

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10.B
15TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE
ANTIPERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
29 NOVEMBER 2016, SANTIAGO, CHILE**

Madam President,

We thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for their effort.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is determined to fulfil its Article V commitments.

For reasons well known by all, we cannot start mine clearance activities on the Syrian border yet. However, the minefields in the region are clearly mapped, marked, fenced, sketched and well known by the local population. Therefore, they pose minimal threat to civilian population. Once the situation in Syria is peaceful again, Turkey will resume efforts to clear the minefields in the region.

Turkish Mine Action Centre-TURMAC has begun work on our implementation of Article V commitments with regard to Turkey's eastern borders. Mine clearance operations within the framework of European Union Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-I, managed by the United Nations Development Programme started on 20 June 2016. As of 22 November, more than 115.000 m², containing 8143 mines have been cleared. However, the land can only be released following the completion of quality assurance / quality control procedures. This phase of the project encompasses more than at about 11 million square meters of land.

Regarding Phase-II of the project, contract process is going on in cooperation with the UNDP.

Taking this opportunity we would like to thank UNDP and UNDP team in my country for their cooperation and contribution to the project.

We will continue to provide updates regarding the implementation of our Article V commitments as required.

Thank you, Madam President.