



Statement by Türkiye

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

18-20 June 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Chair,

-Türkiye aligns itself with the EU statement on victim assistance and in our national capacity, we would like to share information on the efforts made by Türkiye.

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

-Full version of this statement will be published online.

Madam Chair,

-Our country has been target of heinous terrorist attacks for decades. The minefields in Türkiye are fenced and marked as military zones and constantly observed by military personnel to ensure protection of civilians.

-In Türkiye, 11 mine victims were identified in 2023. 7 were military personnel and 4 were civilians (1 boy and 3 men). 2 out of 11 victims (one soldier and one civilian) lost their lives.

-Except for 1 humanitarian demining accident, 10 of these incidents consist of improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) laid by the PKK terrorist organization.

-First aid posts are available to provide emergency medical services near or adjacent to the contaminated and remote areas.

-The victim is then immediately transferred to the central hospitals of the contaminated governorate. Once the victim has fully recovered, he/she is referred to a rehabilitation center to rehabilitate the victim medically, psychologically, and physically.

-“The Veterans Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital” is the leading rehabilitation center in the country, equipped with advanced technological devices and services. The hospital includes prosthetic, orthotics, and silicone laboratories serving amputee patients.

Madam Chair,

-Türkiye adopted the 2023-2025 Disability Rights National Action Plan to ensure the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive remnants of war.

-The Action Plan strengthens disabled individuals’ participation in social, cultural life, their access to tourism and their participation in sports activities, and availability of public transportation services and access to areas open to public use, housing services.

-Continuing its efforts to improve lives of disabled citizens, the Ministry of Family and Social Services has published the “Information Guide for the Disabled”, which created a road map for our citizens to easily access the services offered.

-This guide contains information on rights and services offered in areas of disability assessment, health, education, accessibility, personal mobility, employment, incentives and supports, social assistance and social services.

-Victims who have disabled relatives in need of care are supported with home care assistance, which was initiated with the idea of supporting disabled people with their families primarily. Further, home health care program, home care support program, home care pension, home type social service institutions, community mental health centers and supportive day services are being expanded throughout the country.

-Our disabled individuals are given priority in all hospitals. Disabled people and their relatives, with a medical report documenting over 40 percent disability, can benefit from treatment services of private and public hospitals at a discount.

-Under the “Social Services Law”, disabled individuals in need of care and assistance have the right to receive care services in social service institutions. Relevant rehabilitation institutions provide these services.

-Family members are trained to help assist therapy for victims, especially in remote areas, including male family members, so that the burden of care does not fall exclusively on women and girls.

-The Ministry of Family and Social Services provides disability pensions to people with disabilities by more than 40 percent.

-Disabled employees can receive a deduction from their income tax base in amounts determined according to their disability degree. Tax Deduction is also available for the employees that are providing care to their disabled relatives.

-Every person with a disabled ID card benefits from the right to travel free of charge on public transportation. Disabled individuals can use all public buses, sea transportation vehicles and trains free of charge.

-Disabled students are supported to enter universities. Also disabled people with a disability of 40% or more are given priority in scholarship and dormitory applications by the Credit and Dormitories Institution.

-The Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), which operates under the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, provides job and vocational consultancy services to disabled people and organizes courses or on-the-job training programs to increase their professional qualifications. Additionally, disabled people are encouraged and provided grant support to start their own businesses.

-According to the Civil Servants Law No. 657, public institutions are obliged to employ 3% disabled personnel.

Thank you.