



General Statement by Turkey

18th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION 16 November 2020

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

Turkey aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and in our national capacity we would like to deliver the following statement.

Turkey extends its appreciation to you and your team for your excellent preparatory work in advance of this meeting. You can be assured of our full support.

We also express our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit-ISU and to all Committee Members engaged in promoting the Convention on behalf of all States Parties.

Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction is the cornerstone of the international efforts to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

We acknowledge that a lot has been achieved over the last twenty-three years since the adoption of the Convention. Unfortunately, anti-personnel mines continue to be used, especially as an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), particularly by terrorist organizations.

We support all possible efforts in the direction to universalize the Convention. Taking this opportunity, we would like to call on other States which are not yet party to the Convention to join this unique instrument of the international disarmament fora at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. President,

Turkey strongly supports and fully complies with the objectives of the Convention. The destruction of the stockpile of anti-personnel mines was completed in 2011, thus fulfilling the commitment under Article 4 of the Convention.

Since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre-TURMAC in 2015, mine clearance operations and mine action activities have steadily intensified in Turkey. We will spare no effort to accomplish our goals.

International cooperation is the foremost step in improving regional security and development. Mine action offers a significant area for cooperation since it covers several development areas. Mine action contributes to security, socio-economic development, humanitarian aid and border management.

Gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action activities in Turkey in accordance with Action 3 of the Oslo Action Plan. TURMAC's %45 personnel are female and three of them branch chiefs.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is taking its commitments to the Convention very seriously and determined to fulfil all of them. We have been regularly providing our annual article 7 report, and additional information, as required. We would like to encourage all parties do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.