



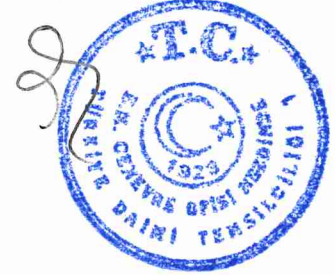
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

Z-2024/62441669/38038976 -

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and with reference to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction has the honour to enclose herewith the National Report of the Republic of Türkiye, prepared in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 30 April 2024



Encl: As stated

APLC Secretariat  
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)  
Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8-14  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

04/24

**COVER PAGE OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT**

**NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023**

<p><b>Form A: National implementation measures</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>changed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>unchanged</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<p><b>Form F: Technical characteristic</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>changed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>unchanged</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>non applicable</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable		
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<p><b>Form E: Mine risk education and reduction</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>changed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>unchanged</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>non applicable</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p><b>Form J: Other Relevant Matters</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>changed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>unchanged</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>non applicable</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**Reporting Formats for Article 7**

STATE [PARTY]:

**REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE (TR)**

POINT OF CONTACT:

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**+90 312 292 1794, Fax:+90 312 287 5660, usgy-1@mfa.gov.tr**

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(Name, organization, telephone, fax, email)

(ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION)

**Form C      APMs retained or transferred**

Article 7.1    “Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3”

State [Party]: Republic of Türkiye reporting for time period from 01 JAN 2023 to 31 DEC 2023

1. In 2023, a total of 9 anti-personnel mines were used for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention.
2. As of the end of 2023, Türkiye retained a total of 5.719 anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes such as certification/accreditation of mechanical demining machines, mine clearance equipment and mine detection dogs, and training of newly appointed military demining units.

**Form D Location of mined areas**

Article 7.1 “Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of AP mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced.”

1. Areas that contain or are suspected to contain mines and number of mines

Location	Date of emplacement	Number of areas known to contain A/P mines	Area known to contain A/P mines (m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of mine in areas known to contain A/P mines		Number of areas suspected to contain A/P mines	Area suspected to contain A/P mines (m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of mine in areas suspected to contain A/P mines		Total area remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations
				A/P	A/T			A/P	A/T	
Syrian Border	1955-1996	1.077	57.321.542	346.887	125.336	355	44.114.210	56.466	36.143	101.439.752
Iraqi Border	1955-1996	422	20.232.325	63.682	20	401	27.179.189	12.448	-	47.411.514
Iranian Border	1955-1996	223	7.703.334	32.048	-	340	27.080.552	12.073	-	34.783.886
Other than Borders	1955-1996	258	7.552.688	25.816	-	583	34.182.465	20.202	-	41.735.153
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>1.980</b>	<b>92.809.889</b>	<b>468.433</b>	<b>125.356</b>	<b>1.679</b>	<b>132.560.416</b>	<b>101.189</b>	<b>36.143</b>	<b>225.370.305*</b>

\* As a result of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Project, which was part of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III and demining operations carried out in 2023, Türkiye has a total of 225.370.305 m<sup>2</sup> area to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

2. Progress made during the reporting period 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

Location	Number of areas known or suspected to contain APMs at the beginning of the reporting period	Total area known or suspected to contain APMs at the beginning of the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )	Amount of area cleared during the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )	Amount of area reduced during the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )	Amount of area cancelled during the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )	A/P mine destroyed	A/T mines destroyed	UXO destroyed	Total area addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations during the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Areas remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations at the end of the reporting period	Added and removed field square meters (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total area remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations at the end of the reporting period (m <sup>2</sup> )
Syrian Border	1.517	114.597.746	165.341	838	4.013.100	14	12	1	4.179.274	1.432	(-8.978.720)	101.439.752
Iraqi Border	874	2.805.155	29.555	-	-	5	-	4	29.555	823	44.635.914	47.411.514
Iranian Border	392	13.447.055	662.747	351.737	674.569	33.117	-	5	1.689.053	563	23.025.884	34.783.886
Other than Borders	918	2.540.802	58.040	512	3.588	307	-	-	62.140	841	39.256.491	41.735.153
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.701</b>	<b>133.390.758</b>	<b>915.683</b>	<b>353.082</b>	<b>4.691.257</b>	<b>33.443</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.960.022</b>	<b>3.659</b>	<b>97.939.569*</b>	<b>225.370.305**</b>

\* The area information of the fields added or removed as a result of the evaluation of data obtained through activities such as NTS operations conducted by the TURMAC.

