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**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
DELIVERED AT THE TWELFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
GENEVA**

Thank you Mr President,

As we are taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of duty as President of the 12th Meeting of States Parties. Please be assured of our delegation's full cooperation.

Mr President,

As one previous speaker highlighted a certain incident in Turkey, I feel compelled to once again share with the delegations present, some information on the incident mentioned.

Mr President,

Compliance with each and every one of the Articles is undoubtedly an important element of being Party to the Ottawa Convention.

There have been certain allegations in the media with regard to an explosion which claimed the lives of soldiers in Çukurca in Turkey in April 2009. The allegations suggest that the deaths are due to an anti-personnel landmine used by the Turkish Armed Forces.

A thorough investigation was initiated the moment these allegations were raised.

As the legal proceeding is still ongoing, I should like to again repeat that the findings will be made public when the judiciary reaches a verdict. I should also like to announce that the next hearing on this case is due before the end of this month.

Therefore, it would be wrong to make any prejudgement before the judicial process is completed.

The nature of the incident as well as of the explosive will be made clear to all at the end of this process.

Rest assured that when this time comes, the results will be shared with the international community in a transparent manner and without delay.

Mr President,

Another allegation that appeared in the press on a possible use of M2A4 type antipersonnel mine in Şirnak province on 9 April 2009 has also been taken very seriously and a detailed investigation has been initiated. The investigation is ongoing; however, preliminary findings suggest that the explosion occurred in an area where mine clearance has not yet begun. It may also be worth mentioning that the photo that appeared in the press of pieces allegedly related to the mine responsible for this incident suggests that the production date of the mine is 1953.

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ARTICLE 3 OBLIGATIONS

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
DELIVERED
AT THE 12TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
(GENEVA, DECEMBER 2012)

Mr President,

Article 3 recognises the specific and different needs of States Parties by not fixing numbers or ceilings for mines retained for training purposes.

I would like to take this opportunity to update the figure stated in our most recent Article 7 report. Turkey now **retains 15,053 anti-personnel mines**, that is 47 less than the figure in our most recent report.

This figure consists of **DM-11, M2, M14 and M16 series mines**. I would like stress that the mines are retained solely for purposes of training in mine detection, clearance and destruction techniques.

As we have stated before, the large size of mine action units dealing with different types of mines, necessitate the Turkish Armed Forces to retain a certain number of anti-personnel mines for training purposes compatible with these requirements.

May I also add that there are plans to use a minimum of 700 of these mines for the training of personnel to be employed for the clearing of mines along the Syrian border.

Additionally, Turkey is considering reassessing the number of mines retained for permitted purposes.