



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION 22 May 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman, let me thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the preliminary observations and for the informative report presented. Our first reaction on the preliminary observations is positive.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is determined to fulfil its Article V commitments. In this regard, demining activities continue in the eastern border of Turkey. Turkey invited the President of the 4th RevCon, Chair of the the Committee on Article V Implementation and the ISU Director to Turkey including a field visit where demining activities are taking place.

Three additional Military Demining Companies (12 Demining Team) have been established in June 2018.

Since the last reporting period, 44 National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been issued in February 2019.

National Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 was drafted and it is expected to be approved and published in the second half of 2019. The three-year plan covers national capacity development, survey and clearance of mined areas and areas containing unexploded ordnance within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provision of mine risk education and assistance to mine victims.

Significant progress has been achieved in capacity development.

The IMSMA system and has been fully operational since the beginning of demining season in 2018. Significant number of personnel both from TURMAC and military demining troops have been trained. In addition to military demining troops, IMSMA has been used also in eastern border mine clearance project (EBMCP) Phase-2.

TURMAC organized various trainings.

Military demining troops have been accredited for their manual demining capacity. Additionally, the procurement of equipment including demining machines for the new companies are underway and will be finalized in May 2019.

Phase I of demining of mined areas along Turkey's eastern borders has been finished with a total output of 3.296.240 square meters released land and 25.667 mines destroyed.

Phase 2 commenced late in June 2018, because Denel Mechem went through a series of problems. Therefore, in 2018, Denel Mechem was able to clear only 15.989 landmines and 1.161.278 m² of land. Addendum 3 for one year extension was approved so the project's objective is expected to be achieved at end of 2019.

In 2018 an area of 6.845.470 square meters was addressed and out of this 2.083.470 square meter was cleared and 4.672.000 square meters was cancelled in 3.762 areas.

Non-technical Survey of approximately 20.000.000 m² of contaminated land is planned for 2019.

Military Engineer/EOD teams have conducted C-IED operations within the scope of internal security operations. The area, which was searched, and number of IEDs, which were emplaced by terrorist organisations found and destroyed that are not reflected in this report.

Turkey still has 701 suspected and 3020 confirmed hazardous areas which totally makes an area of approximately 157.3 million square meters.

Our challenges are mainly; funding, difficult terrain, security situation in the territory and limited time frame for demining.

Thank you.