



## STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE

### 21<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (10a-Victim Assistance)

Geneva, 21 November 2023

#### CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me congratulate the Presidency of Germany.

-We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and Cambodia for hosting the Third Global Conference on Assistance to Victims last month.

-Türkiye aligns itself with the EU statement on victim assistance and in our national capacity would like to share the following:

Mr. Chair,

-Türkiye has been the target of terrorist attacks for decades. 32 mine/IED casualties were identified in 2022. Among them, 23 casualties were civilians. 28 of 32 casualties, including two girls and five boys, were caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (*victim-activated IEDs*) emplaced by the PKK/YPG terrorist organization.

-Civilian casualties decreased by 52% compared to 2020 and %14 compared to 2021.

-Since the beginning of this year, eight mine/IED casualties were identified. Four of these casualties were civilians (*one man was dead, two men and one boy were wounded*).

-Data of victims have been integrated into the Ministry of Family and Social Services' national assistance surveillance mechanism.

*-TURMAC has expanded its coverage of data collection and information management of individuals killed or injured by anti-personnel mines or other explosive remnants to ensure that women, girls, boys, and men can benefit equally from victim assistance services through emergency and continuing healthcare, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and economic inclusion.*

*-Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) does interviews with the local people during the EORE (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education) activities to learn whether there are mine victims in the vicinity of the region or not.*

Mr. Chair,

*-The Ministry of Family and Social Services provides guidance and counseling services to the families of mine and unexploded ordnance victims, raising awareness about victims' rights. Family members are also trained to help assist therapy for victims, especially in remote areas.*

*-Mine victims with "priority" registration in the Ministry of Health can take advantage of reserved quotas and easily arranged appointments.*

*-Turkish Social Security Institution provides payments for medical supplies, consumables, orthoses, and prostheses as specified by Law No. 5510 and the Regulation on General Health Insurance Transactions.*

*-"The Veterans Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital" is the leading rehabilitation center in the country, equipped with advanced technological devices and services. The hospital includes prosthetic, orthotics, and silicone laboratories serving amputee patients.*

Mr. Chair,

*-I would like to provide brief information on our efforts for citizens with disabilities in general.*

*-Türkiye ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009 and integrated the principle of "Positive Discrimination" into Article 10 of its Constitution in 2010.*

*-Pavements, pedestrian crossings, parks, public transportation vehicles and information and communication systems of public buildings have been made accessible.*

*-For more accessible delivery of aid to victims, the National Health Care Plan has been amended to remove financial barriers to accessing services when these services are not provided in individual districts.*

-Ministry of Health has established psychotherapy centers in all provinces. The National Health Care Plan has been amended to include incentives for prosthetists, orthotics, and physical therapists to be located in provincial physical therapy centers.

-In order to provide victim's education, free transportation of disabled child victims to their school, health assistance, and disability pension for our victims, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations have been established in all provinces and districts as part of Family Support Centers Project and Social Solidarity Centers Project.

*-The Ministry of Family and Social Services developed a new policy to promote the inclusion of victims with disabilities in the labour market, including through the provision of tax incentives to employ persons with disabilities, the recruitment of persons with disabilities in public administration and the development of self-employment programmes.*

-In 2021, the Ministry published "Information Guide for the Disabled", prepared the "2030 Barrier-Free Vision Document" and announced the first "National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" in December 2022, covering 2023-2025.

-The National Disability Council is empowered to monitor and report on the implementation of the Comprehensive Independent Living Programme.

*-By the end of 2022, draft amendments to the national law on equalizing opportunities for persons with disabilities have become the unified standard used in Türkiye by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.*

-Regulations on the "Issuance of Disabled Identity Cards and the creation of the National Disability Data System" and the "Home Care Assistance" were enacted in May 2023 to enable disabled citizens to benefit from various services, rights, and discounts.

Thank you.