



Statement by Türkiye

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (Article 5 Implementation)

18-20 June 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-We would like to thank the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and ISU for their efforts.

Mr. Chair,

-As part of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III, Non-technical survey activities (NTS) of 3.451 minefields have been completed by commercial contractors by the end of 2023. As a result of NTS Project, Türkiye has a total of 225 square kilometers area to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

-During the field visits carried out within the scope of the NTS Project, especially on Iraqi border, areas not used by residents due to suspicion of mine contamination were identified. These new hazardous areas were added to the TURMAC database following confirmation of new information and documents obtained, on-site evidence accessed, and consultations held with residents during field visits conducted within the NTS Project.

-Through Phase III of the project, a total area of 3.6 square kilometers has been addressed and 49.336 mines have been destroyed in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces. As a result of the project, mine clearance of Ardahan and Kars provinces has been completed.

-Military demining teams of General Command of Gendarmerie addressed close to three hundred thousand square meters of land and 20.072 mines found/destroyed in 13 areas in Siirt and Van provinces of Türkiye in 2023.

-Military demining teams of Turkish Land Forces Command addressed 331 thousand square meters of land and 432 mines found/destroyed in 18 areas in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak and Van provinces of Türkiye in 2023.

-Field visits, reporting, quality management and assessment activities of the remaining 250 areas in the province of Mardin will be carried out by TURMAC Survey Teams until the end of 2025.

-For 2024, approximately 500.000.000 TL has been allocated for humanitarian mine action efforts in the national budget.

-In addition to the humanitarian aspect, mine action is regarded as an indispensable part of the modern integrated border management (IBM) of Türkiye. Türkiye aims to clear landmines on its eastern and southern borders to provide a more secure and technologically advanced humanitarian border management system.

-TURMAC has prepared a project document for capacity development of military demining units in order to fulfill its commitments under the Ottawa Convention. The project is planned to accelerate humanitarian demining activities by increasing the capacity of military demining units.

-The number of Turkish Land Forces Command demining teams increased by 8 in 2023. Currently, a total of 50 military demining teams, 8 MEMATT-II mechanical demining machines and 10 mine detection dogs are operational.

-Additionally, it is planned that 6 more mine detection dogs will be accredited and operational in 2024.

-As a part of TURMAC's capacity development, 15 personnel from TURMAC attended the Mechanical Mine Clearing Machine Certification Training, 12 personnel attended the Introduction to Humanitarian Mine Action Activities Training, 2 personnel attended the Humanitarian Demining Training.

-Additionally, Quality Management and Accreditation in Mine Action Training was provided to 66 personnel, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Training was provided to 64 personnel, Information Management System of Mine Action (IMSMA) User Training was provided to 26 personnel, Mine Detection Dogs Accreditation Training was provided to 10 personnel, and Non-Technical Survey Training was provided to 16 personnel from military demining units in 2023.

Mr. Chair,

-TURMAC provided trainers' training to 64 personnel from demining units of Turkish Land Forces Command assigned to Erzincan and Hatay provinces in 2023.

-In 2023, General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE sessions to 2120 residents (1676 men, 121 women and 323 children) who live close to minefields *in Batman, Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Tunceli and Van provinces.*

-EORE awareness materials, educational posters and promotional items such as notepads, pens, keychains, pencil boxes, masks, t-shirts and cloth bags were distributed to the citizens.

-Trainers' training sessions are planned for nine more provinces (*Ağrı, Ardahan, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iğdır, Kars, Kilis and Şanlıurfa*) in 2024.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.