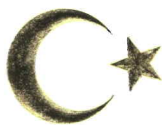


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FSC.EMI/177/23
25 May 2023

ENGLISH only



Z-2023/17260111/36127342 -

The Permanent Mission of Türkiye 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 Türkiye to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

The Permanent Mission of Türkiye 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.



Encl.

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

Vienna

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)?

Türkiye 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. If yes, 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.

Annual report in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol is attached to Annex-1.

If no:

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?

Türkiye is a state party the Ottawa Convention since 01 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.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/_APMBC-DOCUMENTS/Art7Reports/2023-Turkey-Art7Report-for2022.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 APLMs on Turkish territory was banned by a directive dated 26 January 1998. Demining process has started since then. With humanitarian considerations in mind, Türkiye had initially put into effect a renewable three year moratorium on 17 January 1996, banning the export and transfer of APLMs. This moratorium was extended on 15 October 1998 for another three years and on 17 January 2002 it was extended indefinitely. Türkiye became a party to the Ottawa Convention in March 2004 and afterwards established Turkish Military Demining Troops so as to fulfill 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 unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Türkiye, was adopted on 22 January 2015 by the Turkish Grand National Assembly and entered into force on 03 February 2015 following its publication in the Official Gazette. Law 6586 was nullified with the legislative decree 703 on 9 July 2018 after the introduction of the new Presidential System of Government. Article 342 of Presidential Decree No 1, which is almost identical with Law 6586, was entered into force on 10 July 2018.

The abovementioned law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Türkiye, 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?

TURMAC effectively carries out coordination with the Ministry of Interior through the Gendarmerie to obtain information of mine and munition accidents in areas under their responsibility. In this context, information received from Gendarmerie is stated in the reports of TURMAC.

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 and Social Services and other relevant ministries and bodies was established. TURMAC is provided a data of mine victims (identity, age, sex and occupation etc.) by these institutions periodically. In addition to these, 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 from institutions in question.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health set up a module for civilian mine victims in the “Health Management System” in Türkiye, in order to monitor and assist mine victims easier. Victims who have disabled relatives with the need of full care are supported with home care assistance, which was initiated with the idea of supporting disabled people with their families first. Further, home health care program, home care support program, home care pension, home-type social service institutions and community mental health centers and supportive day services are being expanded throughout the country. Further, TURMAC ensure that women, girls, boys, and men can benefit equally from victim assistance services by emergency and continuing healthcare, physical rehabilitation; psychological and psycho-social support, economic inclusion with the relevant authorities such as The Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Health.

Furthermore, within the context of current legislation, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment free of charge. Due to the coordination, which has been established between the Ministry of Family 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 centers.

With the principle of "Positive Discrimination" added to Article 10 of the Constitution in 2010, reform-like innovations were made in disability policies. In this context; accessibility practices, from education to employment, are among the issues that directly affect the participation of disabled people in social life. Therefore, within the scope of accessibility, open areas such as pavements, pedestrian crossings, parks, public transportation vehicles and information and communication systems of public buildings are to be accessible.

Adopting gender-sensitive recruitment procedures helps to prevent discrimination and provide equal employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups. Employment contracts ensure women and men are paid equally for equal work.

Thanks to the "Veterans Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital (TAF Rehabilitation Center)", mine victims are provided to have facilities and to have support for the operation and maintenance promotional activities with modern communication tools organized for them. Further, facilities and units within this complex are Orthopedic Rehabilitation Hospital, constant nursing home, patient house and occupational therapy and professional rehabilitation units with social life facilities in order to integrate our victims into society.

According to the "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP), which was prepared as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and targeted most affected areas;

i. TURMAC provided trainers' training to 100 Gendarmerie personnel who were assigned to provide EORE in Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkari and Van in 2022. After the training in question, Gendarmerie EORE teams were subjected to a proficiency exam, certificates were given to successful ones and training materials (training presentation, three-legged easel, Usb, carrying bag) and EORE message delivering items (notepad, pen, keychain, pencil box, mask, t-shirt and cloth bag) to be used within the scope of NEOREP were provided to the trainers. In 2022, Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE to 1699 (1086 men, 108 women and 505 children) residents who live close to minefields in Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Mardin and Siirt. It is also planned to provide trainers' training in nine more provinces (Kars, Bitlis, Ağrı, Ardahan, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iğdır, Kilis and Şanlıurfa) in 2023.

ii. With the scope of EBMCP Phase-III, in 2022, NTS teams carried out EORE sessions in Kilis. A total of 30 people (1 woman, 1 man and 28 children) participated in this trainings. (These trainings are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate.)

iii. A protocol was signed with Humanitarian Mine Actions Association which is a Turkish NGO working in the field of humanitarian mine action, to conduct EORE in order to increase awareness of our citizens about mine/UXO risks and prevent possible mine/UXO accidents in three mine affected provinces in 2022 and 2023. According to the protocol EORE teams conducted EORE to 1853 citizens (107 women, 1002 children and 754 men) in Muş, Bitlis and Tunceli.

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

Türkiye benefits from EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds for mine clearance within the scope of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-3. And as the continuation of Phase-3, a request is made to benefit from EU IPA funds for the purpose of mine clearance between 2024 and 2025.

Other than IPA funds, Türkiye does not require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance.

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

Within the restoration activity of the St. George and St. Jacobs Church's locates in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, mine and unexploded ordnance clearing on 13.000 m² area carried out by the Turkish Army Mine Clearance Units in 2019.

Türkiye 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 scope of training and experience sharing for mine actions in 2019.

Türkiye sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan. An area of almost 500.000 m² has been cleared by the Turkish military teams in Azerbaijan.

A total of 20 mechanical demining machines (MEMATT-I and MEMATT-II) which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to international standards (CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines), were sent to Azerbaijan to support mine clearance activities.

