

STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE
(GENEVA, 21 June 2011)

Distinguished Co-Chairs

Taking this opportunity, we should like to inform the States Parties on the ongoing preparations in Turkey with regards our obligations arising from the Article 5 of the Convention.

To date, Turkey has cleared 25.092 of the 977.407 laid anti-personnel landmines. (163.825 Anti-tank mines).

As was indicated in our national report, anti-personnel mines are laid along the borderlines, and in some parts of the country. Our western borders with Greece and Bulgaria, as well as the border with Georgia however, are mine-free.

At present, mine clearing activities along our southern border constitute a priority, in particular the borderline with Syria, which is the longest land border of Turkey. (613.766 includes 163.825 anti-tank mines)

The "*Law on the Tender and Mine Clearing Activities along the Land Border between Turkey and Syria*" has been adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on June 2009 and approved by the President on 16 June 2009.

The law provides the necessary legal basis for mine clearing activities along the border between Turkey and Syria.

At present, the Ministry of National defence is in the relevant tendering process. The deadline for designation of the companies for mine clearance is 27 June 2011. The latest information regarding the tendering process is available at the web-site of the Turkish MoD, which is www.msb.gov.tr

On the other hand, a "Sales Agreement" which covers Quality Management and Consultancy Support was signed recently between Turkish MoD and NAMSA, the latter possessing the relevant expertise and the most recent techniques available.

We shall continue to inform the States Parties on further developments regarding our Article 5 obligations.

Thank you for your attention.