



Statement by Türkiye

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (Cooperation and Assistance)

19-21 June 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.

Mr. Chair,

-We have extensively shared our activities with regard to cooperation and assistance in the previous meetings, including 20th Meeting of State Parties.

-In addition to our presentations in the margins of the Ottawa Convention, TURMAC gave a presentation on humanitarian mine action activities carried out by Türkiye in the 1036th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation of OSCE dated 15 February.

-I would like to take this opportunity to share a summary of additional recent developments to follow-up our previous presentations.

-The Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III, managed by UNDP and funded by the EU, Türkiye and the UN, is planned to be completed by the end of 2023.

-Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) has prepared a project document for the subsequent phase of the said project (*EBMCP Phase-IV*) to be financed by the EU to carry out demining in the province of Van on the Iranian border. With the project, it is planned to clear in an area of approximately 3,5 million m² in Van in 2024 and 2025. When the project is approved by the EU, Türkiye will contribute approximately 2.400.000 Euro (*apx. %12 of 20.000.000 Euros total fund*) from the national budget to the project as a co-finance payment provision.

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

Mr. Chair,

-Since the beginning of 2022, our four military demining teams have cleared an area of more than 100.000 m² in Azerbaijan.

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

-As shared previously, a Goodwill Protocol was signed with the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) on 18 November 2022 (*in line with the OAP Action 47*).

-In coordination with the ISU, our updated work plan is submitted in a timely manner as requested by the 19th MSP. With this opportunity, we also thank the ISU for their cooperation and support.

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

-Türkiye is pleased to be a Committee Cooperative Compliance member and to contribute to Convention's works, including in cooperation and assistance.

Mr. Chair,

-We welcome the efforts to encourage the UN system and the Member States to provide equal participation in conventional arms control, including mine action.

-In collaboration with UNDP Türkiye specialists, Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training is planned to be delivered this year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.