



**STATEMENT BY
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DELIVERED
AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
(AGENDA ITEM 10)
(GENEVA, 24 NOVEMBER 2008)**

Mr. President,

I would like to join previous speakers in warmly congratulating you on your election as President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) to the Mine Ban Convention. I am confident that, with your wise guidance and diplomatic skills, this session will be a success. You can count on my Delegation's support.

Mr President,

Let me underline first the importance Turkey attaches to the Ottawa process. The Convention continues to be a true milestone. It constitutes the most comprehensive and viable framework for achieving a mine free world. It is a grand accomplishment of States Parties combatting this scourge in tandem with non-governmental organizations.

Promoting and achieving universal acceptance of the Convention remains a priority. There are 156 States Parties to the Convention. However, States that are not yet Party retain large quantities of anti-personnel mines. Turkey will continue to endeavour to promote the universal acceptance of the Convention. We call upon those States that have not yet done so, to join it without delay.

We share the humanitarian goals underpinning the Convention. We appreciate the supplementary role that non-governmental organisations play in the Ottawa process. Nevertheless, NGOs should feel the obligation to conduct their work in a responsible and acceptable manner. Particularly in engaging armed non-state actors, they must demonstrate utmost care so that they do not become instrumentalised.

My Delegation is mindful of our time constraints. We will provide our contributions under relevant agenda items. One of them deserves a particular attention: today and tomorrow we will discuss the requests for extensions submitted by fifteen States Parties under article V of the Convention.

In our opinion, how we engage each other and talk constructively in order to reach a solution acceptable to all is crucial. We should be as objective as possible and avoid any politicisation of our discussions. Turkey trusts and hopes that all participants will do their utmost to bring forward this process so that a consensus could emerge by the end of this week.

In the implementation of the Ottawa process there are different challenges to be addressed. We need to understand the reasons behind difficulties faced by some States Parties and decide on how to carry forward this process. Transparency and timely flow of information on the implementation of the Convention is essential.

As a testimony of our sincere and transparent approach, a comprehensive update regarding the process of destruction of our stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be given under the relevant agenda item on Wednesday afternoon.

You have chosen "*honour your commitment*" as the theme of the 9MSP. I can assure the States Parties that we are doing our best in order to honour our commitments arising from the article IV of the Convention. Our determination is strong, capacity is in place and the process of destruction is well underway. His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein visited Turkey in October to observe the progress we have made so far.

Mr. President,

In achieving the overall goal of the Mine Ban Convention, alleviating mine victim suffering and socio-economic reintegration are crucial elements to be taken into consideration. Turkey remains determined to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines that kill or maim innocent and defenceless men, women and children.

It is in this spirit that we will accept to serve as a Co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration. My Delegation looks forward to contributing to the operations of the convention in this capacity.

I thank you, Mr. President.