

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION  
ON ARTICLE 3**

**23 April 2007**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

My delegation requested the floor to share information, address some of the concerns raised on mines retained for training purposes and also to continue the tradition of participating in these discussions.

I, of course, cannot speak for the other States Parties but the claim of abuse or misuse of mines retained for training purposes, in accordance with Article 3, most certainly does not apply to my country.

Co-Chairs,

With respect to mines held under Article 3 of the Convention, Turkey's 2005 Report had indicated that 850 anti-personnel mines were destroyed for training purposes, hence reducing the number of mines held under Article 3 from 16'000 to 15'150. This figure consists of DM-11, M2 series, M14 and M 16 series mines. These are retained solely for training in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction along with the development of new techniques.

In this context, we would like to underline that, in view of its large size and the presence of different types of mine action units, the Turkish Armed Forces needs to hold a relatively higher number of mines for training purposes. Varying geographies and incongruous terrain also factor in the number of APMs held for this purpose.

On that account, we have already reminded, on many occasions, that by not fixing any numbers or ceilings, Article 3 recognizes these needs. We, therefore, agree with the wisdom of the wording in Article 3.

I thank you.