



**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
DELIVERED  
AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES  
TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION  
(AGENDA ITEM 12(D))  
(GENEVA, 28 NOVEMBER 2008)**

Mr. President,

The Mine Ban Convention is the first multilateral arms-control convention which entails assistance to victims of a particular weapons system. In that sense the Mine Ban Convention will continue to have a special meaning.

There has been significant success in raising public awareness about the scourge of landmines and the human sufferings that they may cause. We are grateful to the organizers of various exhibitions currently being displayed throughout this week in the Palais. These photos are a reminder of the plight of those in need of urgent international help and assistance.

The “Turkish Armed Forces Partnership for Peace Training Centre” and “The Centre of Excellence-Defence Against Terrorism” have conducted a number of training activities which can help reduce the number of landmine victims.

A total of 412 persons from 42 countries have attended the training courses. Some of the participants came from countries not party to the Convention.

Mr. President,

Turkey remains determined to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines that kill or maim innocent and defenceless men, women and children.

We will decide this afternoon on the list of Co-Rapporteurs. My Delegation looks forward to contributing to the aims of the Convention as a Co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

A brochure and CD-Rom providing information about the Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Centre can be found on the documentation table outside of this room. Representatives from the ICRC, ICBL and ISU have already visited this Centre last May.

We stand ready to share our expertise and experience.

I thank you, Mr. President.