

STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
Ottawa Convention – Intersessional Work Programme 2000-2001
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
Geneva, 11 may 2001

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to make a brief statement.

I am pleased to be able to inform the Committee of a recent step taken jointly by Turkey and Greece in respect of adherence to the Ottawa Convention. During the visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece to Turkey last month, the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs made a joint statement on 6 April 2001, whereby they emphasised the desirability of adherence of all states to the Ottawa Convention and announced their decision to concurrently become parties to the Convention. Accordingly, Greece, a signatory, will initiate the ratification process and Turkey will commence accession procedures. It is also agreed that the instruments of ratification by Greece and of accession of Turkey will be simultaneously deposited with the UN Secretary General in due course.

Mr. Chairman,

May I also take this opportunity to reaffirm Turkey's commitment to continue its endeavours unilaterally, bilaterally as well as multilaterally with a view to achieving the objective of total ban of mines.

Thank you.