

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2022
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

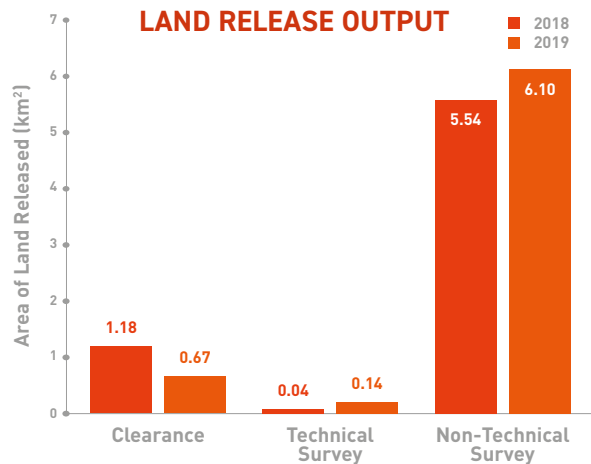
HEAVY, 157 km²
(ESTIMATE BY TURKEY)

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

0.67 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

25,959



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Turkey published a Strategic Plan for 2020–25 which sets a target of becoming mine free by 2025 while acknowledging it will seek an extension to its 2022 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline. The Ministry of National Defence and the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) significantly increased the military's demining capacity in 2019, accrediting 12 more teams, purchasing large volumes of equipment, and preparing to take delivery of new mechanical assets. Nonetheless, mine clearance in 2019 fell to the lowest level in three years.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Turkey should commit to a timeline for survey and clearance of its south-eastern border with Iraq.
- Turkey should accelerate survey to define hazardous areas in non-border areas as a prelude to faster clearance.
- Turkey should report systematically and in detail on all victim-activated explosive devices to fulfil its APMBC obligations.
- Turkey should report on all mine action plans and activities in Northern Cyprus and the territory it controls in northern Syria.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	6	Turkey has good knowledge of its mine contamination and continued to refine that understanding in 2019 adding many areas previously identified as suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) to its record of confirmed hazards.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	Since 2015, Turkey has developed an institutional framework for focused mine action under the control of the military and since 2018 has embarked on significant expansion of its operational capacity although management has suffered from high turnover of senior staff.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Turkey makes no reference to gender and diversity in its 2020–25 strategic plan and military regulations prevent employment of women in military demining teams but TURMAC says women are included in survey and community liaison teams and in non-operational roles. It also claims that it takes gender into account in planning new projects.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	TURMAC operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database which became operational in 2018. It supported a desktop review of contamination data in 2019 that led to a significant adjustment in estimates of both SHAs and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). Turkey submits comprehensive and timely Article 7 reports.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	5	Turkey published a long-awaited strategic plan for 2020-25 in a 12-page document that set out five main goals, including becoming mine free by 2025 while confirming the intention to seek a further extension to its 2022 Article 5 deadline.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	Turkey published 44 chapters of mine action standards in 2019 which it prepared in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	7	Turkey did not sustain the improvement in clearance achieved in 2018 and although it released slightly more land through reduction and cancellation, overall productivity remained far below the levels needed to meet its strategic plan goals.
Average Score	6.3	6.2	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of Defence
- Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Altay (national sub-contractor under MECHEM)
- Turkish Armed Forces

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Denel MECHEM
- RPS-Explosive Engineering Services (QA and QC of the EU project)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Turkey reported 150km² of anti-personnel mine contamination at the end of 2019, continuing the decline in recent years from 164km² at the end of 2017 and 157km² at the end of 2018. The reduction in contaminated area was largely on the border with Syria and, to a modest extent, on the border with Iran. The estimate of mined areas on the borders with Iraq and Armenia remained unchanged.¹

Despite the drop, a review of existing data by TURMAC's Survey and Information Management departments resulted in Turkey reporting 670 more confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) at the end of 2019 than a year earlier and slashing the number of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).² It had reported 701 SHAs at the end of 2018, of which 373 were on the border with Iraq and 206 in non-border areas. A year later, it acknowledged only 162 SHAs, all of them in non-border areas.³

