



Statement by Türkiye

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

18-20 June 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-Türkiye aligns itself with the EU statement on Cooperation and Assistance, and in our national capacity we would like to share information regarding the cooperation and assistance activities.

-Let me thank you for leading the efforts under the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and for the informative report you presented.

-The Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III, managed by UNDP and funded by the EU, Türkiye and the UN, was completed in 2023. Once again, we would like to thank our partners, namely the EU, UNDP, and GICHD, for their 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.

-We faced difficulties in funding the Project's last phase. In order to find donors, we hosted an "Individualized Approach" event with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and ISU in the margins of 21st MSP. We continue to communicate with one of the participating countries, which has expressed interest in funding the project.

-We hope to start the last phase of the project soon and declare our Iranian Border as mine-free in a few years.

Mr. Chair,

-Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training was held in 2023 for 20 TURMAC personnel.

-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. Since the beginning of 2023, 4 military demining teams have been conducting mine clearance in Azerbaijan. (*in line with the OAP Action 7, 45 and 47*)

-Humanitarian Mine Clearance Training, Mine/Improvised Explosive Devices Awareness Training, Basic Demolition Techniques Training, Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Training, Improvised Explosive Devices Neutralizing Training and Explosive Ordnance Disposal were provided to Azerbaijan Armed Forces and Libya Armed Forces personnel. (*in line with the OAP Action 7 and 47*)

-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 (*in line with OAP 10*). We call for all States Parties to contribute to mine action.

-On 10-11 June 2024, ISU Director visited TURMAC to coordinate the preparations for the extension request that Türkiye will submit by 31 March 2025. During the visit, our road map on the preparations for our extension request was determined. Additionally, in the facilities of the Gendarmerie General Command; manual mine clearing, performance of mine detection dogs, and evacuation of injured people after accidents during mine-clearing activities were demonstrated, and Mechanical Mine Clearing Equipment (MEMATT2AS1) produced with domestic and national resources was introduced.

-Taking this opportunity, we would like to convey our gratitude to the ISU Director for his valuable cooperation and support.

Mr. Chair,

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

-Upon request from the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, Türkiye declared itself a potential host State for exchange/study visits requested by mine-affected States Parties through the Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF). Within the scope of the visit request from Nigeria to benefit from CAF, TURMAC is ready to coordinate a study visit in Türkiye to provide support

in cooperation, training, and experience/knowledge sharing in humanitarian mine activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.