



STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE

20th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (10b, Clearing mined areas and MRE)

Geneva, 23 November 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

-First, we would like to thank the Committee on Article V Implementation and ISU for their unwearied efforts.

Mr. President,

-We would like to share information on the efforts for mine clearance and MRE by Türkiye.

-Mine clearance efforts have continued through military units and civil contractors since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) in 2015.

-Within the scope of Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3, signed in March 2021, it was planned to complete the clearing of 3.6 million square meters of a minefield in Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Ağrı provinces by the end of 2022.

-In the current situation, the cleaning and quality management process of 58 out of 94 minefields have been completed. It is planned to complete 74 fields in total in a short period.

-So far, demining teams have addressed approximately 1.8 million square meters of contaminated land and destroyed 42.627 mines.

-In this context, with the decision of the contractor, UNDP (UN Development Programme) and TURMAC, a one-year extension will be requested to address the remaining contamination in the Project.

-As a part of project Phase-3, a Non-technical Survey (NTS) Project is ongoing, aiming to survey more than 3.500 minefields in 13 provinces by the contractors.

-With this Project, the precise perimeter of all these minefields will be identified and TURMAC will prepare an updated work plan for the remaining challenges.

-Since the beginning of the Non-technical survey field activities, 2290 minefields have been surveyed and 933 NTS report's quality management processes have been completed and uploaded to the information management system.

- For the NTS of the remaining minefields, as in the Mine clearance project, a one-year extension will be requested.

-Taking this opportunity, we thank the European Union for supporting the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project.

Mr. President,

-In addition to the Project, in line with the Action 22 of the Oslo Action Plan, almost 1.6 million square meters of land were addressed and nearly 5.000 mines were destroyed by military demining units in 2022.

-And as a result of the non-technical survey conducted by the TURMAC's NTS teams and military demining units, 1.5 million square meters of land was cancelled at the Syrian borders of Türkiye in 2022.

Mr. President,

-Türkiye makes every effort to reduce the risk of mine and prevent people from mine accidents by providing **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)** to people who live in areas with mine and explosive ordnance risks.

-To disseminate the EORE, coordination and cooperation activities are carried out with all kinds of partners such as ministries, governmental institutions, military units, local NGOs, civil contractors and UNDP.

-100 Gendarmerie EORE teams' personnel took trainers training at the beginning of 2022. These personnel have provided EORE to 903 residents in Siirt and Diyarbakır provinces in 2022.

-As a part of the Eastern Bord Mine Clearance Project, 30 residents participated in EORE sessions in Kilis.

-Also, trainers training was given to six personnel of the Humanitarian Mine Action Association (IMFAD), a Turkish NGO which operates in the field of humanitarian mine action, in order to provide EORE in Tunceli, Bitlis and Muş provinces.

-Moreover, it is planned to sign a protocol with the Ministry of National Education in order to provide EORE at the secondary school level in four provinces.

-These trainings are age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens. At the first step of creating the EORE programmes, the risky behaviour patterns of different groups are determined and risk-reducing training contents are prepared for these behaviour patterns.

Mr. President,

-As a part of TURMAC's capacity development, in collaboration with UNDP and GICHD, 20 personnel have attended Technical Survey Training and 23 have attended Quality Management Training.

-Five TURMAC personnel attended the Geographic Information System Course and three TURMAC personnel attended Mine Detection Dogs Accreditation Training in 2022.

-The number of Gendarmerie demining teams was increased from 8 to 18. The material needs of the new teams have been completed in order to start demining activities as of next year, and personnel assignments continue.

-Military demining units were reinforced with four additional Mine Detection Dogs in 2022. It is also planned to deploy another six demining machines in 2022.

Mr. President,

-We would like to reiterate that Türkiye, a country fighting against terrorism since decades, will continue to take its commitments seriously in order to reach the goal of a mine-free Türkiye.

-As requested at the 19 MSP, we will submit an updated and detailed work plan by 30 April 2023 for the remaining extension period with close

coordination with ISU. TURMAC is expected to be visited by the ISU at the beginning of the following year.

The full version of this statement will be shared with the ISU to be published online.

Thank you.