



Statement by Türkiye

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (Victim Assistance)

19-21 June 2023

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-Türkiye aligns itself with the EU statement on victim assistance and in our national capacity, we would like to share information on the efforts made by Türkiye.

-We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their tireless efforts since the 20th MSP.

-Full version of this statement will be published online.

Mr. Chair,

-Türkiye has adopted the Mine Victim Data Bank according to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) (in line with OAP 9 and 35). All relevant Ministries/institutions quarterly provide TURMAC with updated information on the personal data (identity, age, sex, occupation) and health status of mine victims.

-The minefields in Türkiye are fenced and marked as military zones and constantly observed by military personnel to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.

-32 mine/IED casualties were identified last year. Among them, 23 casualties were civilians.

- Our country has been the target of heinous terrorist attacks for decades. 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.

-The Ministry of Family and Social Services provides guidance and counseling services to the families of mine/unexploded ordnance victims, raising awareness about victims' rights.

-TURMAC ensures that women, girls, boys, and men can benefit equally from victim assistance services through emergency and continuing healthcare, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psycho-social support, and economic inclusion.

-Such services are carried out in collaboration between relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

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

-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.

-As part of the Family Support Centers Project and Social Solidarity Centers Project, social, psychological, cultural, and vocational sportive facilities are provided for mine victims to increase their participation in social life.

Mr. Chair,

-I would like to provide brief information on efforts by my country 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.

-Regular meetings take place between the Ministry of Family and Social Services, related institutions, and non-governmental organizations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

-Various programs such as home health care, home care support, home care pension, home-type social service institutions, community mental health centers, and supportive day services are being expanded nationwide. The Ministry of Health has established a psychotherapy center in each province.

-The financial resources allocated to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family and Social Services according to “Law No. 3294 Amending the Social Assistance and Solidarity Encouragement Law,” and the Ministry of Health budget are used for victims’ assistance annually.

-Disabled people can receive education to facilitate their business life, and all necessary supports and incentives are provided to them to that extent. Grant support of up to 65.000 TL was given to our disabled victims to establish their job opportunities in 2022.

-Efforts are made to facilitate the lives of victim students with disabilities through collaborations with the General Directorate of Social Assistance, the General Directorate of Services for the Disabled and Elderly, and the Ministry of National Education.

-The Ministry of Family and Social Services improved accessibility studies despite the adverse effects of the pandemi after the declaration of 2020 as the “Year of Accessibility” by our President. In 2021, the “Information Guide for the Disabled” was published.

-In 2021, the Ministry 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 with 31 targets, 107 action areas, and 275 activities.

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

-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.