

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq, and Sweden)

#### Intersessional Meetings 19 – 21 June 2023

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TÜRKİYE

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

1. Türkiye reported that in 2022 it released 103 hazardous areas measuring 7,196,131 square metres, including 5,089,384 square metres cancelled, 816,042 square metres reduced and 1,290,705 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 58,078 anti-personnel mines, 30 anti-tank mines, and 4 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Türkiye also reported that Military C-IED/Mine teams contributed to the safety of civilians by identifying 121 anti-personnel mines, 1,837 improvised explosive devices and 26,770 munitions were destroyed. The Committee observed that Türkiye reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Türkiye's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that Türkiye in its updated work plan submitted to the Twenty First Meeting of the States Parties reported that mine clearance in the Provinces of Kars and Ardahan was completed.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Türkiye on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2021 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Türkiye's 2021 extension request. The Committee welcomed Türkiye providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting, in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

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

5. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Türkiye reported a remaining challenge of 3,701 mined areas measuring 133,390,758 square metres containing 589,180 anti-personnel mines and 193,156 anti-tank mines (Action #22).
6. Action #22 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination.

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<sup>1</sup> "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

The Committee observed that Türkiye had not provided information its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #22 and would welcome further information in this regard.

7. Action #18 of the OAP 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. The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Türkiye on these efforts.
8. Türkiye reported on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations, including information on the percentage of women as a total of TURMAC's personnel (29%), the employment of a gender focal point and female deminers.

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

9. The Committee observed that Türkiye, in its updated work plan submitted in 2023, included annual updates to their national work plans based on new evidence and reported on adjusted milestones, including on how priorities have been established for addressing Türkiye's remaining challenge (Action #20). Türkiye further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2020-2025 (Action #2).
10. Türkiye reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including mined areas measuring an estimated 1,3 million square metres remained to be addressed in Iğdir and Ağrı by the end of 2023 as part of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project - EBMCP) – Phase-III. Türkiye also reported that non-technical survey on 448 areas is planned to take place in 2023 as part of the project. Türkiye in its updated work plan submitted in 2023, reported that mined areas measuring an estimated 22.3 million square metres are expected to be addressed in the period 2024-2025, including 113 mined areas measuring 4,829,200 square metres as part of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project-Phase-IV, and that Military demining units clearance are projected to address 17,566,236 square metres for the period 2023-2025, including 5,845,379 square metres in 2023, 5,611,594 square metres in 2024, and 6,109,263 square metres in 2025 (Action #20).
11. Türkiye reported an annual national financial contribution, including an annual allocation of 30,000,000 TL from the national budget by the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) for the capacity development of military units in 2022, with a further 80,000,000 TL being approved by the MoND for the period 2023-2025, including 5 million TL for capacity development and 75 million TL for demining activities (Action #1).
12. Türkiye reported on its efforts to integrate convention implementation activities into national development plans, highlighting that mine action is included in the strategic planning of other governmental, nongovernmental institutions and partners as part of integrated border management (Action #1, Action #6).
13. Action #3 of the OAP 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 observed that Türkiye had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #3 and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #3).

14. Türkiye reported on its efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity, including budget allocations for capacity development, increased recruitment of military manual demining teams, including an increase from 32 demining teams in 2021 to 42 demining teams, comprised of 24 land force teams and 18 Gendarmerie teams, and the manufacture of mechanical demining machines with domestic and national means (Action #26).

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

15. Türkiye reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including the updating of 6 NMAS (Action #5).
16. Türkiye reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including attendance at IMSMA trainings. The Committee encourages Türkiye to provide further information on its efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation (Action #9).
17. Türkiye 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, including a new mine clearance equipment certification process and the deployment of 20 demining machines, and 10 mine detection dogs (MDD) (Action #27).

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

18. In considering Türkiye's request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) requested Türkiye to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Türkiye had provided the following information:
  - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Türkiye's work plan, including progress in tendering and contracting of implementation partners for survey and clearance and the results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
  - Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts;
  - Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Türkiye's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination.
19. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on the following decisions of the 19MSP:
  - Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

- Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
  - Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
20. The Committee recalled that in considering Türkiye's 2021 extension request, the 19MSP requested Türkiye to submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan. The Committee observed that Türkiye had acted on the decisions of the 19MSP by submitting an updated work plan in 2023.

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

21. Türkiye reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, highlighting mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes (MRE/R) according to the "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan," which was prepared as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and targeted most affected. Türkiye also reported on MRE/R programmes, including the methodologies used, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that, while Türkiye reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, Türkiye had not provided information its Article 7 Report on the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age, and challenges faced in implementation of Action #32 and would welcome further information in this regard.
22. Türkiye reported on its efforts to integrate MRE activities with wider efforts and that MRE/R programmes are conducted in the vicinity of all mine contaminated areas, including the locations of Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Kilis, Mardin and Siirt by means of trained Gendarmerie MRE/R teams. (Action #28).
23. Action #29 of the OAP 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, and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that, while Türkiye reported on its efforts to provide context-specific s (MRE/R) for groups at risk, and that risk education trainings are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate, Türkiye had not provided information in its Article 7 report on the development of such programmes on the basis of a needs assessment and welcomes Türkiye providing additional information in this regard.
24. Türkiye reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk and that such programs are prepared according to the understanding of the affected population's age group and specific context, and that TURMAC coordinates with the Ministry of Interior through the Gendarmerie General Command to obtain information on mine and munition accidents in areas under their responsibility (Action #30).

25. Türkiye reported on its efforts 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, including training of trainers provided to 100 Gendarmerie personnel, deployed to Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkari and Van and that a protocol was signed with a Humanitarian Mine Action Associations, a Turkish NGO working in three Provinces. Türkiye, in its updated work plan submitted in 2023, reported that a MRE protocol had been signed, establishing coordination between the Ministry of Interior and TURMAC the signed EORE Protocol for mine survivors to deliver MRE messages (Action #31).

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

26. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided quality information on challenges in implementation. The Committee observed that Türkiye in its updated workplan submitted in 2023, had provided updated information on risks in implementation, including political and security instability on the Syrian and Iraqi border, terrorist threats to mine clearance activities and personnel, delays in mine clearance activities by the contractors, delays in the tendering process, diverse weather conditions that may shorten demining activities to 5-6 months per year, and the negative impact of disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods on mine clearance activities.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Türkiye**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts 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.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						

#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						The Committee encourages Türkiye to provide further information on its efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation.
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SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Türkiye on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts on report on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS.
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						

	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties							
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities							
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion							
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans							
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas							
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties							
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means							
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>								
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)	
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant							
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place							
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						The Committee would welcome additional information from Türkiye on its efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.	



#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes					
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered					
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results					

