

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY TURKEY

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

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

1. Turkey reported that in 2019, it addressed 133 mined areas measuring 6,908,690 square metres, including 6,099,493 square metres cancelled, 136,472 square metres reduced and 672,725 square metres cleared destroying in the process 25,959 anti-personnel mines, 17 anti-tank mines and 4 other items of explosive ordnance. Turkey also reported that Military C-IED/Mine teams found and neutralised 4,038 IED/mines during security operations.
2. Turkey reported that the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project, (EBMCP) Phase-2 was completed in 2019.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 Article 7 report. The Committee encourages Turkey to continue to report progress in accordance with the IMAS and by using the Guide to reporting (Action #22, #8).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #20, #22)

3. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Turkey reported a total of 162 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 150,418,408 square metres, remain to be addressed (Action #18).
4. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Turkey will be further clarified following a survey of SHAs at which time Turkey will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee welcomes updated information on the result of these efforts (Action #20, #22).

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

5. The Committee observed that Turkey had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). Turkey reported that the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP Phase-3 is planned to take place in the period 2020-2022, projecting to address 4,000,000 square metres of contaminated area and includes non-technical survey (NTS) of all minefields in the country.
6. The Committee encourages Turkey to provide information on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans (Action #1).
7. Turkey reported that a comprehensive desk survey through minefield records was conducted in 2019, resulting in previously reported suspected areas being added to the known mined areas, with the Turkish Gendarmerie Command reporting that there are additional 162 suspected areas in non-border areas. Turkey further reported that NTS of those areas will be conducted within EBMCP Phase-3 and the result will be reflected in the reports. Turkey also reported that the European

Union had provided €18.5 million in support of Phase-3 with Turkey providing €2.121 million. Turkey further reported that the Ministry of Defence allocated 53,217,000 TL to be used from 2020-2025 in support of its mine action programme. The Committee observed that in 2019 planned activities for 2020 may be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. In this regard, the Committee encourages Turkey to continue to provide updates on the allocation of state resources and international support of its work plan. Turkey also reported three military demining companies (12 demining teams) became operational and accredited in 2019 (Action #1).

8. Turkey reported that gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action activities in Turkey, with 45% of TURMAC staff consisting of women. The Committee welcomes the efforts of Turkey and would welcome further information from Turkey on its efforts to ensure consideration of gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #3).
9. The Committee noted Turkey's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Turkey declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations. In this regard, the Committee noted that demining is carried out by Turkey's military demining teams, and that the Turkey Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) plans to establish 8 additional demining teams in 2020, for a total of 38 demining teams, consisting of 32 land force teams, and 6 Gendarmerie teams. The Committee noted that the recruitment and procurement of equipment may be delayed due to challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic and welcomes further information on the provision of a sustainable national capacities within national strategies and work plans for completion (Action #26).

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

10. Turkey reported that its National Mine Action Standards, (NMAS) including land release policy was issued in February 2019 and Eastern Border Mine Clearance Standards have been reviewed. The Committee noted the efforts of Turkey and would welcome from Turkey further information concerning the status of its NMAS and if NMAS are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
11. Turkey reported that the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was established in 2018. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information from Turkey on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9).
12. The Committee noted that Turkey had included reference to efforts taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations welcomes further information from Turkey in this regard (Action #27).

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

13. The Committee recalled that in granting Turkey's request, the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) requested Turkey to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Turkey regarding the tendering processes for the clearance of areas along Turkey's border with Syria, the results of any related demining efforts, and annual milestones of expected progress; the tendering processes for the clearance of areas along Turkey's eastern borders; developments in the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the National Mine Action Centre; and progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.

14. The Committee observed that Turkey had acted on the decisions of the 13MSP by submitting an updated workplan to the 15MSP.

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

15. Turkey reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (Action #32). Turkey reported that mine risk education and reduction (MRE/R) programmes are part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan, (2020-2025) (Action #28). The Committee noted that Turkey has tailored MRE/R programmes to the threat encountered by the population and prioritised to people most at-risk (Action #29). The Committee also noted that Turkey had linked these MRE/R programmes and messages directly to available casualty data (Action #30). In this regard, the Committee welcomes further information from Turkey on its efforts to develop MRE/R programmes on the basis of a needs assessment and updates on Turkey's efforts to ensure that programmes are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29). The Committee further noted Turkey had suspended these activities due to the coronavirus pandemic.