

12 May 2006

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
DURING THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION**

ARTICLE 3 UPDATE

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me first reiterate how happy we are to see you Co-Chair this meeting. We also send our warm wishes to the Co-Rapporteurs.

Co-Chairs,

My delegation requested the floor under this agenda item to provide an update on landmines retained by Turkey, for development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques under Article 3 of the Convention. However, before I do so, let me first reemphasise the importance Turkey attaches to the wisdom of the wording of Article 3. Turkey's position on this issue is clear and well known. In short, we believe that countries with varying geographies, incongruous terrain, different sizes of armed forces, more mines emplaced than others and countries that are simply in parts of the world where there are more anti-personnel mines, which would require more training, should not have artificial numbers or ceilings imposed on them for the number of mines to be retained under Article 3. As far as Turkey is concerned, after covering some more ground in mine clearance, Turkey may review the number of mines retained for training purposes.

Moving on to the update, Turkey had declared in its Article 7 Report of last year and in several previous meetings that it had retained 16,000 anti-personnel mines for training purposes. We can now report that this number has dropped to 15,150 mines. This is because 850 mines have been used for mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction programmes carried out to train military personnel involved in mine action, as well as for related training at various military training institutions.

To share some further information, the remaining 15,150 anti-personnel mines retained for training purposes under Article 3 are of the following types: M2, M14, M16, DM-11 and M-18 Claymore mines.

Interested delegations may refer to our 2006 Article 7 Report, where this update is duly reflected.

I thank you, distinguished Co-Chairs.