

Mr. Chairman,

Compliance with each and every one of the Articles of the Convention is undoubtedly very important. Turkey believes that all member states need to take all necessary steps to strengthen compliance and thereby enforce the implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

There have been certain allegations in the Turkish media with regard to an explosion which claimed the lives of soldiers in the Cukurca Province of Turkey in April 2009.

A thorough and elaborate investigation was immediately initiated. Subsequently, this allegation was brought before the Turkish General Staff Military Court. The most recent hearing of the trial was held by this Military Court on April 19, 2013. The court rendered its verdict and sentenced a Turkish Brigadier General to 6 years and 8 months of imprisonment due to "causing death and injury by negligence" .

Let me stress that this is the initial verdict of the court of first instance. Therefore it is not the final decision. The work on producing the reasoning of this decision is still underway. Following this, the verdict will naturally be open to an appeal process. Developments will be shared in due course.

Mr. Chairman,

Another allegation that has appeared in the press on a possible use of M2A4 type landmine in the Sirnak Province on 9 April 2009 has also been addressed in a careful and in-depth manner. A detailed investigation comprising a consequent administrative legal scrutiny were undertaken. Let me share with you, for the record, that there has not been an explosion. Moreover the registry of Turkish Armed Forces shows that the mine allegedly in question was destroyed before the end of 2009, together with the stockpiled ones.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we are aware of the news in Turkish press regarding an explosion on 1 May 2013. You will appreciate that this allegation is a very recent one and it is being investigated in all details at this stage. Like in the previous cases, any possible development will undoubtedly be shared with the ISU and the State Parties in due course.

Thank you.