\*\* As a result of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Project, which was part of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III and demining operations carried out in 2023, Türkiye has a total of 225.370.305 m<sup>2</sup> area to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **Demining Operations**

3. Since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) in 2015, demining operations and other mine action activities have intensified, clearance output has increased significantly and commendable progress has been made in mine clearance. Since the first extension request, Türkiye has exerted great effort to fulfil its commitment under Article 5 of the Convention, as a result of which approximately **45 million square meters** have been addressed, with almost **226.443** anti-personnel mines identified and destroyed.

4. Within the scope of Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III, a demining contract was signed on 23 March 2021. Through this project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and carried out by commercial contractors, a total area of **3.622.371 m<sup>2</sup>** has been addressed and **49.336** mines have been destroyed in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces. As a result of the project, mine clearance of Ardahan and Kars provinces has been completed. In addition, demining on the Armenian border in Iğdır province has been completed.

5. TURMAC has prepared a project document for EBMCP Phase-IV to be financed by the European Union (or other donors) to carry out demining in the province of Van on the Iranian border. The fourth phase of the project aims to clear an area of approximately 4 million m<sup>2</sup> in Van province between 2025 and 2027. In the margins of the 21st Meetings of State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, held in Geneva between 20-24 November 2023, TURMAC organized an individualized approach event (on 22 November 2023) to request support for its future mine clearance activities. As of end of 2023 EBMCP Phase-IV is yet to be financed by any donor.

6. TURMAC has prepared a project document for capacity development of military demining units in order to fulfill its commitments under the Ottawa Convention. The project is planned to accelerate humanitarian demining activities by increasing the capacity of military demining units. Establishing well-equipped new military demining units and training new mine detection dogs will have a significant impact on accelerating Türkiye's mine clearing process and reducing mined areas.

7. 18 military demining teams of General Command of Gendarmerie addressed **289.056 m<sup>2</sup>** of land (**20.072** mines found/destroyed in 13 areas) in Siirt and Van provinces of Türkiye in 2023. **(in line with the OAP Action 22)**

8. 28 military demining teams of Turkish Land Forces Command addressed **331.214 m<sup>2</sup>** of land (**432** mines found/destroyed in 18 areas) in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak and Van provinces of Türkiye in 2023. **(in line with the OAP Action 22)**

9. 4 military demining teams of Turkish Land Forces Command carried out demining operations in Azerbaijan in 2023 to support the mine clearance activities of Azerbaijan. (Cleaning information is shared under Form-I, “Cooperation and Assistance”).

### **Survey Operations**

10. As a result of the NTS operations carried out by TURMAC Survey Branch, EBMCP Phase-III NTS and demining teams, more than **4.691.257 m<sup>2</sup>** of land was cancelled in 2023. **(in line with the OAP Action 18 and 22)**

11. As part of EBMCP Phase-III, the NTS Project has been completed by the end of 2023. Non-technical survey activities of 3.451 minefields have been completed by commercial contractors. Field visits, reporting, quality management and assessment activities of the remaining 250 areas in the province of Mardin will be carried out by TURMAC Survey Teams until the end of 2025.

12. During the field visits carried out within the scope of the NTS Project, especially in Iraqi border, areas not used by residents due to suspicion of mine contamination were identified. Information on whether these areas are contaminated is not available in TURMAC database. For this reason, these areas were determined as suspected hazardous areas by NTS teams. New confirmed hazardous areas, particularly on the Iraqi border, were added to the TURMAC database following confirmation of new information and documents obtained, on-site evidence accessed and consultations held with residents in field visits conducted within the NTS Project.

