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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 January 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Urgent Need for Measures for the Survival of the Greek Orthodox Minority of Istanbul in its Native City

Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans (EFECON), that is the universal federation of the Greek-Orthodox community of Istanbul. Today we stand before they, representing over 100,000 Istanbul Greeks who have been forced to migrate, through various practices, and live far from Istanbul, their native land, where they should normally still be living.

The League of Nations, the predecessor of United Nations, during the period 1927-1930 have registered the individuals belong to this Minority Community which was recognized by the International Treaty of Lausanne (24 July 1923). The members of the mentioned Expatriated Community are descendants of those registered by the League of Nations.

The brutal events suffered by the G-O minority of Istanbul during the night of September 6-7 1955 caused a major rupture: men and women were assaulted, violated and even killed, their homes and businesses were vandalized.

The events of that night led to the massive deportations of 1964 and gradually forced, the majority of the Greek community to emigrate, although they were permitted to live in Istanbul under the Treaty of Lausanne, exempted from the Exchange of Populations. While the minority exceeded 100,000 members at that time, today its population has fallen below 1.000, gradually declining, therefore doomed to extinction.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated in 2010, "...the events of September 6-7 were a heavy burden placed on our shoulders by our recent history." Government authorities have addressed an open invitation to the expatriated Istanbul Greek community, to return to their homeland. However, only very few of EFECON's specific recommendations that could turn such invitation into a reality have been implemented over the last 15 years.

This year, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of that night of 1955, we call Türkiye to condemn the events of September 6-7, 1955.

In the context of Reparative Justice,

We ask Türkiye to take concrete steps to heal the wounds and to redress the injustices suffered by the Greek community.

We ask Türkiye to implement the measures that are necessary to ensure the continuing existence and survival of the Greek community in Istanbul, Imbros-Gökçeada, and Tenedos-Bozcaada, that faces the threat of extinction.

We ask Türkiye to give official support, for the first time, to members of the Greek community, who emigrated from Türkiye due to past policies against minorities and wish to return to their homeland, in particular by adopting measures for granting nationality and working permits.
