegal arms trafficking will be fought at the local level. In order for these operations to be as effective as possible, Cyprus advocates the education and training of law enforcement and border control officials who will seek out and put a stop to local arms exchange. Incentive programs could be developed that would provide benefits to police and law enforcement officials in order to dissuade corruption. Additionally, Cyprus encourages member states to increase local security measures regarding the manufacture of ammunition and explosives and the legal sale and storage of small arms. Stronger restrictions on the amounts of these products that can be sold in bulk, as enforced through lot numbers, and increased taxation on these wares would decrease illegal shipments. The arms trade does not adhere to state borders, which means that states cannot fully eradicate the problem on their own. In order to rein in the out of control trade in small arms and light weapons, Cyprus urgently recommends strong international cooperation and organization. The creation of an international database of suspected/known smugglers and their methods of transportation would allow smaller, more susceptible states, to better monitor current trends in weapons tracking. Local and regional efforts need to be bolstered by international support. The least developed countries face the most difficult challenge in dealing with this problem and it is there that the international community must focus its resources. Cyprus strongly advocates programs that provide development aid to civilians in exchange for the weapons they possess. Programs like these have met with some success in countries such as Albania and El Salvador and they should be implemented in the African nations where the problem is widespread and devastating. These programs can easily be incorporated into already existing peacekeeping programs in order to aid rebuilding efforts.
Country: Cyprus  
Committee: Second Committee – Biodiversity and Microfinance

The issues addressed by the Second Committee of the General Assembly are of vital importance to Cyprus and the rest of the world for environmental and economic reasons. Preserving biological Diversity and providing Microfinance both help to save nations from poverty.

I. Biodiversity
Biodiversity loss is such a serious issue that Secretary General Kofi Annan stated that, “the unprecedented rate of biodiversity loss, which is worrying in its own right, also undermines people’s health, livelihoods, food production, water supplies, and vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.” The loss of biodiversity is depleting precious natural resources, worsening people’s health, and creating more vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. Prolonged damage to, and loss of biodiversity is detrimental to the world’s environment and economy. Cyprus endorses the concessions made at the Earth Summit in Rio, 1992 to conserve biological diversity, and encourage sustainable development. Cyprus also commends the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on both the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and Cartagena Protocol of 2003. Cyprus supports the Kyoto Protocol because it has the objective to, “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” Cyprus then supports the Cartagena Protocol because it promotes biosafety and biotechnology, while restricting the trade of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Cyprus advocates the Kyoto Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol for their measures to restrict toxic emissions that damage the Ozone and to reduce the destruction of biodiversity.

Cyprus, and many other states, will face economic losses if biodiversity is not preserved. A report from the Environmental Service of Cyprus says, “Cyprus fears losing the main assets which make it so unique, especially in tourism, which is the main pillar of the economy...” In concurrence with the EU, Cyprus has passed domestic laws to protect various species and wild life habitats. Cyprus also regulates the introduction of genetically modified organisms by Law No. 160(I)/2003, which directly relates to the Cartagena Protocol. Cyprus supports educating people, especially children to preserve biodiversity for the future. If our children can be taught to value the environment over economic growth at any costs, then we have a chance to minimize long-term environmental damages.

One way to prevent developing countries or industries from destroying the landscape is to let them use environment saving technologies at a reasonable cost. There is no reason to make our planet pay the cost of a developing country’s industrial revolution, when the technology exists to prevent massive ecological damages. The UNEP should consider punishing private corporations that refuse to share, for a reasonable compensation, technologies that prevent ecological disaster. The UN should strongly encourage all member states to comply with the recommendations of the CBD.
II. Microfinance

Poverty has always been a major world problem. The 2005 UNICEF reports prove that more than half of the children in the world are suffering extreme deprivations from poverty, war, and HIV/AIDS. To combat poverty the UN has been utilizing microcredit as an effective solution. Microcredit refers to the loans given to either a group or an individual at reduced interest rates, which are often used to help the borrower become a small scale entrepreneur.

The year 2005 has been designated, by the UN, the year of Microcredit. The 2005 World Summit stressed the importance of microfinance because the obvious benevolent affects microcredit has had people and communities. The most significant recognition of microcredit was the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which declares the need for access to financial services (particularly for the poor) including microfinance and microcredit. Support for microfinance was also strongly implied in the endorsement by the Summit of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, which states: Microfinance and credit for microloans, small and medium sized enterprises, in rural areas for women (mainly), and national savings schemes, are important for enhancing the social and economical impact of the financial sector. Cyprus fully supports the agenda for the 2005 Summit and a written statement for affirmative action. In conjunction with the World Summit, Cyprus along with other European countries are assisting women in Mediterranean through microfinance. Cyprus specifically gives aid through the Cyprus Women Cooperative Bank. Cyprus also signed four protocols on financial co-operation with the EU, from 1978 to 1999. Cyprus also works with the Third Multiannual Programme, a council of the EU, for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the European Union on 9 December 1996. The objective of the council was to simplify and improve the administrative and regulatory business environment, and to improve the financial environment for enterprises (with a special emphasis to help SMEs).

