



**STATEMENT BY
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AT THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
DELIVERED
AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
(AGENDA ITEM 12(B))
(GENEVA, 26 NOVEMBER 2008)**

Mr.President,

I know that Turkey is one of the few countries whose statement under this agenda item is eagerly expected. That is why we have prepared a power point presentation. Thus, we will once again display to you that our determination is strong, capacity is in place and that the process of destruction is well underway.

I am here today, to present to you the latest stockpile destruction figures we have achieved in Turkey through our national resources. Before doing so, please allow me to update you on what we did , since June 2008. You may remember that in June we had the opportunity to address the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

The Turkish Munitions Disposal Facility continues to perform at a maximum possible capacity, and we are happy to notice the gradual increase in the destruction process.

On the screen, you will see the destruction figures, accomplished by the Facility, since November 2007, when it became operational. Here, you will find the monthly figures. We will provide a copy of this presentation to all interested parties for detailed examination.

Since last year, almost 800.000 landmines are destroyed. This is of course, a very remarkable figure, as other methods of destruction, such as open-air detonation are disregarded. In this context, I would like to reiterate that the Turkish Munitions Disposal Facility is operating under environmental norms and standarts of the EU, which is also part of our environmental legislation, and it is also compatible with the UN Environmental Programme which covers, inter alia, "environmental friendly military activities".

We pay attention to the Facility, to further increase its capacity in order to destroy the remaining stockpile. In this regard, we are working on possible ways to increase additional shifts of the personnel, as well as the productivity of the workshops, which might lead to the acceleration of the destruction capacity. Safety and environmental considerations are among constraining elements in reaching the desired capacity.

Despite a relative decrease in the month of October, this year, which is due to an official holiday in Turkey, it can be assessed that the Facility is gradually increasing its destruction capacity.

As you notice, here on the slide, as of 20th November 2008, -and I would like to highlight the fact that we are able to submit to you the latest figure, which is only a week before today- 1.824.833 landmines – all of which the fuses are removed and already destroyed – are remaining in Turkey.

You would recall that we have already announced that all fuses of the remaining anti-personnel landmines stockpiled in Turkey are removed and destroyed.

This is an irreversible process, and neither the fuses nor the remaining stockpiles are reusable.

The fuses have been started to be destroyed at an earlier stage, when the Turkish Munitions Disposal Facility was not yet operational. They were destroyed in place, where they remained, and since the Facility has become operational, all stockpiles were moved to the Facility and the fuses of them were incinerated in the burning furnaces by April 2008, at the Facility.

Here you see one of the burning furnaces

The Republic of Turkey has adopted a very transparent and frank policy vis-a-vis its obligations arising from Article IV of the Convention.

It has been the reflection of this policy, that we have notified , via a Note Verbale in February 2008, the State Parties of our determination and resolution.

We have invited representatives of ICBL, ICRC and the ISU to Ankara. As I said before His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein, as President of the 8th Meeting of the States Parties accompanied by the Director of ISU, paid a visit to the facility. We have also provided an update about our ongoing efforts at the UN First Committee Meeting held in New York last October.

During each of these initiatives, we were able to display a better record of destruction, with a gradual increase in the destruction figures.

So, we strongly hope that, at the possible earliest stage in 2010, Turkey will be able to have completed the destruction of the remaining parts of its stockpiled anti-personnel landmines.

Today there must be no question about Turkey's determination in fulfilling its Article IV obligation.

With these considerations, I thank you Mr. President.

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION 2007-2008

TURKISH ARMED FORCES MUNITIONS DISPOSAL FACILITY (TAF-MDF)

	NOV/ DEC 2007	JAN/ FEB 2008	MAR/ APR 2008	MAY/ JUN 2008	JUL/ AUG 2008	SEP/ OCT 2008	20 NOV 2008
M2	2.017/ 1781	1.694/ 1.365	4.440/ 2468	3.528/ 4300	2.500/ 0	3.286/ 3550	2.610
M16	1.055/ 881	656/ 1.157	1.275/ 756	1.096/ 1916	1.360/ 0	1.612/ 1.416	264
M14	11.310/ 6.019	5.733/ 0	2.675/ 0	30/ 0	0/ 0	0/ 10.451	0
DM11	1.820/ 0	0/ 0	0/ 7302	34.623/ 136.735	50.160/ 235.518	105.593/ 77.448	59.537
TOTAL	16.202/ 8.681	8.083/ 2.522	8.390/ 10.526	39.277/ 142.951	54.020/ 235.518	110.491/ 92.865	62.411

- M2 and M16 type APLMs are incinerated in the burning furnaces.

- M14 and DM11 type APLMs are dismantled.

STOCKPILE TO BE DESTROYED

	31 DEC 2007	Destruction Completed as of 20 Nov 2008*	Remaining
M2	133.826	33.539	102.897
M16	41.946	13.444	28.766
M14	1.010.258	36.218	974.040
DM11	1.407.952	708.736	758.753
ADAM	22.788	0	22.788
TOTAL	2.616.770	791.937	1.824.833

*Since the landmines destroyed on Nov. and Dec. 2007 were not included in the 2007 Article 7 Report, they are added to the 2008's calculations.