

Turkey's Extension Request – ICBL Comments
19th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, 15-19 November 2021

Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank Turkey for timely submission of its request and the Article 5 Committee for its analysis.

The ICBL has provided extensive comments on Turkey's request throughout the year and therefore we will keep our comments very brief.

Since all main activities presented by Turkey, including the non-technical survey, key clearance projects, as well as its mine risk education plan, are all planned until the end of 2023, we recommend that Turkey be granted an extension according to the presented plan – namely till the end of 2023.

Once Turkey has an accurate baseline, Turkey should develop a targeted clearance plan for the remaining contamination, beyond 2023. We hope, that with a reduction in the size of contaminated areas, Turkey will make every effort to develop a clearance plan for completion by 2025.

At the same time, we take the opportunity to remind Turkey about the need:

- to address contamination with humanitarian impact as a priority, including the growing problem caused by improvised mines, as per Action#21 of the OAP;
- to provide a more detailed, costed, multi-year workplan for risk education for populations near the interior minefields as well as those impacted on the borders;
- and lastly, to address contaminated areas under its control in northern Cyprus.

Thank you.