

Analysis of the request submitted by Türkiye for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Algeria, Thailand (Chair), Norway, the United Kingdom)**

1. Türkiye acceded to the Convention on 25 September 2003. The Convention entered into force for Türkiye on 1 March 2004. In its initial transparency report submitted on 1 October 2004, Türkiye reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Türkiye was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2014. Since this time, Türkiye submitted requests for extension to the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2013, the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2010 and the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) in 2021. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Türkiye its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Türkiye by the 19MSP was for three years and nine months, until 31 December 2025.
2. In granting Türkiye's request, the 19MSP noted, amongst other, that by requesting a three year and nine-month extension, Türkiye was projecting that it would need approximately three years and nine months from the date of submission of its request to carry out clearance activities and non-technical survey (NTS) of remaining mined areas, continue mine risk education activities, mobilise national and international resources and submit by 31 March 2025 a plan for completion of its Article 5 commitments. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Türkiye is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information.
3. Türkiye, believing that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by its deadline, submitted on 28 March 2025 to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for an extension of its deadline. On 27 June 2025, the Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information. Türkiye provided a response on 30 July 2025. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Türkiye had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Türkiye's request is for five years, until 31 December 2030.
4. The request indicates that during the previous extension period Türkiye completed phase 3 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) addressing 93 mined areas measuring 3,622,371 square metres, including 1,308,620 cancelled through NTS, 933,151 square metres reduced through technical survey (TS) and 1,380,600 square metres addressed through clearance in Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Ağrı provinces resulting in the destruction of 49,336 anti-personnel mines and one additional item of explosive ordnance (EO). The request indicates that during the previous extension period, Türkiye planned to conduct phase 4 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP), in Van province, which aimed to clear 85 mined areas measuring approximately 4,000,000 square metres, TS of 30 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), capacity building activities for the Turkish Mine Action centre (TURMAC) and Military Demining Units (MDU), as well as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). The request indicates that this project is now scheduled for 2026-2028 and that Türkiye continues its efforts to mobilise resources from the European Union and other international donors to finance the project. The request indicated that despite these ongoing resource mobilization efforts, support is yet to be identified and that demining activities are currently being conducted by MDUs.
5. The request indicates that In addition to Phase-3 of EBMCP, during the period of 2021-2023 TURMAC planned to conduct another mine clearance project, through contracting modality,

in Mardin province on the Syrian border. The request indicates that the Ministry of National Defence had allocated approximately 3 million euros for this project, which was intended to address 27 mined areas measuring 1,058,000 square metres. The request indicates that the project in question could not be realized due to the activities of terrorist organisations and the instability on the Syrian side of the border. The request indicates that Türkiye considered that direct and indirect fire by terrorist organisations from across the Syrian border could pose a risk to personnel.

6. The request indicates that during the extension period military units addressed a total of 2,276,908 square metres, including 3,588 square metres cancelled through NTS, 352,817 square metres reduced through TS, and 1,920,503 square metres addressed through clearance.
7. The request further indicates that NTS was carried out in 3,451 mined areas laid by the Turkish Armed Forces and General Command of Gendarmerie (GCG) between 1956 and 1994 to better define the extent of contamination and to prioritize land release activities. The request indicates that, as a results of NTS, the number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) has decreased and the number of SHAs has increased on the basis of additional information collected from a variety of government and civilian sources, including historical data, interviews with civilians and records of natural disasters (floods, landslides, etc.) which disrupted the integrity of mined areas and caused the possible displacement of mines, amongst other.
8. The request indicates that, in total, during the extension period 18,899,996 square metres were addressed, including 14,808,074 square metres cancelled through NTS, 1,204,670 square metres reduced through TS and 2,887,252 square metres addressed through clearance.
9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Türkiye is employing the full range of methods to permit the safe return of land to the population and encouraged Türkiye to continue seeking improved land release techniques which could lead to Türkiye fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Committee further noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to report information on progress in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance) as well as by the type of EO located and destroyed.
10. The request indicates that during the extension period, Türkiye carried out efforts to strengthen its national capacity, including through the incorporation of:
 - a. 18 additional military demining teams. Currently, a total of 50 humanitarian military demining teams (32 teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and 18 teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) are operational. Furthermore, seven additional military humanitarian demining teams (four teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and three teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) will also be operational by the end of 2026/2027),
 - b. Four additional MEMATT2 AS1 mechanical demining machines. Currently a total of 12 MEMATT2 AS1 are operational,
 - c. 11 additional mine detection dogs (MDDs). Currently a total of 16 MDDs are operational,
 - d. Expansion of dog training, accreditation and testing capacity.
11. The request indicates the following, which in Türkiye's view, acted as impeding circumstances during the previous extension period: (a) topography and accessibility (e.g. security and instability), (b) weather conditions, (c) excessive vegetation in some mined areas, (d) minerals and metal remnants, (e) density of contamination in some areas, (f) presence of unidentified EO used by terrorist groups (g) Covid-19 pandemic, (h) natural disasters (i.e., earthquakes, fires and floods), and (i) funding.

