

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18-20 June 2024

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TÜRKİYE

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Türkiye reported that in 2023 it released hazardous areas measuring 5,960,022 square metres, including 4,691,257 square metres cancelled, 353,082 square metres reduced and 915,683 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 33,443 anti-personnel mines, 12 anti-tank mines, and 10 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that Türkiye reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Türkiye's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Türkiye on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Türkiye's 2023 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Türkiye providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting, in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination. (Action #8, Action #22)

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge. (Action #18)
5. Türkiye reported a remaining challenge of 3,659 mined areas measuring 225,370,305 square metres containing 101,189 anti-personnel mines and 36,143 anti-tank mines, including 1,980 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 92,809,889 square metres and 1,679 suspected hazardous areas measuring 132,560,416 square metres. (Action #22)
6. The Committee welcomed Türkiye reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size. (Action #22)
7. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines

¹ "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Türkiye on these efforts. (Action #18)

8. Türkiye reported on its efforts to establish their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, including recruiting women as part of non-technical survey teams. (Action #18)

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

9. Türkiye reported having a Strategic Mine Action Plan in place for the period of 2020-2025 (Action #2). The Committee recalled that Türkiye, in its updated work plan submitted in 2023 indicated annual updates to their national work plans based on new evidence and reported on adjusted milestones, including on how priorities have been established for addressing Türkiye's remaining challenge. Türkiye projects to address 91 mined areas measuring an estimated 3,500,000 square metres in the period 2024-2025 as part of the European Border Management Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase IV to be conducted in Van Province. (Action #19)
10. The OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. The Committee observed that while Türkiye provided information on its efforts to prioritise mine clearance activities based on the characteristics of contaminated land. The committee observed that Türkiye had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #20)
11. Türkiye reported an annual national financial contribution, including an annual allocation of 4,300,000 TL from the national budget for the capacity development of military units in 2023, with a further 80,000,000 TL being approved by the MoND for the period 2023-2025, including 5 million TL for capacity development and 75 million TL for demining activities (Action #1).
12. Türkiye reported on its efforts to integrate convention implementation activities into national development plans, highlighting that TURMAC initiated inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, States and military bodies as well as international partnerships. (Action #1, Action #6)
13. Türkiye reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes, including 22% of all TURMAC staff employed are women, and that implementation partners also employ woman in different capacities, Türkiye's first civil demining dog handlers are women, and that employment contracts ensure that women and men are paid equally for equal work. (Action #3)
14. Türkiye reported on its efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity, including budget allocations for capacity development, trainings for national personnel, and increased deployment of 50 military demining teams. (Action #26)

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

15. Türkiye reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including the updating of

NMAS on management of human remains in mine action and victim assistance and that updates of national standards continues on a regular basis. (Action #5)

16. Türkiye reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including the installation of the IMSMA in 2017, and regular collection of field activity reports with information shared to decision makers for planning and prioritisation. (Action #9)

17. Türkiye reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including updates on technological advancements in the field of demining, including remote sensing technologies, robotics, data analytics, and other relevant areas that can enhance survey, clearance and quality assurance processes in mine action. (Action #27)

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

18. In considering Türkiye's request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) requested Türkiye to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Türkiye had provided the following information:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Türkiye's work plan, including progress in tendering and contracting of implementation partners for survey and clearance and the results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Türkiye to support implementation efforts;
- Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Türkiye's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination; and
- Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

19. The Committee would welcome updated information from Türkiye on the following decisions of the 19MSP:

- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities; and
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

20. The Committee recalled that in considering Türkiye's 2021 extension request, the 19MSP requested Türkiye to submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain

an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan. The Committee observed that Türkiye had acted on the decisions of the 19MSP by submitting an updated work plan in 2023.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

21. Türkiye reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, methodology used, with the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age, including risk education sessions and distribution of educational posters, and awareness materials to population groups living close to contaminated areas. (Action #32)
22. Türkiye reported on its efforts to integrate MRE activities with wider efforts and that MRE/R programmes are conducted in the vicinity of all mine contaminated areas, including the Provinces of Batman, Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Tunceli and Van by means of trained General Command of Gendarmerie risk education teams. (Action #28)
23. Türkiye reported on its efforts to provide context-specific s (MRE/R) for groups at risk in line with the National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan targeting the most affected areas, and conducted in line with NMAS 12.10 on explosive ordnance risk education, and that within the scope of the European Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III, non-technical survey teams carried out risk educations that included the participation of women in these trainings, and that these the trainings were age-appropriate, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate. (Action #29)
24. Türkiye reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk and that such programs are prepared according to the understanding of the affected population's age group and specific context, including in the east of Türkiye, girls, boys, women and men live with the threat of landmines and improvised explosive devices in the areas close to minefields, and that while these weapons may be indiscriminate, the specific threats and their impacts vary according to sex, age and other aspects of diversity adopting sensitive recruitment procedures helps to prevent discrimination and provide equal employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups. (Action #30)
25. Türkiye reported on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of training of trainers to 64 personnel from military demining units. (Action #31)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)


26. The Committee observed that Türkiye provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) laid by the terrorist organisation, and that as of end of 2023 the European Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-IV is yet to be financed by any donor. (Action #8)

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Türkiye
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						The Committee observed that Türkiye was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Türkiye on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						The Committee would welcome additional information on Türkiye's efforts to report annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports.
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						

#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						

#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered		
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results	