

ICBL Comments on Türkiye's Article 5 Extension Request
Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025

Thank you, Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines thanks Türkiye for its extension request and has the following remarks to share.

While we are happy to note the drop in casualties in recent years, mine contamination in Türkiye continues to cause civilian harm and restricts land use, limiting socio-economic development - an impact not sufficiently acknowledged in the request.

Türkiye demonstrates commitment to mine clearance, but its prioritization appears to be driven more by border security objectives than humanitarian or development needs. Land needed for agriculture and livelihoods does not seem to be prioritized sufficiently. It is further concerning that casualties continue to occur in provinces where no land release activities are planned. Therefore, more information on how casualty data informs prioritization would be useful.

Although Türkiye has increased its clearance capacity, the projected clearance rate for 2026–2030 is lower than during the current extension period, with no clear explanation provided.

The work plan is detailed and costed, particularly for military operations, but does not fully explain why the demining budget increases each year or what the implications would be if government support falters.

Funding for the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project is not yet secured, even though it accounts for more than half the land Türkiye plans to release.

The risk education plan is welcome and includes a costed outline. It lacks however clarity in parts and would benefit from better coordination between implementing actors. As with clearance, it is unclear why the risk education budget increases annually or what fallback plans exist should government funding not materialize.

Overall, Türkiye's request is solid and ambitious but it would benefit from more transparency on how priorities are set, greater alignment with humanitarian needs, and clearer explanation of its financial assumptions and contingencies.

Thank you.