



STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE

21st MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (10c-Cooperation and Assistance)

Geneva, 22 November 2023

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-Let me also thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for the efforts and the informative report presented.

-Since its establishment, Turkish Mine Action Center “TURMAC” initiated not only inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states and military bodies, but also international partnership with the UNDP, GICHD.

-The Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) is implemented by UNDP and funded by EU and the Turkish Government. TURMAC capacity development and continuity efforts have been implemented in partnership with UNDP and GICHD and national partners during Phase-I and Phase-II of the project.

-Phase-III of the Project is planned to be completed by the end of 2023.

-We would once again like to thank our partners, namely the EU, UNDP and GICHD for their support and cooperation.

-TURMAC has prepared a project document for the last phase of the project (EBMCP Phase-IV) to carry out demining in the province of Van on the Iranian border. The project is planned to clear an area of approximately 4 million square meters in Van and finish the mine clearance on our Iranian border. To get support for the implementation of this project, today we hosted an “Individualized Approach” event with the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and ISU.

-Since early 2022, four military demining teams cleared an area of more than 100.000 m² in Azerbaijan.

-Turkish military teams provided Humanitarian Mine Clearance, Mine/IED Awareness, Mine Detector, Mechanical Demining Machines and Basic Demolition Techniques Trainings to Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

-A Goodwill Protocol was signed with the Mine Action Agency of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) on 18 November 2022 (in line with the OAP Action 47).

Mr. Chair,

-Our voluntary contribution to the functioning of this forum has been consistent over the years. This year, we also contributed to the ISU budget (in line with OAP 10). We call on all States Parties to contribute to mine action.

-Türkiye is pleased to be a Committee Cooperative Compliance member and to contribute to the Convention's works. We are determined to continue supporting the Convention's Implementation Machinery in the coming years.

Mr. Chair,

-Gender and diversity are factored into all mine action activities in Türkiye. As of 2022, %29 of the TURMAC's personnel is female, one of them is a head of department and two are branch chiefs.

-Ten medical personnel, two Mine Detection Dog Handlers, four officers and two NTS personnel (one employed as a gender focal point) of demining contractor in EBMCP Phase-III are female.

-In collaboration with UNDP Türkiye specialists, Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training was given to TURMAC staff this year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.