

**Mine Action Review comments on Türkiye's Article 5 Extension Request  
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

In the interests of time we will deliver a few short observations and will submit full comments in writing.

We thank Türkiye for presentation of its ambitious five-year extension request, which we hope will see it complete fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

Mine Action Review has the following comments:

- Firstly, we welcome that Türkiye plans to conduct both technical survey (TS) and non-technical survey (NTS), in line with best practices for efficient land release. However, the planned timeline for these surveys extends up to the end of 2030, raising questions about how Türkiye intends to meet its obligations by the requested deadline of 31 December 2030—particularly if surveys identify anti-personnel mined areas requiring clearance.
- Secondly, we note from Türkiye's extension request that certain demining projects in Mardin province, along Türkiye's southern border, could not be carried out due to security risks posed by direct and indirect fire from terrorist organizations originating from the Syrian side of the border. Has the security situation in this area changed, and does Türkiye now expect to be able to proceed with clearance operations in Mardin province?
- Lastly, does any of Türkiye's anti-personnel mine contamination comprise anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature? If so, it would be valuable for Türkiye to provide information on the estimated extent and specific locations of such contamination.

**Additional points, provided in the written submission of the statement:**

- For the sake of clarity and accuracy, the extension period should be consistently stated throughout the request as 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030, rather than 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2030.
- The request suggests that the €20 million required to implement Phase 4 of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) is not covered by national resources. It would be helpful for Türkiye to confirm this and to clarify how it intends to address these mined areas if funding from the European Union cannot be secured.
- Does any of Türkiye's anti-personnel mine contamination comprise mines of an improvised nature? If so, it would be valuable for Türkiye to provide information on the estimated extent and specific locations of such contamination.
- Mine Action Review welcomes the information provided on the positive environmental impact of mine clearance. However, we also encourage Türkiye to provide information on how it intends to mitigate against potential environmental harm during the survey and clearance activities planned for the proposed extension period. Does Türkiye have a NMAS on environmental management, and does Türkiye plan to update it in line with revised IMAS 7:13?

- While the extension request references the employment, training, and equal pay of women during Phase 3 of the EBMCP, it lacks detail on how Türkiye/TURMAC intends to mainstream gender and diversity considerations across all areas of mine action during the proposed extension period. For instance, gender and diversity were not addressed in Türkiye's 2021–2025 strategy. Does Türkiye plan to incorporate these considerations in its next strategy? Regarding the planned NTS, will the NTS and community liaison teams be inclusive and gender-balanced to ensure effective access and participation by all community members, including women and children?
- Türkiye's obligations under the APMBC require it to implement and report on mine clearance in territory it controls in northern Cyprus and in any areas currently under its control in northern Syria. This is because Article 5 of the Convention obligates every State Party to survey and clear all areas under its jurisdiction "or control". Mine Action Review therefore encourages Türkiye to include information on these mined areas in its extension request.

The request outlines a five-year extension period during which Türkiye aims to fulfil its Article 5 obligations. While the request is ambitious, it appears achievable, given Türkiye's now comprehensive understanding of contamination and the detailed work plan included in the request. However, strong political commitment will be essential to meet the requested deadline, particularly regarding mined areas along the Syrian border, which account for 44% of all contamination and where clearance progress has been extremely limited in recent years.

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