The microfinance unit of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF Microfinance) specifically tailors loans to support countries with emerging microfinance sectors by providing funding in the form of grants and soft loans to build and integrate sustainable microfinance into the broader financial sector, offering technical and policy guidance to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and government partners, and disseminating field-based knowledge of sound microfinance principles and practices to UNEP and other key stakeholders through training and information services.
Cyprus believes that it is the reasonability of this committee to preserve the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human rights, and to insure that adequate standards of living are guaranteed to all global citizens. Further, we accept the task of implementation of this basic need as starvation leads to many other economic factors world wide including migration patterns.

I. Protection of Migrants
The world’s migrant population has more than doubled over the past 25 years, swelling to 175 million people (approximately three percent of the world’s population). The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, passed by the General Assembly in 1990, formalized the rights of migrant workers and the responsibilities of the nations receiving them. The Convention emphasized that the human rights of migrant workers and their families are essential and declared that migrants have the rights to equal access to education, freedom of opinions and expression, reunification with their families, access to health and medical care, in addition to many other provisions.

With the Turkish invasion of our country in 1974 our borders are sensitive to outsiders. We recognize and remain vulnerable to any and all decisions made by the United Nations and the European Union on migration issues. Cyprus understands that the globalization process in our world can be economically beneficial to many countries of different socioeconomic backgrounds and migration patters often dictate the success or failure of such. However, as the tragedy of September 11th displayed in the United States, opening up our borders to false reported or undocumented migration can lead to a number of catastrophic threats such as organized crime, drugs or human trafficking, or even the likelihood of an invasion.

We are still unable to ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and seek a more regional approach to the issue. Migration and exploitation of migrant works should be addressed with expediency. Synchronization of law enforcement agencies regionally must be afforded in the United Nations insists on the globalization of migration.

II. The Right to Food
According to Food and Agriculture Organization estimates, in 2004, 852 million people suffered from hunger. The World Food Programme estimates that neatly 33 percent of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition. The Republic of Cyprus believes access to food to be a basic human right. This right is spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covention of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966).

At the World Food Conference held in 1976, governments pledged to end hunger within 10 years. Twenty years later, the world community again came together at the 1996 World Food Summit, where the Rome Declaration was adopted. The Summit recognized that while agriculture production is growing in different regions, the food is not getting to the ones most in need, either because of political conflict, social
discrimination, or natural disasters. Prioritizing who gets how much food first and the security provided in the transaction is difficult to oversee. While men remain strong and mobile, women and children often are at the mercy of others and dependent on men for greater food security. In 2000 the Human Rights Commission created the position of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, who was given the mandate “to seek, receive, and respond to information on all aspects of the right to food, including the urgent necessity of eradicating hunger. Both the Rome Declaration and The Millennium Development Project call for hunger to be cut in half by 2015.

Time is of the essence with regard to starvation occurring in a place around the world. Efforts to coordinate with nongovernmental agencies should be sought with the principle organizer and the supreme understanding that the United Nations will dictate and appropriate food, aid, and security measures to instill that corruption, politics, and discrimination stays out of the distribution process.
I. Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

International terrorism is a serious problem which affects all states in one way or another. Terrorist organizations use some states as “home bases”, other states host banks that keep the terrorist’s funds, and yet other states are affected in a much greater way; they are the subject of a terrorist attack or even quite possibly multiple terrorist attacks. Terrorism is fueled by the spread of narco-trafficking by groups calling themselves narco-terrorists. Narco-terrorism is terrorism funded by money from narco-trafficking.

As with all other United Nations member states, Cyprus supports the Security Council Resolution 1373, which created the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Cyprus has been fully cooperative with the stipulations of this resolution; including monitoring its banks for any terrorist activity and consulting with the international community on any findings. In doing so, the Cypriot Government has been in correspondence with the President of the Security Council and has systematically laid out the steps taken thus far to identify, eliminate, and prevent any terrorist activity in the country. However, more emphasis needs to be placed on the means of which terrorist organizations get funding, narco-trafficking.

Cyprus recommends three measures for the international community and the United Nations to combat terrorism. First, the roots of terrorism need to be eradicated. These include poverty, lack of opportunity, and religious extremism. Second, terrorist organizations need to be deprived of new members. Educational programs and alleviation of poverty are two ways in which to accomplish this goal. Lastly, the funding for terrorist organizations must be cut off. Along with increased enforcement of current measures, there needs to be an international cooperation between states and state agencies to fight narco-terrorism.

II. Implementation of the Provisions of the Charter of the United Nations Related to Assistance to Third States Affected by the Application of Sanctions

Cyprus believes that sanctions play an important role in international relations. They serve as a deterrent, as well as a consequence of noncompliance with international laws. However, measures need to be taken to ensure that third states are not adversely affected by comprehensive sanctions, and receive compensation when they are.
The concept of targeted sanctions as developed through the Interlaken Process offers an alternative that takes into account, and works to minimize, the inadvertent harm caused to third states by traditional financial sanctions. It is important to recognize the difficulties of establishing a more effective sanctioning system. There is a need for transparency and dialogue between member states throughout the implementation process. The final summary of the Interlaken Process outlines the steps and procedures that need to be put into place to effectively establish this system of targeted sanctions. Cyprus believes that this method will ultimately be more effective in achieving the goals of the international community.

Cyprus supports the implementation of targeted or smart sanctions, as proposed by the Interlaken Process, and will work within the United Nations to help ensure these measures are properly implemented.