Almost all contamination is located along Turkey's borders (see Table 1). It said that just 1% of CHA area is in the interior of the country but also reported 701 SHAs affecting 2.8 km² inside the country.⁴

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by region (at end 2019)⁵

Region	CHAs	Area (m ²)	AP mines	AV mines	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Syrian border	1,527	128,186,299	411,991	194,618	0	0
Iraqi border	875	2,862,835	79,017	0	0	0
Iranian border*	485	15,515,775	125,558	0	0	0
Armenian border	43	1,097,077	20,275	0	0	0
Non-border areas	762	2,756,422	34,106	0	162	N/K
Totals	3,692	150,418,408	670,947	194,618	162	N/K

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle N/K = Not known * Mined area also intersects with the Azerbaijan border.

Turkey reports mines were first laid along the Syrian border in the 1950s to prevent smuggling and later in south eastern regions for military security.⁶ Mines inside the country were laid around military installations during the 1984–99 conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan, PKK) in the south-east of the country. These are mostly in Diyarbakır, Batman, Sirt, Mardin, Şırnak, Tunceli, Bingöl, Bitlis, Hakkari, and Ardahan.⁷ According to Turkey, these mines, which were marked and fenced, have been progressively cleared since 1998.⁸ The mines on Turkey's other borders were mostly laid in 1955–59 and on some sections of the border with Armenia, Iran, and Iraq in 1992–95.⁹ Turkey reports that its western borders with Bulgaria and Greece, as well as the border with Georgia, are mine-free.¹⁰

In addition to mines laid by Turkish security forces, non-state armed groups have also emplaced mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rendering clearance more challenging.¹¹ Devices are mostly remote controlled or victim-activated pressure plate (in which case they fall within the definition of an anti-personnel mine under the APMBBC). Explosive charges are mostly ammonium nitrate supported with plastic explosives.¹²

The number of mined areas along the Iraqi border, as well as part of the Iranian border, is an estimate, as, according to Turkey, precise calculation is hampered by armed group activities and the presence of unconfirmed mined areas. In addition, fewer mines are expected along the Syrian border than indicated because of detonations by smugglers and as a result of wildfires.¹³

NEW CONTAMINATION

Turkey's Operation Peace Spring launched in northern Syria in October 2019 put it in effective control of territory contaminated by mines and other explosive hazards, which humanitarian organisations report have caused civilian casualties.¹⁴

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Turkey's original Article 5 clearance deadline was 1 March 2014. In 2013, States Parties granted Turkey an eight-year extension until 1 March 2022, for clearance of mines in Turkey, but Turkey did not request additional time for clearance of the areas it controls in northern Cyprus¹⁵ (see the report on Cyprus in this work for further information). This puts into question its compliance with Article 5 of the APMBBC.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Turkey adopted Law No. 6586 establishing a national mine action centre under the Ministry of National Defence in February 2015.¹⁶ Its director reports directly to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defence.¹⁷ The law gave the centre, now known as TURMAC, responsibility for the clearance of mines and/or unexploded ordnance (UXO) to humanitarian standards.¹⁸ It also has responsibility to elaborate policies for clearance; to plan and steer related activities and to monitor their implementation; and to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.¹⁹ To strengthen project management, TURMAC planned to establish project offices in the regions where it is operational.²⁰

Turkey reports that the formation of TURMAC has led to significantly increased mine action activities and clearance²¹ but a high turnover of senior staff, including the director, has also had a negative effect on the national mine action programme. Colonel Yıldırım Özerkan, the present director, who was appointed director by presidential decree in July 2019, became the third person to lead TURMAC in less than five years.²²

TURMAC is entirely funded by the Turkish government, as are the Turkish Armed Forces demining units.²³ Turkey reported investing around 50 million Turkish Lira (approx. US\$8.6 million) in 2019 to procure new equipment to establish additional demining companies, and pledged that support for personnel, training, deployment, maintenance of equipment, and other costs will be increased.²⁴ In 2020, Turkey said the government had allocated an additional TL 53.2 million (US\$7.8 million) for demining for the period 2020 to 2025.²⁵