### **Prioritization**

13. TURMAC has prioritized its mine clearance activities based on characteristics of the contaminated land. Türkiye has the capacity to address all prioritization levels simultaneously;

a. **Prioritization Level 1** : Lands with minefields along the southern and eastern borders of the Türkiye, which prevents the establishment/construction of the new technological border surveillance system (watchtower, patrol road etc.).

b. **Prioritization Level 2** : Interior lands with minefields that are posing a danger to residents.

c. **Prioritization Level 3** : Lands that are requested by governmental organizations to be cleared.

d. **Prioritization Level 4** : Lands in dispute along the borders and interior parts of Türkiye which belong to private owners.



14. 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.

### **Resources for Implementation**

15. Ministry of National Defence allocated more than 4.300.000 TL from the national budget for capacity development of military demining units in 2023. With the budget allocated in 2023, the materials needed for military demining units were procured. For 2024, approximately 500.000.000 TL has been allocated for humanitarian mine action efforts in the national budget. ( In line with the Convention`s additional request for information on “Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts”.) **(in line with the OAP Action 42)**

16. In addition to the humanitarian aspect, mine action is regarded as an indispensable part of the modern integrated border management (IBM) of Türkiye. Türkiye aims to clear landmines on its eastern and southern borders to provide a more secure and technologically advanced humanitarian border management system. As a result, mine action has been included in the strategic planning of other governmental, nongovernmental institutions and partners in Türkiye in terms of IBM. **(in line with the OAP Action 1)**

### **Legal Arrangements Regarding the Turkish National Mine Action Center**

17. According to the latest published by International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), NMAS 07.50 Management of Human Remains in Mine Action and NMAS 13.10 Victim Assistance in Mine Action were published in 2023. National Mine Action Standards updating process continues on a regular basis. **(in line with the OAP Action 5)**

### **National Capacity**

18. As a part of TURMAC’s capacity development, 15 personnel from TURMAC attended the **Mechanical Mine Clearing Machine Certification Training**, 12 personnel attended the **Introduction to Humanitarian Mine Action Activities Training**, 2 personnel attended the **Humanitarian Demining Training**, 1 personnel attended the **Differential Global Positioning System (D-GPS) Training** and 20 personnel attended the **Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training** in 2023. Additionally, **Quality Management and Accreditation in Mine Action Training** was provided to 66 personnel from military demining units, **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Training** was provided to 64 personnel from military demining units, **Information Management System of Mine Action (IMSMA) User Training** was provided to 26 personnel from

military demining units, **Mine Detection Dogs Accreditation Training** was provided to 10 personnel from military demining units, and **Non-Technical Survey Training** was provided to 16 personnel from military demining units in 2023. The following trainings are planned for 2024:

- a. Basic Training on Humanitarian Mine Operations,
- b. Non-Technical Survey Training,
- c. Technical Survey Training,
- d. Information Management System of Mine Action (IMSMA) Administrator and User Training,
- e. Quality Management and Accreditation in Mine Action Training,
- f. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Training.

19. IMSMA was installed in 2017 with the support of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Since then current data regarding mine activities conducted in Türkiye have been transferred to the IMSMA database. Activities conducted in the field are collected through daily, weekly and monthly reports and transferred to the IMSMA system. 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 prioritization. **(in line with the OAP Action 9)**

20. As a result of staying updated on technological advancements in the field of demining in order to continuously monitor and stay informed about the latest developments in remote sensing technologies, robotics, data analytics, and other relevant areas that can enhance surveying, clearance and quality assurance processes in mine action, TURMAC has started to communicate with GICHD about using IMSMA Core to ensure adherence of information management activities of TURMAC to international standards. After getting the necessary data about IMSMA Core and making an evaluation whether it is in line with the Ministry of National Defence's procedures, the ultimate decision will be made. **(in line with the OAP Action 9)**

21. As stated in last year's report, the number of Turkish Land Forces Command demining teams increased by **8** in 2023. Currently, **a total of 50** military demining teams (32 teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and 18 teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) are operational. **(in line with the OAP Action 27)**

