

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
DURING THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATIONS OF
THE CONVENTION
(25 MAY 2009)**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Allow me to begin by warmly congratulating you on your assumption of the Co-Chairmanship. Our warm wishes also go to the Co-Rapporteurs. You have my delegation's full confidence and support.

In accordance with Article III of the Convention, Turkey retains 15.125 APLMs for the purpose of training in and development of mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques.

The large size, as well as the different types of mine action units necessitate the Turkish Armed Forces to retain a certain number of APLMs for training purposes compatible with these requirements.

Besides, Turkey has been facing a terrorist threat which includes the use of APLMs. Mines laid by terrorists have to be seized and secured as they are detected.

In 2008, a total of 25 APLMs have been used for training and research purposes. In this framework a total of 1.834 people received training in 2008. The detail of these training activities is as follows:

- 322 military personnel received training at Engineers Schools,
- 867 military personnel at Courses on mines and booby traps.
- 603 military personnel at Mobile Training on Mines and IEDs
- 42 military personnel from 21 countries at the Mine, Counter Mine and EOD Course held in the PfP (Partnership for Peace) Training Center.

These APLMs were also used for the Mine Proof Boot Development Project.

Our article 7 report submitted on 30 April 2009, contains the quantity and types of the 15.125 APLMs retained under article III of the MBC.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We agree with the rationale of Article III which recognises specific and different needs of States Parties by not fixing numbers or ceilings for training purposes.

Turkey will continue to use mines retained under Article III in the future, for the purpose of training in and development of mine detection, mine clearance or destruction techniques.

I thank you.