In addition, Turkey reported providing some €10 million (approx. US\$11.4 million) to the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project, which is implemented by UNDP and jointly funded by the European Union (EU), Turkey, and the UN.²⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are not mentioned in Turkey's 2021–25 strategy or taken into consideration in planning and prioritisation.²⁷ TURMAC says national standards closely follow International Mine Action Standards on gender and that the issue of gender is taken into consideration in the preparation of new project documents. Survey and community liaison teams include women to facilitate access and participation by all groups, including women and children.²⁸

Women are reported to have equal access to survey and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) positions and make up 40% of TURMAC personnel in non-operational positions, including holding the position of department chiefs. Turkish Armed Forces regulations do not permit employment of women in military demining units but TURMAC says civilian contractors are encouraged and advised to deploy female personnel.²⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TURMAC installed the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with support from the Geneva International Centre for Mine Action (GICHD) in 2017, and personnel from TURMAC and the armed forces have been trained in its use.³⁰ Turkey reported the system contains all minefield and mine victim data and is used for all reporting and documentation.³¹

Turkey has been submitting comprehensive, accurate, and timely annual Article 7 transparency reports.

PLANNING AND TASKING

TURMAC's work plan for 2019 called for MECHEM to clear around 0.5km², under the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project.³² The plan called for a total of 18 MoD and *gendarmerie* demining teams to deploy as follows:

- Doğubeyazıt (Eastern Border) 4 teams (gendarmerie)
- Ardahan Göle (non-border) 2 teams
- Syrian Border in Hatay (8 teams), Kilis (4 teams)
- Hakkari (4 teams)
- Diyarbakır (2 teams)
- Şırnak (2 teams).³³

Turkey's first National Strategic Mine Action Plan, which was announced in 2017 and covered 2018–20 was never published.³⁴ Changes in government regulations, legislation, and structures were said to have held up publication.³⁵ In November 2019, Turkey informed the Fourth APMBC Review Conference in Oslo that it had prepared a three-year national mine action plan for 2019–21.³⁶ It later reported that TURMAC's director had prepared and signed a Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020–25).³⁷

In 2020, TURMAC released a 12-page Strategic Mine Action Plan through to the end of 2025 setting out a vision of Turkey becoming mine-free by 2025. It estimated the cost of completion at about US\$332 million, to be financed by the national budget and international sources. The plan identified five general goals:³⁸

- To clear all of the emplaced anti-personnel mines in Turkey
- To strengthen national capacity and ensure its sustainability
- To reduce the number of mines held in depots for training
- To provide Mine Risk Education and support mine victims; and
- To develop coordination and cooperation with national and international organisations related to mine action.

SYRIAN BORDER

The 2013 Article 5 deadline extension request had projected completing clearance of the border with Syria, which accounts for 85% of its contamination, by the end of 2019.³⁹ This was not achieved. The border is Turkey's easiest clearance task because the terrain is flat and has experienced minimal mine displacement due to environmental factors but despite some clearance to support construction of a border security surveillance system operations were delayed by the Syria conflict.⁴⁰ Clearance operations under way since 2018 focused on Hatay and Kilis provinces.⁴¹ The Strategic Plan said Turkish demining assets would clear a total of around 3.4km² in Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Mardin and Şırnak provinces on the Syrian border at a cost of TLM 55 million (US\$8 million) funded from the national budget.⁴²

EASTERN BORDERS

Turkey proposed a two-phase Eastern Border Mine Clearance project, starting on the Armenian border and continuing southwards to the borders with Azerbaijan, Iran, and Iraq.⁴³ The project is supervised by Turkish authorities and implemented in a joint project with UNDP.⁴⁴ Under the project, UNDP is both managing and quality assuring the demining while also supporting capacity development of TURMAC.⁴⁵ Denel MECHEM (MECHEM) was awarded a contract to conduct demining as part of a consortium in which national operators would be subcontracted by MECHEM.⁴⁶

