

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia (Chair))

Intersessional Meetings
22 – 24 June 2021

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Turkey reported that in 2020 it released 20 hazardous areas measuring 5,336,370 square metres, including 4,668,325 square metres cancelled, 505,972 square metres reduced and 142,073 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 9,781 anti-personnel mines, and 3 anti-tank mines.
2. Turkey also reported that 896 other explosive items, including 226 anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature were destroyed. The Committee observed that Turkey reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Turkey's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee welcomed Turkey providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Turkey in its 2021 request for extension submitted to the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) provided a high degree of clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Turkey reported a remaining challenge of 3,834 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 145,082,038 square metres containing 661,166 anti-personnel mines (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Turkey providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources, no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021. **The Committee observed that Turkey was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas** (Action #18).

¹ "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), and information on the geographic location of each area.

7. Action #18 of the Oslo Plan requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported updated information on its efforts to establish Turkey's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.** The Committee would welcome additional information on Turkey's efforts in this regard.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

8. The Committee observed that Turkey's request submitted to the 19MSP contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period 2020-2025 (Action #2, Action #19). Turkey further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period (2020-2025) (Action #2).
9. Turkey indicated in its national evidence based and costed plan that it would conduct non-technical survey on an estimated 3,834 mined areas, with 332 mined areas to be surveyed by TURMAC Survey Department with TURMAC's own resources, and 3,502 mined areas to be surveyed through a commercial contract modality.
10. Turkey also indicated that it will address 183 mined areas measuring 10,719,823 square metres through mine clearance, including the following 27 mined areas measuring 1,058,000 square metres to be addressed as part of the Mardin Province Clearance Project in the period 2022-2023, 96 minefields measuring 4,242,577 square metres located in 4 Eastern border provinces as part of the Phase 3 Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project in 2022-2025 and 60 mined areas measuring 5,418,669 square metres in areas located on the Iraq and Syrian Borders will be addressed by Military Demining Units (Action #20).
11. Turkey reported that mine action is integrated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategy and humanitarian response plans. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard (Action #1, Action #6).
12. The Committee observed Turkey reported on the allocation of annual financial commitments towards implementation, including an annual allocation of €2,121,000 from the Government of Turkey. Turkey in its 2021 request submitted to the 19MSP also indicated that the Ministry of National Defence has approved annual allocation of additional 53.217.000 TL from the national budget for demining for the period 2020 – 2025 (Action #1).
13. Action #3 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes. The Committee recalled that while Turkey reported on its efforts to ensure the needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of mine action programmes, including 45% of all staff of the Turkey Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) are women, including three branch chiefs, and on its efforts to encourage recruitment of female personnel with civilian contractors and that future projects would include specific indicators to enable equitable gender participation. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported on its efforts to ensure consideration for gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in its efforts to implement its Article 5 commitments,** and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #3).

14. Turkey reported in detail on its efforts to build national capacity development, including trainings, and increased recruitment of military manual demining teams (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

11. Turkey in its 2021 request submitted to the 19MSP indicated that methods for release of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas in Turkey are defined through national mine action standards and standard operational procedures which have compliance with the international standards for mine action (IMAS) including Standards and SOPs on non-technical survey, technical survey and mine clearance. The Committee welcomes the information from Turkey and would welcome further information on the timeline for approval of the updated national standards (Action #5).
12. Turkey reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system. In this regard, Turkey reported that TURMACs quality management department embraces all aspects of mine action. The Committee encourages Turkey to provide further information on its efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation (Action #9).
13. Turkey reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect. In this regard, Turkey reported that it had completed procurement and tests of domestic and national demining equipment which was manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means (Action #27).

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

14. In considering Turkey's 2013 extension request, the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties requested Turkey to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided information on; The tendering processes for the clearance of areas along Turkey's border with Syria, the results of any related demining efforts, and annual milestones of expected progress; The tendering processes for the clearance of areas along Turkey's eastern borders; Developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; and Progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

15. Action #32 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that while Turkey reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including, a "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP) as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025). **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported on the methodologies used, challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32)**
16. Action #28 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking. The Committee observed that while Turkey reported that MRE/R programmes are conducted in the vicinity of all mine contaminated areas by means of trained Gendarmerie, Government and non-government staff. Turkey also reported that MRE/R is carried out during ongoing survey activities, and national non-government organisations are encouraged to initiate risk education activities and for Turkish Gendarmerie to provide trainer

training in 11 mine affected provinces. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education effort**, and welcomes Tajikistan providing further information in this regard (Action #28).

17. Action #29 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that while Turkey reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported on the development of such programmes on the basis of a needs assessment to ensure these programmes are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account**, and welcomes Tajikistan providing further information in this regard (Action #29).

18. Action #30 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported updated information**, and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #30).

19. Action #31 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered. **The Committee observed that Turkey had not reported in updated information**, and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

20. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided update on challenges in implementation of its Article 5 obligations, including impact of COVID-19 pandemic on risk education activities.