



## **Statement by Turkey**

### **INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION 8 JUNE 2017**

#### **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr. Chairman, let me thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation that is under your chairmanship for their effort and for the informative report presented.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is determined to fulfil its Article V commitments.

Since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Center-TURMAC in 2015, mine clearance operations and mine action activities have intensified in Turkey.

TURMAC has given the highest priority to its institutional capacity development since its establishment.

A “Capacity Needs Assessment” was conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in October 2016. The assessment highlighted a number of capacity gaps for TURMAC. The assessment report is the basis upon which TURMAC is developing its capacity for 2017 and beyond.

Since its establishment, TURMAC has initiated not only inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states and military bodies, but also international partnership with the UNDP and GICHD.

The first-ever National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2017-2019 has been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in this year. The three-year plan covers national capacity development, the clearance of mined areas and areas containing unexploded ordnance within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provision of mine risk education, assistance to mine victims, and the Syrian Border Physical Security System.

National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been drafted and they are expected to be endorsed in this year.

The efforts to improve information management systems are also underway. The IMSMA system will be established and training will be provided to TURMAC personnel in this year.

A comprehensive desk assessment of minefield records of the Eastern and Syrian Borders was conducted in 2016. Additional non-technical survey operations are planned for 2017. All personnel will receive ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System training in 2017.

The accreditation process of military demining troops which shall be deployed in survey and demining activities is ongoing and will be finalized in this year.

Demining of mined areas along Turkey's eastern borders has started in 2016. This project is funded by the EU, Turkey and the UN; managed and overseen by the UNDP and implemented through commercial contracts with Denel MECHEM and RPS Engineering Company.

Border Security Surveillance System which consists of 730 km modular concrete wall and impoundment-supported by fence, roads and surveillance system started on Syrian Border in 2016. To provide safe construction of the system, military demining teams were deployed. During clearance and verification operations, 837 mines were destroyed in 2016.

Thank you.