

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TÜRKİYE

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom, Algeria, Norway)

Intersessional Meetings 17 – 20 June 2025

I. Progress in implementation (Action 8, 20, 22)

1. Türkiye reported that in 2024, it addressed 3 mined areas measuring 5,743,843 square metres in 4 locations, including 5,027,433 square metres cancelled, 35,546 square metres reduced, and 680,864 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 179 anti-personnel mines, 5 anti-tank mines and 1 item of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Türkiye also reported that a total of 276,998 square metres was identified as mined area through non-technical survey.
3. Türkiye further reported that 50 military demining teams addressed 11 mined areas measuring 716,410 square metres in Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, Tunceli, and Iğdir Provinces, destroying 184 anti-personnel mines.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Türkiye on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2024 updated workplan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Türkiye's 2024 updated workplan. The Committee encourages Türkiye to continue to report information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee welcomed Türkiye employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

II. Remaining challenge (Action 17, 20, 22)

5. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge. Türkiye reported a remaining challenge of 3,656 mined areas measuring 219,903,460 square metres, including 2,000 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 93,189,617 square metres estimated to contain 475,587 anti-personnel mines and 129,307 anti-tank mines, and 1,656 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 126,713,843 square metres estimated to contain 93,856 anti-personnel mines, and 32,187 anti-tank mines.
6. The Committee welcomed Türkiye providing updated information and clarity concerning the remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs in line with Action 22.

¹ Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided, a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

7. Action 17 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify suspected and confirmed hazardous areas to the extent possible and establish as soon as possible, accurate baselines of contamination using data and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS. The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Türkiye on these efforts.
8. Türkiye reported on its efforts to identify accurate baselines of contamination in an inclusive manner including carrying out training activities in public meeting places, employment of male and female teams to provide mine risk education, and that this gender-balanced composition allows for risk education messages to be communicated to women in local places by female trainer staff.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-3, 18-21)

9. The Committee recalled that Türkiye's 2023 updated workplan contained information on its efforts to review and develop an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy, including land release, Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP), Military demining units, risk education, standards and quality management, as well as information management and coordination.
10. Türkiye reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plan in place for the period (2025), including 50 military demining teams to address 1,200,000 square metres of mined area in Hatay, Kilis, Van, Şanlıurfa, Hakkari, Şırnak, Tunceli, and Iğdir Provinces, and TURMAC survey branch to carry out non-technical survey of an estimated 5,000,000 square metres in 2025. Türkiye also reported plans to continue Phase-4 of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project series with a contracting modality between 2026-2028 in Van province on eastern border of Türkiye via European Union Funds or any international donor support. project aims to clear an area of approximately 85 mine fields measuring 4,000,000 square metres in Van province which is the province with the longest border with Iran, measuring 295 kilometres.
11. Türkiye reported on its efforts to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria with consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, and the environment, including, five prioritisation Levels; i) Level 1: Lands with minefields along the southern and eastern borders of Türkiye, which prevents the establishment/construction of the new technological border surveillance system (watchtower, patrol road etc.), ii) Level 2: Interior lands with minefields that are posing a danger to citizens, iii) Level 3: Lands within the scope of mined areas to be cleared in line with projects carried out by other Ministries for public benefit purposes (construction of irrigation channels, construction of customs gates, opening the region to tourism, etc.), iv) Level 4: Lands in dispute along the borders and interior parts of Türkiye which belong to private owners, and v) Level 5: Lands within the scope of mined areas to be cleared for the purpose of providing socio-economic contribution (agriculture, livestock, mining, etc.).
12. Türkiye reported on its efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination, by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, as appropriate, including that the EBMCP is aligned with National Developments Plan; 'Democratic Good Governance: Based on Justice' of the 12th National Development Plan (NDP), and that the Turkish Mine Action Centre works in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, General Command of Gendarmerie, and Turkish Land Forces Command, as well

as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Services, and Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

13. Türkiye reported on its efforts to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, including, 32 teams affiliated with Turkish Land Forces Command, 18 teams affiliated with General Command of Gendarmerie, utilising 10 mechanical demining machines and 17 mine detection dogs and mine risk education teams are operational under TURMAC.