22. Onsite assessment of 6 MEMATT-II mechanical demining machines (which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC in 2022 according to CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines international standards) belonging to the Turkish Land Forces Command and 2 mechanical demining machines belonging to the General Command of

Gendarmerie was carried out by TURMAC in 2023. Currently a total of **8 mechanical demining machines** and **10 mine detection dogs** are operational. Additionally, it is planned that 6 more mine detection dogs will be accredited and operational in 2024. **(in line with the OAP Action 27)**

23. In December 2023, a coordination meeting was held on mine detection dog training principles and requirements according to IMAS 07.31, and Mine Detection Dogs Accreditation Training was provided to military demining units. **108 boxes** were prepared for the mine detection dog accreditation and testing area in Iğdır province in 2023. Preparations for **136 boxes** (104 for the Military Veterinary School and Training Center Command in Bursa and 32 for military demining units in Erzincan) continue for the mine detection dog testing and accreditation area. **(in line with the OAP Action 27)**

#### **Contributions of the Turkish Military**

24. Military C-IED/Mine teams contributed to the safety of civilians by finding/neutralizing mines and munitions laid in Libya. **(in line with the OAP Action 21)**

**Form E: Mine risk education and reduction**

Article 7.1 “Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

- i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5.”

*Remark:* In accordance with Article 5, para.2: “Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects”.

State [Party]: Republic of Türkiye reporting for the time period from 01 JAN 2023 to 31 DEC 2023

1. In coordination with local authorities and units responsible for the relevant area, physical warnings around the contaminated areas are renewed annually and safety instructions are reminded to the residents.

2. **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)**

- a. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) teams conducted EORE sessions on the danger of mines and improvised explosive devices; awareness materials and educational posters were distributed to the population living close to contaminated areas.

- b. According to the “National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan” (NEOREP), which was prepared as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and targeted most affected areas (**in line with the OAP Action 28, 29, 30 and 31**)

- i. TURMAC provided trainers' training to 64 personnel from demining units of Turkish Land Forces Command assigned to Erzincan and Hatay provinces in 2023. Following the training, these personnel were subjected to a proficiency exam; certificates were given to successful ones.
  - ii. In 2023, General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE sessions to 2120 residents (1676 men, 121 women and 323 children) who live close to minefields in Batman, Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Tunceli and Van provinces. Within the scope of NEOREP, EORE promotional items (notepad, pen, keychain, pencil box, mask, t-shirt and cloth bag) were provided to the citizens.
  - iii. Trainers' training sessions are planned for nine more provinces (Ağrı, Ardahan, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iğdır, Kars, Kilis and Şanlıurfa) in 2024.
  - iv. Within the scope of EBMCP Phase-III, NTS teams carried out EORE sessions in Şırnak province in 2023. A total of 85 residents (43 women and 42 men) participated in these trainings (These trainings are age-appropriate, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate).
- c. EORE activities listed above were conducted according to the NMAS-12.10 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.
  - d. According to our statistics on EORE, casualty and loss rates at contaminated areas are minimal. These intensive EORE trainings are crucial for addressing dangers of mine/explosive ordnance and promoting safety in affected communities. Through the training, humanitarian demining activities are stepped up and residents cooperate safely with the demining teams.

**Form H: Victim Assistance**

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State [Party]: Republic of Türkiye reporting for time period from 01 JAN 2023 to 31 DEC 2023

1. Mine Victim Data: **(in line with the OAP Action 35)**

a. In Türkiye, 11 mine victims were identified in 2023. 7 were military personnel and 4 were civilians (1 boy and 3 men). 2 out of 11 victims (one soldier and one civilian) lost their lives. Except for 1 humanitarian demining accident, 10 of these accidents consist of improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) laid by the terrorist organization.

b. TURMAC obtains data on mine victims (identity, age, sex and occupation etc.) from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Services, The General Staff, General Command of Gendarmerie and Governorship of our respective Provincial Health Directorates.

c. TURMAC effectively carries out coordination with the Ministry of Interior through the General Command of Gendarmerie to obtain information on mine and munition accidents in areas under their responsibility. In this context, information received from the General Command of Gendarmerie is stated in the reports of TURMAC.

d. Information on mine and munition accidents and data on mine victims caused by mine and munition accidents are listed in the table below.

