



GENERAL STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE

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

Geneva, 21 November 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to congratulate the Presidency of Colombia. You can count on our delegation's support.

We also express our gratitude to all Committee Members and the ISU for their unwavering efforts.

As a member of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, Türkiye has been actively engaged in the works of the Committee as well as Coordinating Committee throughout the year.

Mr. President,

The use of anti-personnel mines and victim-activated Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) anywhere, anytime, and by any actor is unacceptable.

We are concerned by the increasing hostilities around the world, including our immediate neighbourhood, which include the use of such weaponry.

We call on all States to refrain from using such weapons that pose a serious and ongoing threat to civilians and comply with the obligations under the Ottawa Convention and international law.

Mr. President,

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

With this understanding, Türkiye takes its commitments to the Convention seriously and despite challenges and impeding circumstances, is determined to fulfil its obligations.

Türkiye is one of the few countries that rely primarily on its own resources while fulfilling its mine clearance obligations.

We have also been regularly and timely providing our annual Article 7 (Transparency) report and additional information, as required. All reports provide disaggregated data by age and gender.

Last but not least, we commend all efforts to universalize the convention, and call on other States which are not yet party to the Convention to join it at the earliest opportunity.

In this regard, we welcome the decision of the United States in June to realign its landmine policy with the most vital provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty, and invite them to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

Thank you.