IV. Efficient implementation, innovative approaches, methods, and technological means (Action 4, 9, 25)

14. Türkiye reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with IMAS to ensure efficient, effective, and safe operations, including, updates continuing according to the latest published IMAS 04.10, IMAS 07.31, IMAS 09.40, IMAS 09.41 in 2024.

15. Türkiye reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation, including the installation of IMSMA in 2017 with the support of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and that current data regarding daily mine activities collected through daily, weekly and monthly reports and transferred to the IMSMA system, with the data uploaded to the IMSMA system is transferred to Excel tables by using the staging system and presented to decision-makers for planning and prioritisation.

16. Türkiye reported on efforts to improve the effectiveness of survey and clearance, including the inclusion of mine action as an indispensable part of the modern integrated border management (IBM) of Türkiye. Türkiye also reported the deployment of 10 mechanical demining machines, and 17 mine detection dogs. Türkiye further reported that TURMAC continuously monitors the latest developments in remote sensing, robotics, and data analytics to enhance the survey, clearance and quality assurance processes. Türkiye reported that TURMAC is evaluating the use of updated IMSMA database to ensure it is in line with the Ministry of National Defence's procedures, and that a decision will be made at a later date. The Committee welcomes the update from Türkiye and would welcome further information on the timeline and process for the evaluation.

v. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them (Action 23)

17. In considering Türkiye's request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) requested Türkiye to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee welcomed the information provided in follow-up to the decision of the 19MSP.

18. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on the following decisions of the 19MSP:

- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities; and
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

19. The Committee recalled that in considering Türkiye's 2021 extension request, the 19MSP requested Türkiye to submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan. The Committee observed that Türkiye had acted on the decisions of the 19MSP by submitting an updated work plan in 2023.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (Action 18,23, 26-29)

20. Türkiye reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education in an inclusive manner, including plans to provide risk education Train the Trainer to Provincial Gendarmerie Commands in 2025, covering the provinces of Batman, Diyarbakır, Eskişehir, Hakkari, Hatay, Iğdır, Kars, Kilis, Kocaeli, Mardin, Şanlıurfa, and Şırnak. Türkiye also reported plans to provide Train the Trainer to Officers/NCOs of the newly established Land Forces Command Military Demining Units in order to provide training to citizens simultaneously with the demining units clearance activities. Türkiye further reported plans of the Gendarmerie General Command to conduct risk education in the provinces of Diyarbakır, Batman, Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Bitlis, Iğdır and Kars.

21. Türkiye reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, according to the National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) 12.10 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, and that systematic collection and analysis of data helps to identify at-risk populations, (women, men, and children) and their risk behaviours, which informs the tailoring and prioritisation of risk education activities.

22. Türkiye reported on the methodologies used, including, risk education sessions and educational posters distributed to the population living close to contaminated areas, information exchange with at-risk communities, communication of safety messages to target groups, and support for community risk management and participation in mine action. Türkiye further reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including updated information on results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities. The Committee would welcome Türkiye providing updated information on the disaggregation of gender of children receiving risk education during the reporting period.

23. Türkiye reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, including periodic coordination of TURMAC with relevant Government institutions, the Ministry of Interior, the General Command of Gendarmerie and Turkish Land Forces Command, to take safety and security measures in areas with high mine risk. The Committee would welcome updated information on Türkiye's efforts to integrate risk education into humanitarian response and protection plans.

24. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on the challenges encountered in risk education.

25. Türkiye reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risk, an understanding of the affected

population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements, including collection of mine victim data from authorities such as the Ministry of Interior, General Command of Gendarmerie, with importance given to the 'need assessment process', which is the systematic collection and analyses of data in question that helps to identify more precisely the populations of women, men, children at risk and their risk behaviours.

26. Türkiye reported on its efforts to establish national capacities to deliver mine risk education, including trainers' training to 287 personnel from Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Van and Bitlis, of the General Command of Gendarmerie personnel. These staff provided trainings to 2,725 who live close to minefields in 6 provinces, using age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, content, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens.

