



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

20 June 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

-Since this is the first time we have taken the floor, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Melendez and Colombia on the assumption of the presidency.

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

-Türkiye aligns itself with the statement on victim assistance delivered on behalf of the European Union and in our national capacity we would like to deliver the following statement.

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

-A module for civilian mine victims was set up by the Ministry of Health in order to monitor and assist mine victims more closely. Mine victim data bank, uploaded to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), is updated periodically.

-I would like to reemphasize that the impacts of minefields in Türkiye on locals are minimum as these areas have been fenced and marked as military zones and constantly observed by military personnel to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.

-37 mine/IED casualties were identified in 2021. Twenty-two of these casualties were military personnel and fifteen were civilians, except for one casualty in the humanitarian demining accident; 36 of these casualties were caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) emplaced by PKK, a terrorist organization.

-In comparison with the data of 2020, civilian casualties decreased by 42%; however, distressingly, one girl and one boy were dead, and three women, one girl and four boys, were wounded.

-My country has been the target of such heinous terrorist attacks for decades. We condemn such cowardly perpetrated attacks in any part of the world. All Turkish military and police units, as well as other security stakeholders work in close coordination on counter-IED efforts. Without discrimination, we must react against all types of terrorist acts in solidarity and cooperation.

-Social and economic support is provided to these mine victims within the scope of the Program of Public Quota for Disabled. (in line with the OAP Action 34 and 39)

Thank you, Mr. Chair.