

## 11a. Assisting the victims



### Statement by Turkey

#### 16th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION Vienna, 18-21 December 2017

#### CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I would like express our appreciation to the ISU (Implementation Support Unit) for the effective organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties.

Our thanks also go to the Committee on Victim Assistance for their effort and for the informative report they presented.

Though it is duly recorded in our Article VII report, I would like to briefly share some information on the victim assistance efforts done by my country.

#### On Mine Victim Data

In order to improve sustainable flow of information, a communication line with relevant ministries and bodies has been established. The General Staff, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Policies and other relevant ministries and bodies will notify Turkish Mine Action Centre-TURMAC of the personal data, contact details and health status of mine victims, and report the changes and developments quarterly. Additionally, the Ministry of Health has set up a new module for civilian mine victims in the "Health Management System" in Turkey, in order to monitor and assist mine victims more easily.

The Ministry of Interior, through the Gendarmerie and National Police, will communicate to TURMAC all information on mine and munitions related incidents in areas under their responsibility within one month.

## On Social Inclusion

Ministry of Youth and Sports and Veterans Physical Treatment, Education and Research Centre organize activities for mine victims.

## On Medical Care

victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment free of charge.

## On Economic Inclusion

Although a program specifically prepared for mine victims does not exist, as with other persons with disabilities victims and their families receive monthly payments, employment opportunities, enterprising grant, free job counselling and courses according to their condition. TURMAC is working with other government institutions to develop a national surveillance system to monitor mine related incidents and a mechanism to support landmine survivors and victims more effectively.

Between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 number of casualties caused by APMs are 14 dead and 43 wounded, in total 57, most of whom are victims of victim activated IED's laid by terrorist groups. What I would like to emphasize is that the impact of minefields in Turkey to general public is minimum as these areas are fenced and marked military zones.

Lastly Mr. President, since there were references in some previous statements suggesting engagement / creating synergy between ISU's of different Conventions, we would like to remind once again that the composition of the Conventions differ from each other, and therefore this issue should be considered before taking any further steps.

Thank You, Mr. President.