VII. Best Practices in implementation (Action 5, 6, 18)

27. Türkiye reported on its efforts to ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of women, girls, boys and men in mine-affected communities including train the trainer sessions that are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate.
28. Türkiye reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey, clearance, and mine risk education as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner, including carrying out training activities in public meeting places, employment of Male/female teams to provide mine risk education, and that this gender-balanced composition allows for risk education messages to be communicated to women in local places by female trainer staff.
29. Action 6 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure that climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of Convention implementation to appropriately address climate and environmental risks. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on its efforts in this regard.

VIII. International Cooperation and Assistance (Action 40-42, 45)

30. Türkiye reported on its efforts to do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet their Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible funding sources including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding such as front-loading models, including contributions from the Ministry of National Defence of more than 397,000,000 TL from the national budget for humanitarian mine action efforts in 2024, covering capacity development of military demining units and humanitarian mine actions. Türkiye also reported that for 2025, an estimated 500,000,000 TL has been allocated for humanitarian mine action efforts in the national budget.
31. Türkiye reported on its efforts to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports.
32. Türkiye reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including TURMAC coordinates and cooperates with other ministries, institutions and organizations, especially the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the prioritization, planning and implementation stages of demining activities.

33. Türkiye reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including the EBMCP implemented by UNDP and funded jointly by the EU and Turkish Government, with TURMAC capacity development and continuity efforts are implemented in partnership with the UNDP and GICHD as well as other national partners during Phase-I, Phase-II, and Phase-III of the project. Türkiye also reported several bilateral initiatives, including sending 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities. Türkiye reported on its efforts to engage regionally, including trainings delivered to the Azerbaijan and Libyan armed forces. Türkiye further reported international engagement with representatives of the newly established Nigerian Mine Action Centre visiting TURMAC between 2-8 November 2024.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

34. Türkiye reported on its efforts to report on challenges and requirements for assistance, including earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 and 7.6 that occurred in Türkiye on February 6, 2023, resulting in a significant amount of European Union funds transferred to projects to mitigate the effects of the earthquake, and that currently, international fund support for Türkiye's humanitarian demining activities has ceased.
35. Türkiye also reported that as of end of 2024, Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-4 has yet to be financed by any donor, with the estimated cost of the proposed project is €20 million. If an international donor is found to finance the project, a national budget contribution will be requested in return for the budget provided for TURMAC within the framework of National Budget possibilities.
36. Türkiye further reported that TURMAC prepared a project document for capacity development of military demining units in order to fulfil its commitments under the Ottawa Convention in 2023. The project is planned to accelerate humanitarian demining activities by increasing the capacity of military demining units. However, in 2024, TURMAC was officially informed by letter that its project proposal was not approved by the European Union.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Türkiye							
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#1	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors.						
#2	Percentage of affected States Parties reporting having sustainable national capacities in place able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance and undertake post completion activities, including management of residual risk.						
#3	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.						
#4	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
#5	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities.						
#6	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.						The Committee would welcome further information on Türkiye's efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.
#8	Percentage of States Parties that submit Article 7 reports by 30 April of each year.						
	Percentage of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.						
#9	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2030	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.						The Committee would welcome further information on Türkiye's efforts having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.						
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance						
#19	Number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.						
	Number of affected States Parties that report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.						
#20	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.						
	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.						
#21	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national capacity in place to implement the Convention and address any previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas discovered following completion.						
	Number of States Parties that following completion, report the discovery of previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas.						
#22	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.						
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for survey and clearance.						

	Percentage of extension requests submitted that ensure consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate, and the environment.						
#24	Number of affected States Parties that declare completion of their Article 5 obligations.						
	Percentage of these States Parties that submit voluntary Declarations of Completion.						
#25	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;						
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.						
#26	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities.						The Committee would welcome further information on Türkiye's efforts to report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.						
#27	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.						
#28	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.						
#29	Percentage of affected States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						The Committee would welcome further information on Türkiye's efforts to report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee

#40	Percentage of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance;					
	Percentage of States Parties that report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.					
#41	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.					
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.					
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.					
#42	Percentage of affected States Parties that report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.					
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.					
#45	Number of States Parties that report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.					
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.					

