



STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE

FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

(Clearing mined areas)

Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Chairperson and distinguished participants,

On behalf of TURMAC, I would like to extend our appreciation for facilitating this significant conference where States Parties take the floor.

I would like to focus key advancements and updates regarding TURMAC's efforts to accomplish its obligations under the Convention and humanitarian mine action activities conducted in **2023**.

Within the scope of Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-3, a demining contract was signed with TDI/Altay Defence in March 2021. The project has been managed by UNDP and TURMAC and its activities were conducted by commercial contractors. As of November 2023, project has been finalized and more than 3,6 million square meters of hazardous land have been addressed whereby 49.336 mines were found and destroyed. Finalization of the project has prepared the ground for an additional section along Türkiye's eastern borders for installing multidimensional border security and surveillance system.

Another vital component of this project was conducting a Non-Technical Survey on Türkiye's mined areas with a contracting modality. With this component, the precise perimeter of all mined areas in Türkiye were identified which will enable TURMAC to prepare a robust and reasonable new work plan for the remaining challenges by 2025. In addition, the data obtained through consultation with affected communities during the field visits will be used to determine the mine action priorities.

In 2024, military demining teams carried out demining activities in 42 mined areas.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is provided to our citizens living in areas with mine risk. The trainings in question are performed by;

- TURMAC Directorate,
- General Command of Gendarmerie,
- EBMCP NTS Project,
- UNDP-Humanitarian Mine Action Association (İMFAD- Turkish NGO)

Since the establishment of TURMAC, EORE (*Explosive Ordnance Risk Education*) was provided to 8.474 (558 women, 2.752 children, 5.164 men) citizens.

Türkiye continued its mine clearance activities using all available military assets. Since the previous extension request in 2021, 18 additional military demining teams have been established and accredited to increase the clearance rate. Currently, 50 military demining teams are operational.

Capacities of military demining units were increased with additional 14 Mine Detection Dogs between 2022 and 2024. Currently, 17 mine detection dogs are operational. Military demining units were augmented with 6 MEMATT2AS1 mechanical demining machines, which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to CWA 15044 –Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines international standards between 2021 and 2024. Currently, 8 mechanical demining machines are operational.

TURMAC held a meeting with the ISU Director in Ankara on June 10-11, 2024, as part of the preparation work for the extension request to be submitted by March 31, 2025.

TURMAC is keen to work in collaboration with Committee on Article 5 Implementation and ISU to exchange views for submitting a new comprehensive “Extension Request” regarding Article 5 obligation.

Within the scope of cooperation, Representatives of the newly established Nigerian Mine Action Centre visited TURMAC between 2-9 November 2024. During this visit, our center was introduced and our experiences were shared. 8 working sessions were held on different topics and 4 different facilities related to humanitarian demining activities were visited. Within the scope of this visit, Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF) was used for the first time.

Türkiye sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan. Our Support activities for Azerbaijan continue.

TURMAC would also like to take this opportunity to express Türkiye's gratitude to all national and international stakeholders, particularly; ISU, European Union, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and GICHD.

Mr. Chair, before concluding, I reiterate Türkiye's full commitment to the Convention and our determination to fulfill its obligations by working in collaboration with the international community and the ISU.

Thank you,







MoND Turkish Mine Action Center
APMBC 5th Review Conference
 (26 November 2024, 14.00-17.00)


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Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-III
 (Article 5)



*** Approximately 3.600.000 m² of hazardous land was addressed and 49.336 mines were destroyed until 2023.**

Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-III


18.550.000 € (IPA-II)

3,6 million m²

93 minefields

Jan 2021 – Nov 2023


In 4 Provinces
 (Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır, Ağrı)




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Non-Technical Survey Project
 (Article 5)





*** NTS Teams are composed of former military engineers and EOD members.**



*** NTS Project started in June 2021 and finalized by November 2023.**

*** 3.451 mine fields' survey has been completed, reports have been approved and this Project funded by Türkiye. (2.1 million Euro)**

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Military Demining Units' Activities
 (Article 5)



*** In 2024, military demining teams carried out demining activities in 42 mined areas.**







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EORE Activities





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- TURMAC Directorate,
- General Command of Gendarmerie,
- EBMCP NTS Project,
- UNDP-Humanitarian Mine Action Association (İMFAD- Turkish NGO)

* Until today, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was provided to **8.474** (558 women, 2.752 children, 5.164 men) citizens.

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National Resources







made in Türkiye

* Türkiye has enhanced its clearance capacity since 2004 gradually by establishing;


- **50 Military Humanitarian Demining Teams,**
- **8 Mechanical Mine Clearance Equipment,**
- **17 Mine Detection Dogs**

which are currently under the command of **Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC).**


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Article 5 Extension Request






* TURMAC held a meeting with the **ISU Director in Ankara** on June 10-11, 2024, as part of the preparation work for the extension request that must be submitted by March 31, 2025.

* **TURMAC** is keen to work in collaboration with **Article 5 Committee** and **Implementation Support Unit (ISU)**, prior to its deadline on 31th December 2025 in order to exchange views for submitting a new comprehensive "Extension Request" in terms of Article 5 obligation.

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International Cooperation






* Representatives of the newly established Nigerian Mine Action Centre visited TURMAC between 2-9 November 2024. During this visit, our center was introduced and our experiences were shared.

* 8 working sessions were held on different topics and 4 different facilities related to humanitarian demining activities were visited.

* Within the scope of this visit, Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF) was used for the first time.



* Türkiye sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan. Support activities for Azerbaijan continue.

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Mine Action Can **NOT** Wait...

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