



Statement by Türkiye

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION 24 MARCH 2023

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Türkiye aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and in our national capacity, we would like to share the following remarks.

Let me also add my voice to the other speakers in thanking you on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for 2023. We would like to thank you, the ISU and Australia as the coordinator of the sponsorship program for arranging the Eighth Annual Pledging Conference today. I assure you of Türkiye's support and cooperation in advancing the Convention's work.

We would also thank Her Excellency, Ms. Katja Keul, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for her keynote address.

Mr. President,

Türkiye vigorously supports efforts for a world free of landmines. Our shared aim is to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines that kill or maim mostly innocent and defenseless civilians, especially children.

We would like to reiterate that our country is determined to fulfil its commitments stemming from the Ottawa Convention.

Within the scope of cooperation and assistance, Türkiye sent eight military demining teams and four EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan.

An area of almost half a million square meters, where agricultural lands, tourist areas and water channels are located, has been cleared by the Turkish military teams since then.

A Goodwill Protocol was signed with the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) in November 2022.

At the request of the Libyan Government, more than three thousand explosive items were identified and destroyed by Turkish military teams. Mine detector training was delivered to 200 personnel and other trainings in the field of countering mine/explosives were provided to 87 personnel in Libya.

We continue to cooperate with ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC).

Mr. President,

Our voluntary financial contributions to the functioning of ISU have been consistent over the years.

We will continue to support ISU also in 2023. We would like to echo EU's call for all States Parties to contribute to mine action, including to the work of the ISU, which is crucial to the functioning of the Convention.

We would like to express our appreciation for the work of the ISU Director Mr. Carlos and his team again.

Thank you, Mr. President.