

**STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE**  
**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE**  
**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**  
**(Assisting the victims)**  
**Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024**

***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and the informative report they presented.

Mr. Chair,

-In Türkiye, 11 mine victims were identified in 2023. 7 were military personnel and 4 were civilians (1 boy and 3 men). 2 out of 11 victims (one soldier and one civilian) lost their lives.

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

-Except for 1 humanitarian demining accident, 10 of these incidents consist of improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) laid by the PKK terrorist organization.

-First aid posts are available to provide emergency medical services near or adjacent to the contaminated areas.

-Victims are immediately transferred to central hospitals of the contaminated province. Once the victim has fully recovered, he/she is referred to a rehabilitation center to rehabilitate the victim medically, psychologically, and physically. While the number of physical therapy and rehabilitation centers was 21 in 2002, this number reached 99 in 2019.

-“Ankara Veterans Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital” is the leading rehabilitation center for mine/IED victims in the country, equipped with advanced technological devices and services. The hospital has prosthetic, orthotics, and silicone laboratories serving amputee patients.

Mr. Chair,

-Türkiye adopted the 2023-2025 Disability Rights National Action Plan to address the needs and protect the rights of all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive remnants of war.

-The Action Plan strengthens disabled individuals' participation in social, cultural life, their access to tourism and participation in sports activities, and availability of public transportation services and access to areas open to public use, housing services.

-Continuing its efforts to improve lives of disabled citizens, Ministry of Family and Social Services has published the "Information Guide for the Disabled", which created a road map for our citizens to easily access the services offered.

-This guide contains information on rights and services offered in areas of disability assessment, health, education, accessibility, personal mobility, employment, incentives and supports, social assistance and social services.

-Courses are carried out for different disability groups in areas such as acquiring self-care skills and music, painting and handicrafts in 127 "Daytime Life Centers" operating throughout the country.

-Disabled individuals are given priority in all hospitals. Disabled people and their relatives, with a medical report documenting over 40 percent disability, can benefit from treatment services of private and public hospitals at a discounted rate.

-Family members are trained to help assist therapy for victims, especially in remote areas, including male family members, so that the burden of care does not fall exclusively on women and girls.

-Disabled employees can receive a deduction from their income tax base in amounts determined according to their disability degree. Tax Deduction is also available for the employees that are providing care to their disabled relatives.

-Every person with a disabled ID card benefits from the right to travel free of charge on public transportation. Disabled individuals can use all public buses, sea transportation vehicles and trains free of charge.

-Disabled students are supported to enroll in universities. Also disabled people with a disability of 40% or more are given priority in scholarship and dormitory applications by the Credit and Dormitories Institution.

-Disabled citizens are employed within the scope of the “Public Disabled Quota Program”, which is carried out to increase participation of disabled individuals in social and economic life.

-The Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, provides job and vocational consultancy services to disabled people and organizes courses or on-the-job training programs to increase their professional qualifications. Additionally, disabled people are encouraged and provided grant support to start their own businesses.

Thank you.