12. The request indicates that the remaining challenge totals 2,000 CHAs measuring 93,189,617 square metres, estimated to contain 475,587 anti-personnel mines and 129,307 anti-tank mines, and 1,656 SHAs measuring 126,713,843 square metres estimated to contain 93,856 anti-personnel mines, and 32,187 anti-tank mines. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to report information on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination.
13. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information concerning contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. Türkiye indicated in its response that anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature are laid by terrorists in areas of security operations conducted by Türkiye and that when such mines are detected, they are neutralised on-site by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, preventing lasting contamination. Türkiye indicates in its response that there are no known areas contaminated by improvised anti-personnel mines.
14. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye implementing all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination, as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and to provide disaggregated information, by types of mines, when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.
15. The request indicates that during the extension period 30 (27 males, three females) civilians were injured, of which 27 were between the ages of 0-18 and that three civilians (male) were killed, of which one was between the ages of 0-18, due to mine-related incidents. The request indicates that 17 military personnel were injured and three military personnel were killed due to mine-related incidents. The request further indicates that remaining contamination has a detrimental socioeconomic and development impact including on infrastructure development (e.g. border surveillance system), agriculture and livestock, preservation of archaeological and cultural heritage sites and natural parks, and development investment (e.g. mining sector, oil and gas), amongst others. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to provide data on casualties in a manner disaggregated by gender and age and noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Türkiye.
16. The request further indicates the important role of mine clearance in protecting the environment from the negating impact of contamination, in particular the impact of trinitrotoluene (TNT) which contaminates soil, groundwater, surface water and has long-term harmful effects on blood, liver and brain. The request further indicated that mined areas located in border areas have a negative impact on the operational capability and rapidness of Turkish Land Forces (TLF) border units as to timely intervention of any border incident.
17. As noted, Türkiye's request is for five years, until 31 December 2030. The request indicates that, having clearly understood the extent of the remaining challenge, Türkiye requests a five-year extension from 31 December 2025 until 31 December 2030, in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.
18. The request indicates that Türkiye will prioritise implementation as follows:
 - a. **Prioritisation Level 1** : mined areas along the southern and eastern borders of Türkiye, which prevents the establishment/construction of the new technological border surveillance system;
 - b. **Prioritisation Level 2** : mined areas posing a danger to citizens;

- c. **Prioritisation Level 3** : mined areas which prevent projects from being carried out by other Ministries for public benefit purposes;
 - d. **Prioritisation Level 4** : land in dispute along the borders and interior parts of Türkiye belonging to private owners; and
 - e. **Prioritisation Level 5**: mined areas to be cleared to enable socio-economic development, including agriculture, livestock, mining, and other productive activities.
19. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information on how casualty data is analysed to prioritise land release activities as well as EORE efforts, particularly given that casualty data show casualties in provinces in which no land release activities are planned (e.g. province of Ağrı and Siirt). Türkiye indicated in its response that priority is given to incidents that occur in prioritisation of land release activities and that activities are carried out on the basis of relevant analyses conducted during the planning stage.
20. The request indicates that during the requested period, Türkiye will carry out the following:
- a. Phase 4 of the EBMCP between 2026-2028 addressing 85 mine areas measuring 4,000,000 square metres in Van province on the eastern border of Türkiye with EU Funds or any international donor support. This Project includes technical survey, EORE, and capacity building activities.
 - b. MDUs will carry out land release activities on the Iraq, Iran and Syrian borders as well as areas other than borders in 2026 (705,960 square metres), 2027 (679,000 square metres), 2028 (783,430 square metres), 2029 (838,000 square metres), and 2030 (837,000 square metres);
 - c. TS activities on the Iraq, Iran and Syrian borders in 2026 (658,000 square metres), 2027 (715,000 square metres), 2028 (610,000 square metres), 2029 (543,000 square metres), and 2030 (553,000 square metres);
 - d. NTS of 211 SHAs located in Mardin and Bingöl provinces in 2026 (8,572,147 square metres), 2027 (7,697,438 square metres), 2028 (8,747,090 square metres) and 2029 (174,300 square metres).
21. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information on the current situation in Mardin Province given the challenges in addressing these areas during the previous extension period. Türkiye indicated in its response that following the latest developments in Syria, the security situation in the region has improved and that land release activities have been planned in 2029 and 2030. Türkiye further indicated in its response that mined areas identified as a result of future NTS will be included in clearance plans.
22. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information on plans to ensure that newly identified mined areas are addressed within the extension period, particularly as NTS and TS are scheduled through to the end of 2030. Türkiye indicated in its response that donor support is very important for Türkiye to achieve its deadline and that national and international initiatives to mobilise donors are ongoing. Türkiye further indicated in its response that progress has been made in capacity building efforts, including the establishment of new survey and clearance teams (8 teams) to be integrated by 2027 and that areas identified during future TS and NTS are currently planned to be addressed within the extension period.
23. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information regarding the work plan for implementing the EBMCP. Türkiye indicated in its response that a detailed work plan would be

