



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE 22 May 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. Chairman/Mr Coordinator,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor let me congratulate the Presidency of Norway, and wish the Norwegian team success in their efforts towards the 4th Review Conference. You can count on our support. Taking this opportunity, let me also thank the ISU and the GICHD for the smooth organization of this meeting today.

Mr. Chairman/Mr Coordinator, our thanks also go to the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and for the informative report they presented.

It is duly recorded on our Article VII report. Though, I would like to share shortly a bit of information on the efforts for victims assistance by my country. Due to the time constraint I will read a short version of the statement, complete version will be delivered to the ISU in due time.

-Regarding Mine Victim Data, in order to improve sustainable flow of information, a communication line with relevant ministries and bodies was established. The General Staff, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior Gendarmerie General Command and Governorship of our respective Provincial Health Directorates, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and other relevant ministries and bodies will notify TURMAC of the personal data (identity, age, sex, occupation etc.), contact details and health status of mine victims, and report the changes and developments quarterly (in January, April, July and October). 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.

The Ministry of Interior, through the Gendarmerie and National Police, will communicate to TURMAC all information on mine and munition accidents (date and time, place, how, information on injured etc.) in areas under their responsibility within one month of each occurrence.

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. **In 2018, information management and data collection, as well as laws and policies that improve human rights for persons with disabilities, have become an important part of victim aid activities.** The state provides mine victims with the necessary assistance through the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services by documenting the situation of them with health report and case investigation reports through their local authority (district governor, governor). Inclusion of victim assistance on national policies in legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities is significant for our country.

In Turkey, 51 mine/ IED casualties were identified from relevant sources in 2018. The data of 28 soldiers and 12 police mine victims were recorded together with a total of 11 civilians. According to the data obtained, 31 of 51 victims lost their lives. In comparison with the last year's data, there is a significant decrease in mine/ IED casualties. Almost all of the identified casualties consist of IEDs activated by the victim.

-On Social Inclusion, due to the coordination, which has been established between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and TURMAC regarding Ministry's Strategic Plan (2018-2022), victims of the Mines/IED's have the opportunity to reintegrate into society by means of certain privileges, which are provided for them and their families. Further development of the technical and legal infrastructure is planned, in which social assistance is provided in an integrated manner.

There are ongoing studies on mine risk education. In this context, a MRE (Mine Risk Education) presentation and a MRE survey were prepared for public (including school children) who lives in the vicinity of (IVO) mine contaminated areas, in order to recognize mines, increase awareness about the danger and the knowledge regarding course of actions against potential dangers as well as to find out from which organisations to ask for help in case of a need. To realize this purpose, school children IVO contaminated areas will get MRE sessions by MRE specialists. By delivering visual MRE messages to related citizens, it's aimed to minimize the danger among citizens which is a result of mine contamination, by promoting a positive change in their behaviours people might stay in a safer environment. This may also provide opportunity to integrate them into the economic and social life.

In order to overcome the challenges of Mine/IED victims by integrating them into social life unequivocally and effectively, it is important to coordinate the determination of national policy and strategy, carry out social service and assistance activities for Mine/IED victims as well as ensuring cooperation and coordination among relevant public institutions, organizations and voluntary organizations in this area.

-Regarding medical care, in Turkey, services in the scope of victim assistance provided by private and state-funded rehabilitation centres include, emergency health service and permanent health service; physical rehabilitation and psychological support to re-adapt mine/IED victims socially and economically who became disabled.

Various plans and programs are prepared to meet needs of mine/IED victims at the level as in developed countries. In the scope of "2828 Social Services Act", Turkish Government has a commitment to examine the mine victims who are in need of care and assistance and to maintain their care in social service organizations as long as it is needed. In the belief that mine victims would be happy and peaceful with their families, **a reasonable amount of budget spared in**

2018 for home care services. Such services are carried out by the relevant nursing and rehabilitation organizations.

In terms of accessibility, the mine victims benefit from social, economic and psychological opportunities due to the stakeholder engagement between TURMAC and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Transportation service is provided by the said Ministry for mine victims to ensure their access to rehabilitation centres. **The Law number 5378 on the Disabled People, The Regulation on victims' accessibility to the domestic tourism transport service was published on 13 January 2017 and came into force.**

With the implementation of "Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Centre Project", revitalizing victims' joy of life has become the common goal. The main purpose of the organization is to prepare a healthy, prosperous and a self-sufficient future for victims. It is made possible for victims to integrate into social life by various social events within the facilities organized for them. In this context, occupational therapy and participation in vocational rehabilitation unit facilities are provided for victims in order to make them more active during their daily lives.

On economic inclusion, in 2019, mine risk training expenditures will be covered from the budgeted source of 10 million TL for TURMAC.

The Republic of Turkey sees mine/IED victims' disability rights as one of the most important issues. Human-focused and human-priority approach has been followed and projects which serve as bridges between victims and related institutions are carried out. **In coordination with the related ministry, the Law on Disabled People was made and 50.964 people were employed in the public sector. The "Program of Public Quota for Disabled People" was prepared for raising victims' participation in social and economic life. The employment of the Program increased the number of disabled civil servants as of March 2018 to 51.814. Also, in accordance with Labour Law Number 4857, which includes insurance premium incentive that is provided under the condition of employment of disabled people, as of July 2018 87.407 disabled people were employed.**

Within the scope of victim assistance, priority is given to ensure victims' social and economic welfare in financial and technical terms. For mine victims it is important to participate in economic and social life. In particular, **targets and policies for 2019 are being created in areas that will bring more participation in employment and social life.** In addition, it is aimed to provide some opportunities such as encouraging their employment, ensuring their existence in the labour market and providing wage and retirement benefits.

[Lastly Mr. Chairman/Mr Coordinator, since there were references in some previous statements suggesting engagement or creating synergy between ISU's of different Conventions, we would like to remind once again that the membership composition of the Conventions differ from each other, and therefore this issue should be broadly considered before taking any further steps.]

Thank you Mr. Chairman/Mr Coordinator.