



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (Victim Assistance)

22-24 June 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

-Since this is the first time that I am taking the floor, on behalf of my delegation let me congratulate you and the Netherlands for the assumption of the presidency.

-I would also like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and for the informative report they presented.

-Turkey aligned itself with the EU statement and in our national capacity I would like to share information on the efforts for victim assistance by my country.

-Turkey also strongly condemns the hideous attack in the Baghlan Province of Afghanistan on 8 June.

-Regarding Mine Victim Data, in order to improve sustainable flow of information, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior Gendarmerie General Command and Governorship of our respective Provincial Health Directorates, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and other relevant ministries and bodies notify TURMAC of the personal data (identity, age, sex, occupation etc.), contact details and health status of mine victims, and report the changes and developments quarterly (in January, April, July and October).

-Additionally, a module for civilian mine victims was set up by the Ministry of Health in order to monitor and assist mine victims easier. Mine victim data bank uploaded to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) (in line with OAP 9 and 35).

-Information management and data collection, as well as laws and policies that improve human rights for persons with disabilities, have become an important part of victim aid activities.

-67 mine/ IED casualties were identified from many sources in 2020. The data of 41 soldiers mine victims were recorded together with a total of 26 civilians.

-In comparison with the data of 2019, civilian casualties decreased more than 50%. 1 woman and 4 boys were wounded. According to the data obtained, 12 men lost their lives.

-I would like to reemphasize that the impacts of minefields in Turkey on locals are minimum as these areas are fenced and marked as military zones and constantly observed by military personnel to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians. Almost all of the identified casualties were caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs).

-On Social Inclusion, due to the coordination, which has been established between the Ministry of Family and Social Services and TURMAC, regarding Ministry's Strategic Plan 2018-2022, victims of the Mines/IED's have the opportunity to reintegrate into society by means of certain privileges, which are provided for them and for their families.

-Transportation service is provided by Ministry of Family and Social Services for mine victims to ensure their access to rehabilitation centers. Mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support free of charge.

-The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Veterans Physical Treatment, Education and Research Hospital organize activities for mine victims.

-On economic inclusion, economic support was provided to 360 mine victims within the scope of the Program of Public Quota for Disabled in 2020 (in line with OAP 28, 30,31 and 45).

Thank you, Mr. President.