



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE 7 JUNE 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor let me congratulate the Presidency of Afghanistan, you can count on our support. Taking this opportunity, let me also thank the ISU and the GICHD for the smooth organization of this meeting today.

Mr. Chairman, our thanks also go to the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts and for the informative report that they presented under your able chairmanship.

It is duly recorded on our Article VII report, though, I would like to share shortly a bit of information on the efforts for victims assistance by my country.

Regarding Mine Victim Data, in order to improve sustainable flow of information, a communication line with relevant ministries and bodies was established.

The Ministry of Interior, through the Gendarmerie and National Police, will communicate to Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) all the information on mine and munitions accidents (date and time, place, how, information on injured etc.) in areas under their responsibility within one month of each case.

Work will be engaged on the basis of individuals considered mine victim under the legislation, and necessary coordination will be held with the relevant bodies so that every mine victim may attain their legal rights.

In the time frame between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, decreasingly, casualties by explosion of APMs including the ones by demining activities are 5 death and 18 wounded, totally 23. 4 of the wounded people are military personnel, the others are civilians. Detailed information, including the gender dimension is available in this year's report. Security forces personnel who are affected from IEDs in anti-terror- operations are excluded from this number. Here, I would like to emphasize

that the impacts of minefields in Turkey to locals is minimum as these areas are fenced and marked as military zones.

On Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Veterans Physical Treatment, Education and Research Centre organize activities for mine victims.

Regarding Medical Care, within the context of current legislation, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive free support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment.

On Economic Inclusion, 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. Additionally, a shared database specifically designed for mine victims is under construction.

Lastly Mr. Chairman, since there were references in some previous statements suggesting engagement or creating synergy between ISU's of different Conventions, we would like to remind once again that the membership composition of the Conventions differ from each other, and therefore this issue should be broadly considered before taking any further steps.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.