

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

1. Turkey reported that in 2017 it released 19 mined areas addressing 8,482,671 square metres, including, 7,583,110 square meters cancelled, 75,445 square metres reduced and 824,116 square metres addressed through clearance resulting in the destruction of 61,508 anti-personnel mines and 1,026 anti-tank mines.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Turkey. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
3. The Committee observed that Turkey had increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per border area, of the number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and, where known, the estimated size of area and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. Turkey reported a total of 3,061 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 164,082,568 square metres, with 718,663 anti-personnel mines and 194,649 anti-tank mines, and 701 suspect hazardous areas remaining to be addressed.
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, Turkey's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

6. Turkey reported that five new demining companies have been approved by the Ministry of Defence, with three of those teams planning to be operational by the end of 2018 and the remaining in 2019. Turkey also reported that Phase 2 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project would commence in May 2018 with the plan to release 1,200,000 square metres of land. The Committee would welcome further information from Turkey on annual milestones for land to be addressed under Phase 2 and further phases.
7. Turkey reported that the National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 had been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in 2018. The plan covers national capacity development, survey and clearance of mined areas and areas containing UXOs within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provisions for MRE, assistance to mine victims. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey's 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

8. Turkey reported that it had prepared and submitted the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) including land release policy to the National Standards Institute of Turkey. The NMAS are expected to be approved in 2018. The Committee observed that further information on the timeline for approving national standards, as well as the standards and methodologies to be employed would be welcome.

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

9. The Committee observed that Turkey complied with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit, to the States Parties, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension by March 2015. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalised by the NMAC, that there is an ongoing detailed exploration of mined areas in border regions, and that, as a result, further revisions to the plan are possible. The Committee observed that, as further revisions to the plan are made, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome. The Committee further observed that Turkey was complying with the decision of the 13MSP by keeping the states parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.
10. The Committee observed that Turkey acted in accordance with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

11. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. The Committee noted the actions taken by Turkey in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.