



Statement by Türkiye

20th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

(Victim Assistance)

Geneva, 23 November 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

[-Türkiye aligns itself with the EU statement on victim assistance and in our national capacity, we would like to share information on the efforts made by Türkiye.]

-We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their tireless efforts since 19MSP and for arranging informal meetings on this important humanitarian issue on 23-24 November.

Mr. President,

-Mine Victim Data Bank is adapted to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) (in line with OAP 9 and 35). All relevant Ministries/institutions quarterly provide TURMAC updated information of the personal data (identity, age, sex, occupation) and health status of mine victims.

-The minefields in Türkiye are fenced and marked as military zones and constantly observed by military personnel to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.

-Almost all casualties have been caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) emplaced by PKK/YPG terrorist organization.

-37 mine/IED casualties were identified in 2021. Twenty-two of these casualties were military personnel and fifteen were civilians.

-Except for one casualty in the humanitarian demining accident; 36 of these casualties were caused by victim-activated IEDs emplaced by PKK/YPG terrorists.

-In comparison with the data of 2020, civilian casualties decreased by 42%. Distressingly, one girl and one boy were dead, and three women, one girl and four boys, were wounded to the IEDs emplaced by PKK/YPG terrorist organization.

-Since the beginning of this year, 22 casualties were identified (including 7 soldiers and 15 civilians) in accidents due to mines/IEDs across Türkiye.

Mr. President,

-The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ratified by Türkiye in 2009, is a reference instrument that provides for strengthening the point of view on human rights regarding disability; participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life, such as education, health and employment without being subject to discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

-The Ministry of Family and Social Services and related institutions meet regularly with non-governmental organizations advocating the rights of persons with disabilities regarding the implementation of their obligations to assist victims.

- The said Ministry also published “Information Guide for the Disabled” in 2021. Thanks to the guidance and counseling services provided by the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the families of mines and unexploded ordnance victims are gaining awareness on the rights of victims.

-In addition, mine victims are reintegrated into society by receiving psychological assistance at rehabilitation centers and employed in the public sector with priority.

-The Ministry of National Defense also provides guidance to our victims on how to benefit from rehabilitation centers established in all provinces.

-The Veteran Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital in Ankara, affiliated to the Ministry of National Defense, was established and equipped with advanced technology to serve our veterans and civilian victims.

-Disabled people with a driver's license benefit from the value-added tax deduction and are exempted from the vehicle purchase tax in specially equipped cars they buy domestically.

-Social support practices such as home care support, home care assistance, priority in housing, daily-life centers and “hope houses” are put into practice. Our disabled citizens receive inclusive education in schools. Disabled Student Coordination Centers are established for higher education students.

-The Ministry of Youth and Sports also organizes activities for victims.

-In order to provide effective assistance to mine victims, modern and technologically equipped service units for the disabled are opened by municipalities in many provinces.

-Last but not least, the Accessibility Evaluation Module (ERDEM) has been implemented for our victims to use their living spaces unhindered.

Thank you.