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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
VIENNA**

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The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and, in accordance with the Forum for Security Cooperation Decision No: 7/04 dated 24 November 2004, has the honour to submit the reply of Turkey to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States and to the CPC the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 29 May 2020



Encl.

- Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE
- Conflict Prevention Centre

Vienna

TURKEY

(2019)

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Part I

1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?

Turkey is a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 CCW.

2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/5CD19C769DC30239C125855900513277/\\$file/Turkey.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/5CD19C769DC30239C125855900513277/$file/Turkey.pdf)

3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?

4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?

5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.

6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.

Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

Yes, Turkey joined the Ottawa Convention in March 2004.

8. (a) If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/F4B24908F3FBC68EC125855E003C752A/\\$file/Turkey_2019.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/F4B24908F3FBC68EC125855E003C752A/$file/Turkey_2019.pdf)

(b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention?

(c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

The use of APMs on Turkish territory was banned by a directive dated 26 January 1998. Demining process has started since then. With humanitarian considerations in mind, Turkey had initially put into effect a renewable three year moratorium on 17 January 1996, banning the export and transfer of APMs. This moratorium was extended on 15 October 1998 for another three years and on 17 January 2002 it was extended indefinitely. Turkey became a party to the Ottawa Convention in March 2004 and afterwards established Turkish Military Demining Troops so as to fulfil her obligations.

In order to effectively destroy mines and other ordnance, a destruction facility was built by the Turkish Armed Forces, which entered into service in 2007 and destruction of stockpiled mines have been completed in 2011.

Law No: 6586 on “Establishment of a National Mine Action Centre and Amendment of Some Other Laws” with the aim of defining modalities and basis regarding functions, jurisdiction and responsibilities of the National Mine Action Centre, which will carry out mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, was adopted on 22 January 2015 by the Turkish Grand National Assembly and entered into force on 3 February 2015 following its publication in the Official Gazette. The abovementioned law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.

9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?

Although a program specifically prepared for mine victims do not exist, within the context of existing laws, mine victims and their families receive monthly payments, employment opportunities, enterprising grant, free job counselling and courses according to their condition.

A communication line with the General Staff, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior Gendarmerie General Command and Governorship of our respective Provincial Health Directorates, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and other relevant ministries and bodies was established. These institutions 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, the Ministry of Health set up a new module for civilian mine victims in the “Health Management System” in Turkey, in order to monitor and assist mine victims easier. Additionally, within the context of current legislations, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment free of charge. A reasonable amount of budget spared in 2019 for home care services.

Due to the coordination, which has been established between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and TURMAC, victims of the Mines/IED's have the opportunity to reintegrate into society by means of certain privileges, which are provided for them and their families. Transportation service is provided by the said Ministry for mine victims to ensure their access to rehabilitation centres. The Law number 5378 on the Disabled People, The Regulation on victims' accessibility to the domestic tourism transport service was published on 13 January 2017 and came into force.

With the implementation of “Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Centre Project”, revitalizing victims' joy of life has become the common goal. The main purpose of the organization is to prepare a healthy, prosperous and a self-sufficient future for victims. It is made possible for victims to integrate into social life by various social events within the facilities organized for them. In this context, occupational therapy and participation in vocational rehabilitation unit facilities are provided for victims in order to make them more active during their daily lives.

Additionally, TURMAC has conducted an analysis through its database and determined 899 risky villages in 15 provinces and 42 districts. TURMAC has prioritized these regions with regard to victim data and reflected its results in the preparation of “National Mine Risk Education Plan” (NMREP), as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025). NMREP has three courses of

actions, which are aimed to be conducted simultaneously during 2020-2022.

a. Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of all minefields in Turkey will be conducted in the scope of Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3 between 2020 and 2022. NTS teams will conduct Mine Risk Education (MRE) in the vicinity of these minefields during their survey activities.

b. TURMAC plans to encourage local NGOs to initiate MRE activities by organizing workshops and trainings. These activities will help develop national capacity through NGOs and will be supported by EBMCP Phase-3.

c. An MRE Protocol is planned to be signed with Turkish Gendarmerie covering 15 provinces, 42 districts and 899 villages. TURMAC will provide trainer training of Gendarmerie personnel in MRE and monitor their MRE activities.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.

11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.

Turkey has been making donations to International Trust Fund (ITF) since 2014 in order to support mine victim assistance around the world.

Within the restoration area of the locations of St. George and St. Jacobs Churches in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, mine and unexploded ordnance clearing through 13.000 m² area is carried out by the Turkish Army Mine Clearance Units in 2019.

Turkey donated approximately 30.000 US Dollars to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Mine Action Center (ARMAC) in order to contribute to the supply of the tools and materials needed to be used in secretariat services.

“Cooperation Protocol” was signed between TURMAC and Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) within the scope of training and experience sharing for mine actions in 2019.