developed and national resources allocated once the necessary resources are identified. Türkiye also confirmed that the finalised plan would be shared with the Committee following this process.

24. The request indicates that TURMAC has conducted an analysis of its database and determined all at-risk villages in 18 provinces in borders and areas other than borders. The request also indicates that TURMAC has prioritised these regions in line with victim data in preparation of its “EORE Plan” and as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025). The request indicates that continuous trainings will take place during the extension period including EORE trainer trainings to personnel of the GCG covering the provinces of Hakkari, Tunceli, Ağrı, Ardahan, Siirt, Bingöl, Van, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, where citizens are considered to be most vulnerable. The request further indicates that EORE will also be provided simultaneously with clearance activities.
25. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information concerning the perceived overlap between the work of the GCG and the Land Forces Command (LFC) in EORE. Türkiye indicated in its response that to enhance the effectiveness of its EORE efforts, the GCG and the LFC are planning to carry out simultaneous training activities, with the GCG conducting EORE to civilian populations and military personnel residing in provinces, districts, villages within their respective areas of responsibility and the LFC delivering training sessions to civilian populations and to military personnel residing in military barracks in provinces close to the border. Türkiye further indicated in its response that this coordinated approach aims to ensure wide coverage, consistent messaging, and increased community preparedness. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to provide information regarding the implementation of context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.
26. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information on how gender and diversity considerations will be integrated into mine action during the extension period. Specifically, the Committee requested information on planned gender awareness training initiatives, the incorporation of gender and diversity into Türkiye’s national mine action strategy, and measures to ensure equal employment opportunities for women and men in survey and clearance teams, including at managerial and supervisory levels. Türkiye indicated in its response that the number of female trainers for EORE has increased from 2 to 8 in 2025 and that approximately 22 per cent of TURMAC staff consists of women in different positions. Türkiye further indicated in its response that efforts are ongoing to increase female personnel in the future.
27. The request indicates that stakeholders in Türkiye, such as UNDP and clearance and NTS contractors, employed 14 female personnel at different branches and have been encouraged to employ women in various positions, including in training positions and administrative jobs. The request indicates that efforts have also ensured that women and men are paid equally for equal work under employment contracts signed within the scope of the EBMCP. The request also indicated that Türkiye’s first civilian demining dog handlers are women who were trained and certified during the implementation of the project and that EORE sessions are delivered by women.
28. The request also indicates that EORE activities are carried out in areas where mines/unidentified EO’s risks are high, ensuring that these activities are context-specific and gender sensitive. EORE projects operate with the assumption that raising awareness of the EO threat and working directly with communities helps change unsafe behaviour and reduces the risk of death or injury.
29. The request indicates that the impact of anti-personnel mines vary according to gender, age and other aspects of diversity and, as such, Türkiye applies a gender lens as part of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to planning and implementation of EORE programmes ensuring that “no one is left behind.” The request indicates that EORE activities are targeted to children, women and

men in accordance with the main activities they carry out (e.g. mushroom picking, animal grazing, playing ball and spending time with their friends in the risky area). The request indicates that TURMAC periodically coordinates with relevant institutions (e.g., Ministry of Interior, the GCG and LFC) to carry out EORE activities in areas with high risk. The request further indicates that EORE will continue for many years following the completion of land release operations, as there may always be a risk of encountering EO.

30. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information on how it intends to mitigate against potential environmental harm during land release activities during the extension period. Türkiye responded by indicating that Türkiye has a National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) on environmental management in place and that TURMAC is currently in the process of updating the NMAS in line with the latest IMAS and plans to publish the updated NMAS in August 2025. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye providing information on its efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to report on its efforts to ensure that the NMAS on environmental management and other NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure their alignment with the latest IMAS.
31. The request indicates that in order to implement the work plan, Türkiye will require a total of 4,621,785,936 Turkish liras (TL), including 1,093,143,964 TL for the Ministry of National Defence, 3,513,168,365 TL for military demining teams, and 15,273,607 TL for EORE. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information on whether the required resources have been secured. Türkiye indicated in its response that these resources have been committed by the Government.
32. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information on how Türkiye plans to implement Phase 4 of the EBMCP should resources not be forthcoming from the EU, given that the 20 million euros required is not included in the budget presented. Türkiye responded by highlighting that since the project has not yet been internationally funded, the level of national contribution has not been determined. Türkiye further indicated in its response that, since international resources for the project have not been secured, Türkiye has not determined the level of the contribution to be provided from the national budget and that, if sufficient funds is still not secured the areas will be cleared by national military units and resources.
33. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information on the reason behind the annual increase in the cost of Türkiye's 50 military clearance teams. Türkiye indicated in its response that the estimated increase in costs is due to additional inflation paid to staff salaries each year (i.e., 10 percent annual increase).
34. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request additional information on Türkiye's resource mobilisation strategy and efforts in exploring innovative financing. Türkiye indicated in its response that efforts to seek both national and international funds continue uninterrupted, including the submission of a 20 million euros fund request to the European Union (EU) for the clearance of mined areas in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Kilis on the southern border. Türkiye indicated that the project document has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Interior for subsequent approval by the EU. Türkiye further indicated in its response that 106 million Turkish liras have been allocated from the national budget for implementation efforts in 2026.
35. The Committee wrote to Türkiye to request information on national forums and mechanisms that are or will be used to ensure national level coordination and regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance. Türkiye indicated in its response that TURMAC holds regular meetings with all stakeholder organisations at the national level and participates as a stakeholder in all projects involving mined areas. Türkiye further highlighted that all national institutions conduct mine action

strategy meetings before each strategic planning phase, optimising the expectations and needs of all stakeholders and that mine action evaluation and planning meetings are held twice a year with relevant stakeholders, and that plans are adjusted based on the decisions made at the meetings. Türkiye further indicated in its response that TURMAC contributes as a stakeholder and participates in project meeting of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Transport, and Ministry of Trade.

36. The Committee welcomes Türkiye's strong national commitment to its mine action programme and acknowledges that, despite this dedication, continued international cooperation and assistance remain essential to fully address its remaining obligations under Article 5. The Committee noted the importance of Türkiye continuing to report on its resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts. The Committee further noted the importance of Türkiye strengthening national level coordination, including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including donors, on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance, including through the establishment of a National Mine Action Platform.
37. The request contains additional information including methodologies employed, methods and standards of controlling and assuring quality, information management and the risks and assumptions in implementation of the work plan for the period of 2026-2030.
38. In recalling that through ongoing NTS and TS efforts, Türkiye will continue to acquire more information to better define its remaining contamination, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Türkiye providing by 30 April 2028 an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the remaining extension period, containing information on progress made, the result of survey efforts, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by the type of EO, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the requested extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget. The Committee further indicated the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, cost, and multi-year plans for context-specific EORE in affected communities. Furthermore, in recalling that Türkiye indicates that "in order to make subsequent decisions regarding the newly identified SHAs and to confirm the mine hazard with certainty, annual technical survey plans for SHAs have been prepared", the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Türkiye providing by 30 April 2028 its technical survey plan for the current year.
39. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request is comprehensive, complete, and clear. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Türkiye is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts, funding, and challenges posed by the meteorological and geographical conditions of the remaining mined areas.
40. The Committee further noted that the Convention would benefit from Türkiye reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Türkiye's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance) including information on the type of EO located and destroyed;

- b. impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Türkiye's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, including adjusted annual milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - c. the remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, ensuring disaggregation by SHAs, and CHAs and their relative size, including by disaggregating between the types of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
 - d. implementation of EORE efforts in affected communities, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;
 - e. efforts to ensure that NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure their alignment with the latest IMAS;
 - f. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination, including information on casualties disaggregated by gender and age;
 - g. efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention;
 - h. resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts;
 - i. efforts to strengthen national level coordination, including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including donors, on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including through the establishment of a National Mine Action Platform.
41. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Türkiye reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding Türkiye's implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and at Review Conferences. The Committee further noted the importance of Türkiye providing updated information on an annual basis within its Article 7 transparency report employing the Guide to Reporting adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.