Humanitarian Mine Clearance Training, Mine/IED Awareness Training, Mine Detector Training, Mechanical Demining Machines Training, Basic Demolition Techniques Training and Minefield Breaching Training were provided to Azerbaijan Armed Forces personnel. Additionally, a Goodwill Protocol was signed with Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) in 18 November 2022.

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

Türkiye is not a state party to the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

2. If yes, at what stage is the process?

3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

Türkiye does not have any identified area (land) in terms of ERW contamination.

4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

Türkiye has the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: Republic of Türkiye

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 29/03/2023

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF
CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy
Directorate General for the OSCE, Arms
Control and Disarmament,
+90 (312) 292 1794,
+90 (312) 292 5660
usgy-3@mfa.gov.tr
(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:

☒ YES

☐ NO

☐ Partially, only the following forms:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

Unchanged.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

The minefields on eastern and southern borders are fenced and warning signs are attached in order to protect innocent people. These territories are “military zones” that keep civilians out of danger.

In addition to the minefields at the borders, there are some mined areas (around military bases) that are formed by military units against terrorist activities. But the acreage of these areas are very minor and also equipped with warning signs.

People who are living close to these territories are being informed by local and security authorities about the mines.

a. According to the “National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan” (NEOREP), which was prepared as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and targeted most affected areas; (in line with the OAP Action 28, 29, 30 and 31)

i. TURMAC provided trainers' training to 100 Gendarmerie personnel who were assigned to provide EORE in Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkari and Van in 2022. After the training in question, Gendarmerie EORE teams were subjected to a proficiency exam, certificates were given to successful ones and training materials (training presentation, three-legged easel, Usb, carrying bag) and EORE message delivering items (notepad, pen,

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

keychain, pencil box, mask, t-shirt and cloth bag) to be used within the scope of NEOREP were provided to the trainers. In 2022, Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE to 1699 (1086 men, 108 women and 505 children) residents who live close to minefields in Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Mardin and Siirt. It is also planned to provide trainers' training in nine more provinces (Kars, Bitlis, Ağrı, Ardahan, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iğdır, Kilis and Şanlıurfa) in 2023.

ii. With the scope of EBMCP Phase-3, in 2022, NTS teams carried out EORE sessions in Kilis. A total of 30 people (1 woman, 1 man and 28 children participated in this trainings. (These trainings are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate.)

iii. A protocol was signed with Humanitarian Mine Actions Association which is a Turkish NGO working in the field of humanitarian mine action, to conduct EORE in order to increase awareness of our citizens about mine/UXO risks and prevent possible mine/UXO accidents in three mine affected provinces in 2022 and 2023. According to the protocol EORE teams conducted EORE to 1853 citizens (107 women, 1002 children and 754 men) in Muş, Bitlis and Tunceli.

b. EORE activities listed above were conducted according to the NMAS-12.10 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form B

Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (b)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

1. Mine clearance (Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-3) started with commercial companies in 2021, with the partnership of UNDP and TDI - Altay.

2. Mine Clearance Units of Turkish Land Forces (TLF) and Gendarmerie General Command carried out humanitarian demining operations in the mine fields at southern borders (TLF) and eastern borders (Gendarmerie).

These units also support the border wall construction which is a part of Integrated Border Management (IBM) system. These units are funded by Turkish Government.

In 2022, 262.414 m² area by TLF and 182.665 m² area by Gendarmerie units are handed over to TURMAC. Within the scope of Phase-3, demining contract was signed on 23 March 2021. In the project managed by UNDP and carried out by commercial contractors, an area of 2,3 million m² has been addressed (49.040 mines found/destroyed), demining process of 72 of 94 minefields in Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Ağrı provinces have been completed since the beginning of the project. EBMCP Phase-3 is planned to be completed by the end of 2023.

3. Accreditation and Quality Management services for TLF and Gendarmerie units carried out by TURMAC.

4. As a result of the operations carried out by both EBMCP NTS teams and EBMCP demining teams, more than 5 million m² of land was cancelled in 2022. (in line with the OAP Action 18 and 22).

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

Unchanged.

Form C

Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (c)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Unchanged.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Unchanged.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form D

Legislation

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (d)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

LEGISLATION:

The National Mine Action Standards (NMAS)

Standard Operational Procedures

Eastern Border Mine Clearance Standards

Southern Border Mine Clearance Standards are published on the TURMAC website.
(www.mafam.msb.gov.tr)

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form E International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on
international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation
and assistance;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

TURMAC personnel took a course on “Testing of Demining Machines” from HCR CTRO (Center for Testing, Development and Training – Croatia) in order to have the capacity to certify and demining machines. Military demining units were augmented with 6 demining machines (MEMATT-II which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to international standards (CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines)) and 4 additional Mine Detection Dogs in 2022. A total of 8 demining machines and 10 mine detection dogs are operational now. (in line with the OAP Action 27)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

A total of 20 demining machines (MEMATT-I and MEMATT-II) which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to international standards (CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines), were sent to Azerbaijan to support mine clearance activities. (in line with the OAP Action 27)

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

NTR.

Other relevant matters

Form F

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (f)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:

NTR

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form G

Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
paragraph 2,

“2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Türkiye

Reporting for time period
from:

01/01/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2022

dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

- 1. Mine Detection Dogs completed their trainings in the military centres and accredited by TURMAC.
MDDs are ready to be used as another asset in mine clearance as of 2023 season.**
- 2. The first demining machine (MEMATT) was produced in Türkiye and certified by TURMAC according to CWA 15044 Standards. The test site was also constructed according to CWA 15044 Standards. The machine will be another asset in mine clearance as of the 2023 season.**

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

Unchanged

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

Unchanged