



Statement by Turkey Victim Assistance

17th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Madam Vice President,

Turkey aligned itself with the EU statement to be delivered and in our national capacity we would like to deliver the following statement.

Madam Vice President, we would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and for the informative report that they presented.

I would like to briefly share some information on the efforts for victims assistance by my country.

Regarding Mine Victim Data, in order to improve sustainable flow of information, a communication line with relevant ministries and bodies was established.

The Ministry of Interior, through the Gendarmerie and National Police, will communicate to Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) all the relevant information on mine and munitions accidents (date and time, place, how, information on injured etc.) in areas under their responsibility within one month of each case.

Work will be engaged on the basis of individuals considered mine victim under the legislation, and necessary coordination will be held with the relevant bodies so that every mine victim may attain their legal rights.

In the time frame between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, decreasingly, casualties by explosion of APMs including the ones that took place during demining activities are 5 death and 18 wounded, in total 23. 4 of the wounded people are military personnel, others are civilians. Detailed information, including the gender dimension is available in this year's report. Security forces personnel who were affected from IEDs in anti-terror- operations are not included to this number. Here, I would like to emphasize that the impacts of minefields in Turkey to locals is minimum as these areas are fenced and marked as military zones.

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

Regarding Medical Care, within the context of current legislation, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive free support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment.

On Economic Inclusion, although a program specifically prepared for mine victims do not exist, within the context of existing laws, mine victims and their families receive monthly payments, employment opportunities, enterprising grant, free job counselling and courses according to their condition. Additionally, a shared database specifically designed for mine victims is under construction.

Thank you Madam Vice President.