

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

#### Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TÜRKIYE

##### I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Türkiye reported that in 2021 it released 30 hazardous areas measuring 4,495,149 square metres, including 4,000,000 square metres cancelled, 81,298 square metres reduced and 413,851 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 14,022 anti-personnel mines, 1,429 anti-tank mines, and 1 item of unexploded ordnance.
2. Türkiye also reported that 1,157 other explosive items, including 103 anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature were destroyed. The Committee observed that Türkiye reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Türkiye's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Türkiye on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2021 extension request. The Committee welcomed Türkiye providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

##### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Türkiye reported a remaining challenge of 3,804 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 140,586,889 square metres containing 647,144 anti-personnel mines and 193,186 anti-tank mines (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Türkiye reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas. The Committee welcomes updates from Türkiye in this regard.

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<sup>1</sup> "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

7. Action #18 of the Oslo Plan requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Türkiye had not reported updated information on its efforts to establish Türkiye's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee would welcome additional information on Türkiye's efforts in this regard.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)**

8. The Committee observed that Türkiye's request submitted to the 19MSP contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period 2020-2025 (Action #2, Action #19). Türkiye further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2020-2025 (Action #2).
9. Türkiye also indicated that it will address 183 mined areas measuring 10,719,823 square metres through mine clearance, including the following 27 mined areas measuring 1,058,000 square metres to be addressed as part of the Mardin Province Clearance Project in the period 2022-2023, 96 minefields measuring 4,242,577 square metres located in 4 Eastern border provinces as part of the Phase 3 Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project in 2022-2025 and 60 mined areas measuring 5,418,669 square metres in areas located on the Iraq and Syrian Borders will be addressed by Military Demining Units. The Committee observed that Türkiye reported annual updates based on new evidence and on adjusted milestones and on how priorities have been established (Action #20).
10. The Committee observed that Türkiye reported on the allocation of annual financial commitments towards implementation, including an annual allocation of €2,121,000 from the Government of Türkiye to the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP). Türkiye also reported that the Ministry of National Defence approved an annual allocation of additional 85 million TL for the period 2022-2026, including 35 million TL to be used for capacity development of military units and 50 million TL will be used for demining activities. Türkiye further reported that it had allocated budget to conduct mine clearance in Mardin Province (Action #1).
11. Türkiye reported that mine action is integrated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategy and humanitarian response plans, including the strategic planning of other governmental, nongovernmental institutions and partners as part of integrated border management (Action #1, Action #6).
12. Action #3 of the OAP requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes. The Committee recalled that, while Türkiye reported on its efforts to conduct a 'Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training' and that by the end of 2021 35% of TURMAC staff were women, Türkiye had not reported on its efforts to ensure consideration for gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in its efforts to implement Article 5 and would welcome additional information in this regard.
13. Türkiye reported in detail on its efforts to build national capacity, including trainings, and increased recruitment of military manual demining teams, including projected increase from 32 demining teams in 2022 to 50 demining teams, comprised of 32 land force teams, and 18 Gendarmerie teams (Action #26).

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)**

14. Türkiye reported on its efforts to keep national standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including the update of 5 NMAS (Action #5).
15. Türkiye reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including attendance in IMSMA trainings. The Committee encourages Türkiye to provide further information on its efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation (Action #9).
16. Türkiye reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect, including a new mine clearance equipment certification process and the deployment of 20 demining machines, and 3 additional mine detection dogs (MDD) with a planned increase of 2 MDD in 2022 (Action #27).

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

17. The Committee recalled that in granting Türkiye's request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) requested Türkiye to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Türkiye had provided the following information:
  - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Türkiye's work plan, including progress in tendering and contracting of implementation partners for survey and clearance and the results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
  - Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts;
  - Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Türkiye's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;
18. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on the following decisions of the 19MSP:
  - Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
  - Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
  - Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

19. The Committee recalled that in granting Türkiye's 2021 extension request, the 19MSP noted that the Convention would benefit from Türkiye submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

## **VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)**

20. Türkiye reported on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes, including the methodologies used, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that, while Türkiye reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas as part of the "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP) as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025), it had not reported on challenges faced (Action #32). The Committee would welcome additional information in this regard.

21. Türkiye reported that MRE/R programmes are conducted in the vicinity of all mine contaminated areas by means of trained Gendarmerie, Government and non-government staff. Türkiye also reported that MRE/R is carried out during ongoing survey activities, and national non-government organisations are encouraged to initiate risk education activities and for Turkish Gendarmerie to provide trainer training in mine affected provinces. (Action #28).

22. Action #29 of the OAP requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk, ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that, while Türkiye reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk, and that risk education trainings are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate, Türkiye had not reported on the development of such programmes on the basis of a needs assessment and welcomes Türkiye providing additional information in this regard.

23. Action #30 of the OAP requests States to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that, while Türkiye reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to contamination data, Türkiye had not provided updated information on an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements and would welcome additional information in this regard.

24. Türkiye reported on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered, including training of trainers provided to 170 Gendarmerie personnel, including 1 women, deployed to Diyarbakir, Batman, Siirt, Mardin and Sirnak Provinces. Türkiye

further reported that it plans to provide training of trainers in 6 provinces, Kars, Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkari, Van and Bitlis in 2022. Türkiye further reported its efforts to provide MRE/R to citizens through non-governmental organisations in 4 provinces, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Hatay and Kilis (Action #31).

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

25. The Committee observed that Türkiye had provided update on challenges in implementation of its Article 5 obligations, including impact of COVID-19 pandemic on cooperation and assistance mine actions efforts.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Türkiye**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
<b>#1</b>	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						

#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						
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SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						

	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties							
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities							
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion							
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans							
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas							
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties							
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means							
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>								
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)	
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant							
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.	



	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts to to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population’s behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements.
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population’s behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements.
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