Years	Accidents	Military Personnel		Civilian								TOTAL
		Men		Men		Women		Girls		Boys		
		Wounded	Dead	Wounded	Dead	Wounded	Dead	Wounded	Dead	Wounded	Dead	
<b>Before 2014</b>	<b>2.252</b>	2351	9	787	276	138	26	0	0	11	1	<b>3.599</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>13</b>	18	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>27</b>	65	1	25	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	<b>94</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>48</b>	32	4	48	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	<b>88</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>18</b>	2	1	15	7	7	0	0	0	3	0	<b>35</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>30</b>	36	11	17	1	1	0	0	0	5	1	<b>72</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>49</b>	36	10	42	4	0	1	0	1	4	1	<b>99</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>30</b>	39	2	14	8	1	0	0	0	4	0	<b>68</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>16</b>	21	1	4	1	3	0	2	0	4	2	<b>38</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>25</b>	7	2	16	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	<b>32</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>10</b>	6	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>11</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.518</b>	<b>2.613</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.156</b>

\* In case of contradiction with the data in the previous reports declared, the above-mentioned expressions will be valid.

2. TURMAC monitors social, medical, psychological and economic assistance provided to mine victims. The concept of ‘mine victim’ used within the scope of the Ottawa Convention is not used within the relevant ministries (Ministry of Family and Social Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, etc.) and is considered as ‘disabled individual’. For this reason, it should be born in mind that when the services provided by these ministries to our disabled citizens are mentioned in the text, mine victim citizens are implied.

3. Social Inclusion: **(in line with the OAP Action 3, 37, 38 and 39)**

a. In cooperation with the Directorate General of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Directorate General of Services for the Elderly and Disabled, and the Ministry of National Education, studies are carried out to facilitate the lives of victim students with disabilities. In this context, students with disabilities who need education are provided free transportation to their schools.

b. In the east of Türkiye, girls, boys, women and men live with the threat of landmines and improvised explosive devices in the areas close to minefields. While these weapons may be indiscriminate, the specific threats and their impacts vary according to sex, age and other aspects of diversity. Adopting sensitive recruitment procedures helps to prevent discrimination and provide equal employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups. Employment contracts ensure that women and men are paid equally for equal work.

c. The Disability Rights National Action Plan (2023-2025) ensures strong coordination, multilateral cooperation for disabled individuals and activities that take into account of their social needs and represent persons with disabilities with the participation of nongovernmental organizations.

d. The Action Plan strengthens disabled individuals’ participation in social, cultural events, tourism and their participation in sports activities, and availability to public transportation services and areas open to public use, housing services.

e. Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations were established in every province and district in accordance with the provisions of the Social Assistance and Solidarity Encouragement Law No. 3294, and 1,003 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations provide services to our citizens.

f. All disabled people working in the public sector are considered to be on administrative leave on the first day of Disabled People’s Week, observed in May 10-16, and World Disability Day, observed on December 3. In addition, if schools are closed by governorships due to adverse weather conditions, public servants with disabilities in the same region are considered on administrative leave during the determined holiday.



g. Disabled people can use up to 10 days of sick leave if they can document their illness. Obtaining a health report for disabled people at public hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health is free of charge.

h. The Disabled Sports Federation, affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, provides services for disabled people to do sports professionally.

i. It is mandatory to take precautions for disabled people who will vote in the elections. Election boards must make voting areas accessible for disabled voters.

j. Continuing its efforts to make the lives of disabled citizens easier, the Ministry of Family and Social Services has published the “Information Guide for the Disabled”, which will create a road map for our citizens to easily access the services offered. This guide contains information about the rights and services offered in of the areas of disability assessment, health, education, accessibility, personal mobility, employment, incentives and supports, social assistance and social services.

