

BLUE BERET



Russia joins UNFICYP

For the first time in UNFICYP's 52 year history, the Russian flag was raised at HQ as the mission welcomed the country's first ever personnel. The Russian deployment brings the total number of countries currently contributing troops to UNFICYP to 21.

All three were policewomen who joined UNFICYP's police component; in a happy coincidence, they were officially welcomed to the mission on 8 March, which is also International Women's Day. Lt. Colonel Ekatarina Chumanova, Major Elena Ostaschenko and Captain Agnessa Ryabikina proudly saluted their flag in the presence of UNFICYP's Senior Police Advisor Col. Andrii Sachavo, Head of Mission Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Russian Ambassador to Cyprus H.E. Stanislav Osadchiy, acting

Force Commander Col. Tim Wildish and other colleagues.

During his address, Col. Sachavo welcomed the new police officers and expressed hope that they will fulfill their duties diligently, thus supporting the negotiation process to find a final settlement on the island. In her address, Ms. Buttenheim also praised a Russia's contribution of policewomen, which increased the numbers of UNPOL serving personnel to 68, contributing to the fulfilment of the goals of UN Security Council resolution 1325, which calls for greater involvement of women in peacekeeping. The Russian ambassador reiterated that his country was happy to contribute to one of the oldest missions in the world, and wished the new officers a lot of success in their work.



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