

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION  
DELIVERED AT THE TENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11 c CONCERNING ARTICLE IV OF THE CONVENTION  
(GENEVA, 2 DECEMBER 2010)**

Mr President,

Full compliance with Article IV is undoubtedly one of the main pillars of the Ottawa Convention.

In that regard, I will present what I consider to be our final update regarding the destruction of stockpiled land-mines in Turkey since the Second Review Conference last year.

Mr President,

I am pleased to report that, with the exception of approximately 22,000 “Area Denial Antipersonnel Mines” (ADAM) which require special handling, all of the stockpiled landmines in Turkey have been completely destroyed as of mid-October 2010. The number of mines destroyed is close to three million (*2,938,060 of four different types*).

For the destruction of the 22,000 remaining mines, which contain depleted uranium and thus require special handling, a contract has been signed on November 16 with NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA). These mines, which have already been rendered unusable, now await shipment to a third country with the proper facilities.

Mr. President,

From the very outset, Turkey has adopted a very transparent and frank policy vis-à-vis its obligations arising from Article IV of the Convention.

While the deadline may have been exceeded, we have not wavered from our commitment, and with the opening of our modern munitions disposal facility in 2007, destruction of a great number of landmines was made possible within a very short period. I would also like to add that this facility was built and equipped entirely with our own financial resources.

Mr.President,

The process of mine destruction and mine clearance is a very delicate one; one that could cost lives and at the very least contaminate the environment. It is thus important to remember that while the Convention does set deadlines, it is the will and determination to fulfil this obligation that counts. I believe everyone will agree that this is not a race-course and States certainly are not rivals competing on who will eradicate their mines first. So long as the resolve is there, accomplishment will follow.

With these thoughts, I thank you Mr. President.