

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY

I. Progress in implementation

1. Turkey reported that in 2018 it addressed 41 mined areas measuring 6,845,470 square metres, including 4,672,000 square metres cancelled and 2,083,470 square metres cleared, destroying a total of 22,220 anti-personnel mines, 14 anti-tank mines and 665 items of unexploded ordnance in the process. Turkey reported that these activities were undertaken on the border with Syria, Iran and in areas “other than borders”.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with previous information provided. The Committee encourages Turkey to continue to employ the Guide to Reporting to provide increased clarity when reporting progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Turkey reported a total of 3,020 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 157,327,098 square meters containing 696,443 anti-personnel mines, and 194,635 anti-tank mines located on its border with Syria, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and in areas “other borders”. Turkey further reported that a total of 701 suspected hazardous areas of an unknown size are located on the border with Syria, Iraq, Iran and in areas “other than borders”.
4. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Turkey will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Turkey will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee further noted that more detailed information on, ‘areas other than borders’ would be welcome, including an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with each year during the remaining period disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Turkey reported that based on Presidency Decree No.1, (10th July 2018) the ‘National Mine Action Centre, (TURMAC) reports directly to the Deputy Minister of National Defence. Turkey also reported that the National Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 was drafted and it is expected to be approved and published in 2019. Turkey further reported that IMSMA has been established and it has been fully operational since the beginning of demining season in 2018. Turkey also reported that non-technical Survey of approximately 20,000,000 square metres is planned for 2019.
6. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (17MSP) in 2018 in which it noted 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. The Committee would welcome an updated detailed list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area

would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Turkey reported that forty-four National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) were approved in February 2019. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that further information on the standards and methodologies to be employed in land release would be welcome.

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

8. The Committee noted that Turkey had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in the 2013 decision by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) on its extension request. The Committee concluded that Turkey was complying with the commitments contained therein.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas. Turkey reported that the Turkish Ministry of Education provides MRE education in territories where mine risk exists and takes into consideration age, sex and other relevant classifications.