



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE 8 JUNE 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Madam Chair,

Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor let me congratulate the Presidency of Austria, the ISU and the GICHD for the smooth organization of this meeting today.

Madam Chair, our thanks also go to the Committee on Victim Assistance for their effort and for the informative report they presented under your chairmanship.

Though it is duly recorded on our Article VII report, I would like to share shortly a bit of information on the efforts for victims assistance by my country.

1. On Mine Victim Data

a. In order to improve sustainable flow of information, a communication line with relevant ministries and bodies was established. The General Staff, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Policies and other relevant ministries and bodies will notify Turkish Mine Action Center-TURMAC of the personal data, contact details and health status of mine victims, and report the changes and developments quarterly. Additionally, the Ministry of Health set up a new module for civilian mine victims in the “Health Management System” in Turkey, in order to monitor and assist mine victims easier.

b. The Ministry of Interior, through the Gendarmerie and National Police, will communicate to TURMAC all information on mine and munition accidents in areas under their responsibility within one month of each occurrence.

c. Work will be engaged on the basis of individuals considered mine victim under the legislation, and necessary coordination will be held with the relevant bodies so that every mine victim may attain their legal rights.

2. On Social Inclusion

Ministry of Youth and Sports and Veterans Physical Treatment, Education and Research Centre organize activities for mine victims.

3. On Medical Care

Within the context of current legislations, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment and pay no additional fee.

4. On Economic Inclusion

Although a program specifically prepared for mine victims do not exist, within the context of existing laws, mine victims and their families receive monthly payments, employment opportunities, enterprising grant, free job counselling and courses according to their condition. Additionally, work is still underway to develop a shared database specifically designed for mine victims.

Decreasingly, in comparison with the last year, In the time frame between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 casualties by explosion of APMs are 14 death and 43 wounded, totally 57.

Thank you Madam Chair.