#### 4. Medical Care: **(in line with the OAP Action 3, 37, 38 and 39)**

a. Victims who have disabled relatives in need of care are supported with home care assistance, which was initiated with the idea of supporting disabled people with their families primarily. Further, home health care program, home care support program, home care pension, home-type social service institutions, community mental health centers and supportive day services are being expanded throughout the country. Furthermore, TURMAC ensures that women, girls, boys, and men benefit equally from victim assistance services through emergency and continuing healthcare, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psycho-social support, and economic inclusion with the relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Health.

b. The Disability Rights National Action Plan (2023-2025) was legislated to ensure the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, throughout national policies and legal frameworks related to disability, health, education, employment and development.

c. The Commission for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs (Ministry of Labor and Social Security) is responsible for the disability program in Türkiye. This Commission, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change represented by is working on building a unified database for people with disabilities, victims of mines and explosive ordnance.

d. In addition, first aid posts are available to provide emergency medical services near or adjacent to the contaminated and remote areas. The victim is then immediately transferred to the central hospitals of the contaminated governorate. Once the victim has fully recovered, he/she is referred to a rehabilitation center to rehabilitate the victim medically, psychologically, and physically.

e. Our disabled individuals are given priority in all hospitals. Disabled people and their relatives, with a medical report documenting over 40 percent disability, can benefit from treatment services of private and public hospitals at a discount.

h. Under the “Social Services Law”, disabled individuals in need of care and assistance have the right to receive care services in social service institutions. Relevant rehabilitation institutions provide these services. While the number of physical therapy and rehabilitation centers was 21 in 2002, this number reached 99 as of July 2019. In addition, Ankara Gaziler Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital provides health and rehabilitation services to our veterans and civilian citizens injured due to mine accidents.

5. Economic Inclusion: **(in line with the OAP Action 3, 37, 38 and 39)**

a. Within the scope of the implementation of the obligations to assist victims, economic employment is provided to our disabled citizens in order to include mine victims in social and economic life with the cooperation of the Ministry of Family and Social Services. With the appointments made, it is ensured that people with disabilities participate in life and become individuals who produce useful works for society.

b. Family members are trained to help assist therapy for victims, especially in remote areas, including male family members, so that the burden of care does not fall exclusively on women and girls.

c. The Commission for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security provide soft loan services, job opportunities, pay full-time appointees’ salaries, and grant full-time leave based on The Disability Rights National Action Plan of 2023.

d. The Ministry of Family and Social Services provides disability pensions to people with disabilities by more than 40 percent. These pensions are within the scope of social assistance received by the disabled individual and cannot be seized.

e. Disabled employees can receive a deduction from their income tax base in amounts determined according to their disability degree. Tax Deduction is also available for the employees that are providing care to their disabled relatives.

f. Adult disabled people with a disability rate of 90% or above and disabled people under the age of 18 with the phrase “Special Condition Requirements” in the Special Needs Report for Children can benefit from the Special Consumption Tax exemption. Furthermore, suppose a disabled

person dies for any reason after purchasing a vehicle with the Special Consumption Tax discount provided by the state. In that case, the vehicle in question is distributed to the family of the disabled person who died.

g. Every person with a disabled ID card benefits from the right to travel free of charge on public transportation. Disabled individuals can use all public buses, sea transportation vehicles and trains free of charge. Additionally, 20% discount is provided on all domestic and international flights for disabled mine victims.

h. Disabled individuals who have a single residence smaller than 200 square meters are exempt from property tax.

i. Entrance to museums and historical sites is free for disabled people and they can benefit from state theaters free of charge.

j. Needs pension is a financial right given by Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations to disabled people who have a disability rate of at least 40% and above, who are over the age of 18 or who have disabled relatives under the age of 18.

k. There is a tax deduction opportunity. In addition, if the disabled person who purchased a vehicle with the Special Consumption Tax discount provided by the state passes away, his rights are transferred to the disabled person's family.

l. Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations provide free wheelchairs, prostheses, speech and hearing aids to disabled people, as well as food, shelter and cash aid.

m. Home Care Assistance, which was launched in 2006 with the understanding that disabled individuals need to be supported primarily by their families, assists citizens with severely disabled relatives in need of care and who cannot work because they are taking care of their disabled relatives.

n. By the Department of Revenue Administration of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance, for the purchase of tools and equipment (walking sticks, embossed keyboards, prostheses) produced according to their disabilities. etc.) value added tax exemption is applied. Additionally, Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption is provided.

o. Customs duty exemption is applied by the Ministry of Trade for special tools and equipment imported from abroad for the use of disabled people. The items are used for the special benefit of disabled people and to eliminate the disadvantaged situation between them and other individuals.

p. Municipalities in Türkiye provide discounts on water and electricity services to disabled citizens. The discount rate for those over 18 is 50%.

- q. Disabled students studying at the university are given additional points when entering the university. Disabled people with a disability of 40% or more are given priority in scholarship and dormitory applications by the Credit and Dormitories Institution. In the repayment of education and contribution loans, the debts of disabled people, with a report stating “unable to work,” are completely erased.
- r. Republic of Türkiye State Railways provides free transportation to disabled people. Disabled people can benefit from this type of transportation free of charge by presenting their ID card. For people with severe disabilities of 50% and above, the disabled person and their companion can also benefit from free transportation. People with a disability of 40% and above can use maritime transportation with discounts within and outside the city.
- s. Turkish Airlines offers people with a report of 40% or above disability a 20% discount on all domestic flights and a 25% discount on international flight fares. Wheelchairs for people with disabilities are also available 24 hours in advance upon request.
- t. The Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), which operates under the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, provides job and vocational consultancy services to disabled people and organizes courses or on-the-job training programs to increase their professional qualifications. These individuals are placed in jobs suitable for their situation. Additionally, disabled people are encouraged to start their own businesses. İŞKUR provides grant support of up to 65.000 TL for disabled individuals to establish their own businesses.
- u. According to the Civil Servants Law No. 657, public institutions are obliged to employ 3% disabled personnel. In this context, the Student Selection and Examination Center (ÖSYM) conducts a selection exam for disabled public personnel. In order to take the exam, the disabled person must have a disability of 40% or more.

## Form I: Cooperation and Assistance

State [Party]: Republic of Türkiye reporting for time period from 01 JAN 2023 to 31 DEC 2023

1. Since its establishment, TURMAC initiated not only inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states and military bodies, but also international partnership with the UNDP, GICHD. Representatives of TURMAC attended relevant international meetings of the Convention.
2. The Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project is implemented by UNDP and funded by EU and Turkish Government. 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.
3. Türkiye sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan. Since the beginning of 2023, 4 military demining teams have been conducting mine clearance in Azerbaijan. **(in line with the OAP Action 7, 45 and 47)**
4. Humanitarian Mine Clearance Training, Mine/Improvised Explosive Devices Awareness Training, Basic Demolition Techniques Training, Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Training, Improvised Explosive Devices Neutralizing Training and Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Calculation of Safety Distance Training were provided to Azerbaijan Armed Forces and Libya Armed Forces personnel. **(in line with the OAP Action 7 and 47)**
5. Türkiye made voluntary financial contribution to the ISU in 2023. **(in line with OAP 10)**
6. Improving Women's Employment: **(in line with the OAP Action 3)**
  - a. As of the end of 2023, %22 of TURMAC's personnel are female, one of them is a department head and two are branch chiefs. During the implementation of EBMCP Phase-III, stakeholders of TURMAC, such as UNDP, clearance and NTS contractor companies employed 14 female personnel at different branches. TURMAC and UNDP have encouraged and given countenance to women's employment in various positions such as trainer and administrative jobs. Furthermore, Türkiye's first Turkish civil demining dog handlers are women and they were trained and certified during the implementation of EBMCP Phase-III.
  - b. Gender Mainstreaming Awareness Raising Training was held in 2023 for 20 TURMAC personnel.