

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
DELIVERED AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF
THE ANTIPERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
(MAPUTO, 26 JUNE 2014)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Presidency and through you, thank the authorities of Mozambique for hosting this very important meeting and for the generous hospitality accorded to my delegation.

We would like to thank you personally Mr. President, Your Excellency Banze, for your able guidance and leadership throughout the Conference.

Please rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation during your tenure.

I should also like to thank the Implementation Support Unit and all others who have contributed to making this conference a smooth and successful one.

Turkey continues to financially support the Implementation Support Unit, a team that continues to provide full assistance to all States Parties.

Gathering here in Maputo 15 years after the First Meeting of States Parties is certainly a momentous occasion. Although universality and full success may not have been attained during this time, we must nevertheless agree that much has been achieved and this shows that we are on the right path.

We are cognizant of the challenges associated with the full implementation of the Convention, both financial and bureaucratic; which is why assistance should be rendered to all those States Parties who request it.

We consider this Conference as an opportunity to reconfirm, as States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, our commitment to achieve a mine-free world. We also view the machinery as well as the documents adopted during this Conference as guidelines or interpretation to what are already clearly enshrined in the Convention itself.

Effective functioning of the Ottawa machinery is a very important one, which is why we continue to submit our transparency reports in a timely manner. We urge other States Parties who have not done so, to follow suit.

Within the review period, Turkey has completed its commitment relating to Article 4, destroying a total of approximately 3 million anti-personnel mines and is working on effectively fulfilling its Article 5 obligations emanating from the Convention.

While fully engaged in our efforts to this end, Turkey continues to render financial assistance in a modest way to clearance efforts in third countries as well; most recently to the International Trust Fund for its activities in Lebanon.

With regard to the clearance of laid mines, Turkey has very recently submitted its Article 5 extension request for eight years, which was adopted at the 13th MSP.

Turkey has long borders, and the majority of its mines are laid along its longest border, the border with Syria, which is currently an area with high risk for mine clearance personnel, due to clashes on the other side of the border.

We have had to postpone clearance work in this area until the situation becomes more amenable, and turn our focus to other mined areas. Preparations for this are currently underway. We shall naturally keep the States Parties informed on the developments in due time.

Victim assistance is also an important element in this domain. Since the last review conference, Turkey has co-chaired with Peru, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance for a period of two years.

We commend all States Parties and other actors for their tireless efforts for the universalization of the Convention.

The involvement of Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Colombian landmine advocate Juanes's efforts in promoting universality are especially commendable.

In this vein, we should like to join the group in congratulating the Sultanate of Oman for its decision to join the Convention, which brings the number of States Parties to 162.

I thank you Mr. President.

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