



**STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE  
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION  
(Universalization)**

**Geneva, 17-20 June 2025**

***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

Thank you, Madam President,

Türkiye greatly appreciates the steadfast leadership of the Japanese Presidency in advancing the universalization of the Ottawa Convention.

We warmly congratulate the Marshall Islands for having become the 165th State Party to the Convention and encourage all remaining States to accede at their earliest convenience.

Madam President,

Coupled with growing instability caused by escalating geopolitical tensions, we have witnessed a downward trend in disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in recent years, exemplified by the withdrawals from or suspensions of some agreements and treaties.

Türkiye believes that such agreements and treaties, which were agreed upon through lengthy and painstaking diplomatic negotiations, should be fully implemented and strengthened, especially during a period of heightened volatility.

We consider the Ottawa Convention as one of the major disarmament instruments with a strong humanitarian perspective, encompassing victim assistance, protection, and development. Mine action not only underpins international security and humanitarian relief, but also promotes socio-economic recovery, the safe return of displaced persons, and effective border management.

With this understanding, Türkiye takes its commitments to the Convention seriously and despite challenges and impeding circumstances, is determined to fulfil its obligations.

Türkiye fulfilled its Article 4 obligation in 2011 by completing the destruction of its nearly 3 million anti-personnel mines stockpile. This corresponds to 6 percent of all anti-personnel mines destroyed under the Convention globally.

We call on all States to uphold the Convention's norms by refraining from the production, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines.

Madam President,

We share the security concerns of countries confronting the scourge of mines, such as Afghanistan, where mine contamination has long constituted a grave threat.

We applaud Azerbaijan's commitments and efforts relating to the purposes of this very Convention, despite the fact that it is currently not a State Party.

We call upon all States, international organizations and NGOs working in the field of mine clearance to level up their efforts to respond to the challenges and needs regarding Azerbaijan's mine action.

We also urged States to seize the new window of opportunity and provide as much assistance as possible to the new Syrian government, including financial and technical support, as well as capacity-building support for demining and risk education programs, to enable the safe return and rebuilding of affected communities.

We strongly believe that establishing a voluntary trust fund to support affected States Parties for their commitments under Article 5 of the Convention would also contribute to the Convention's universalization.

Thank you.