



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION 27 November 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr President/Madam Coordinator,

Let me also thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for their observations and for the informative report.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is determined to fulfil its Article V commitments. In this regard, demining activities continue in the eastern and southern borders of Turkey. In accordance with the transparency rule and to provide first hand information on the activities, Turkey hosted the delegation consisting of the President of the 4th RevCon, Chair of the Committee on Article V Implementation and the ISU Director to Turkey on 2-4 July 2019.

Four additional military demining companies (14 Demining Teams) have been established in June 2018. They have been accredited and total number of military demining teams have reached 30.

44 National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been issued in February 2019.

National Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 was drafted and it is expected to be approved and published in the beginning of 2020. The three-year plan covers national capacity development, survey and clearance of mined areas and areas containing unexploded ordnance within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provision of mine risk education and assistance to mine victims.

Mine Risk Education is being carried out for the people who live close to the contaminated areas.

TURMAC organized various trainings. Significant progress has been achieved in capacity development.

The IMSMA system was established and has been fully operational. Significant number of personnel both from TURMAC and military demining troops have been trained. In addition to military demining troops, IMSMA has been used also in eastern border mine clearance project (EBMCP) Phase-2.

Military demining troops have been accredited for their manual demining capacity. Additionally, the procurement of equipment including demining machines for the new military companies are underway and expected to be finalized by 2021.

The territories within the country which have been contaminated by unexploded explosives are planned to be cleaned in accordance with a prioritized schedule.

In the context of the Eastern Border De-mining Project and with the fund which amounts to 18.5 million Euro that will be provided in the frame of IPA-II (2016) EU Financial Assistance, along the eastern borders of the country, 106 mine fields are to be cleared. Besides, with 2.2 million Euro contribution of the Turkish Government, non-technical survey activity in 3700 mine fields are to be executed.

Additionally, clearance of 20 million square meters by Military Demining Units is planned, and cancellation of %40 of mined area (almost 60 million square meters) within all contaminated areas by non-technical survey is expected.

In 2019, in accordance with the IMAS standards 44 National Mine Action Standards have been issued. Among these standards, principles related to land release took place. These standards have been implemented in order to conduct effective de-mining activities.

In the context of Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project, to execute more effective mine clearance “Operational Demining Process” was defined. In this process, instead of searching the whole mine field surrounded by fence; first, targeted technical survey is conducted for dedicating mine belts; then a phased

mine clearance consisting of searching these belts; verification by other assets and extended search for missing mines has been executed.

In order to increase the efficiency of Military Demining Teams, mission orders have been prepared in line with the application of the methods that are available in the land release standards.

In demining activities, our challenges are mainly; funding, difficult terrain, security situation in the territory and limited time frame for demining in the year due to the climatic conditions.

I thank you Mr President.