



STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE
FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
(Cooperation and Assistance)
Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me also thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for the efforts and the informative report presented.

Since its establishment, TURMAC has initiated not only inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states and military bodies but also international partnerships with the UNDP, GICHD, and the EU.

The Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) is implemented by UNDP and funded by the EU and Turkish Government. During Phases I, II, and III of the Project, TURMAC capacity development and continuity efforts were implemented.

We thank our partners, the EU, UNDP and GICHD, for their invaluable support and cooperation.

TURMAC has prepared a project document for the last phase of the project (EBMCP Phase-IV) to carry out demining in the province of Van on the Iranian border. The project is planned to clear an area of approximately 4 million square meters in Van and complete the mine clearance on our Iranian border.

TURMAC held an individualised approach event to request support for conducting EBMCP Phase-IV in the margins of 21st MSP. Additionally, under Article 6 of the Ottawa Convention, which encompasses international cooperation and assistance obligations, TURMAC initiated contacts with the Delegation of EU, Japanese Embassy and Kuwaiti Embassy in 2023. In this process, TURMAC is continuing diplomatic correspondences for the purpose of finding necessary

funds. Unless funding could be timely secured for the project, it cannot be carried out as planned between 2025-2027 which in turn will inevitably delay Türkiye's ability to fulfill its commitments under the Convention.

Mr. President,

A Goodwill Protocol was signed with the Mine Action Agency of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) on 18 November 2022. 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. Since the beginning of 2023, four demining teams have continued to conduct mine clearance, and approximately 600,000 m² of contaminated area has been cleared in Azerbaijan to date.

In scope of this Protocol, Türkiye supports Azerbaijan mine action efforts with military demining teams.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye is honoured to be a member of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and actively contributes to the Convention's work.

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 and the sponsorship program. We call on all States Parties to contribute to mine action to the best of their abilities.

We are determined to continue supporting the Convention's Implementation Machinery in the coming years.

As part of the very first study visit financed by the Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF), representatives of the newly established Nigerian Mine Action Centre visited TURMAC between 2 and 9 November 2024. During this visit, our mine action center was introduced, and our experiences were shared with the visiting delegation. Eight working sessions were held on different topics including organizational structure, duties of TURMAC, experiences in planning and execution of mine clearance activities, introduction of information management tools, land release activities, planning and implementation of victim assistance and EORE activities and four facilities related to humanitarian demining activities were visited.

Türkiye will continue to support the countries those which require capacity development.

We hope said study visit will set a good example for sharing best practices among States Parties.

Mr. Chair,

By the end of 2023, 22% of TURMAC's personnel were female. During EBMCP Phase-III, our stakeholders, such as UNDP, clearance and NTS contractor companies, employed 14 women in various roles. TURMAC and UNDP have encouraged and supported women's employment in various positions, such as trainers and administrative staff. Additionally, Türkiye's first female civil demining dog handlers were trained and certified during this phase.

In collaboration with UNDP, Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training was held in 2023 for 20 TURMAC personnel.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.