

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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**MESSAGE ON THE LAUNCH
OF NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS**
Nicosia, 3 September 2008

*Delivered by Mr. Alexander Downer
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus*

I warmly welcome the formal launch today by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Demetris Christofias, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, of fully fledged negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

I commend the leaders for their seriousness of purpose, sense of compromise and commitment to seeing the peace process through to a successful conclusion.

The United Nations supports and encourages both parties as they take this historic step together, so as to reach a negotiated settlement to reunify the island for the benefit of all the people of Cyprus.

I assure the parties that as requested, the UN will provide unwavering support through the efforts of his Special Adviser, and his Special Representative, and all the United Nations' team.