Phase 1 of the project, implemented between June 2016 and the end of 2017,⁴⁷ released a total of almost 3.3km² of mined area, much less than the 13.5km² envisaged in the Article 5 deadline extension request, and destroyed 25,667 anti-personnel mines.⁴⁸ Phase 2, which started behind schedule in June 2018 and was completed in 2019,⁴⁹ resulted in release of close to 1.7km² of land, bringing the total area released in the first two phases to 4.8km².⁵⁰

Turkey planned a third phase that was due to start in 2020 and continue until 2022, which would be funded mainly by the EU (€18.5 million) and Turkey (€2.12 million). The project will include non-technical survey of all remaining mined areas in the eastern border region and clearance of 4km².⁵¹ In slight contrast, the Strategic Plan 2020–25 said the project involved clearance of 4km² in Van province and 5km² in Kilis province.⁵² Turkey said activities scheduled for 2020 would be delayed by measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NON-BORDER AREAS

Turkey planned to complete clearance of all 873 identified mined areas inside the country by 2021, involving release of 3.1km² and destruction of 34,410 mines. The 2013 extension request said the armed forces would conduct clearance in non-border areas until the establishment of a national mine action centre, after which a tender would be issued. Operations would prioritise areas used for military operations; areas with low or no security threats; and areas where the local population may benefit from agriculture and livestock.⁵³ The only non-border activity conducted up to 2020 was clearance of 0.3km² at a former military range in 2018.⁵⁴ The mined areas are scattered and TURMAC considers it more practical for clearance to be conducted by military units but their capacity has been limited.⁵⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Turkey issued 44 national mine action standards, including on land release, in February 2019. The standards were prepared with support from UNDP and the GICHD.⁵⁶ A separate set of standards specific to the Eastern Border Clearance project were also reviewed in 2019, including regulations and medical standards for private companies.⁵⁷

As at July 2019, TURMAC's SOPs had been completed and were available on its webpage. The SOPs of the military demining units and MECHEM have been in use since 2017.⁵⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Turkey's military has undergone significant expansion of its manual demining capacity since 2018. Three new demining companies (equivalent to 12 nine-strong demining teams) were established in June 2018 and accredited for manual demining.⁵⁹ Twelve more teams making up three demining companies were accredited in 2019, most of them becoming operational in the second half of the year. By 2020, total military capacity amounted to 32 teams, including six gendarmerie teams.⁶⁰ Turkey expected to recruit eight more Land Forces demining teams and to complete their training and accreditation by the end of 2020. The MoD was also in the process of developing a light-medium sized mechanical demining machine with a tiller attachment, particularly suitable for demining on the flat Syrian border terrain. If the

machine passed its evaluation, the MoD planned to buy six machines.⁶¹ Turkey aimed to take delivery of two machines in 2020 and four in 2021.⁶² It cautioned those plans could be set back by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³

MECHEM, a South African company, is contracted for mine clearance under the EU Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project.⁶⁴ In 2019, MECHEM deployed 15 mine detection dog (MDD) teams, 6 manual clearance teams (approx. 60 deminers), and 1 MineWolf machine.⁶⁵ Before 2019, MECHEM had subcontracted its demining to a national company, Altay, but in 2019 it recruited Turkish nationals directly.⁶⁶ RPS-Explosive Engineering Services, a United Kingdom-based company, was contracted for QA and QC.⁶⁷ TURMAC also had oversight of operations on site.⁶⁸

TURMAC, which has three non-technical survey teams, conducted non-technical survey for the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project in 2019. TURMAC also conducted a desk survey of minefield records in 2019 to support planning and prioritization of the project activities in 2020. TURMAC has 10 QA/QC personnel who conduct quality management of military demining teams.⁶⁹

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2019

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Dogs and handlers	Machines*	Comments
MoD	32	N/R	0	0	12 more teams accredited in 2019
MECHEM	6	60	15 teams	1 team	
Totals	38	60	15 teams	1 team	

* Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

MECHEM and Turkish army demining teams both conduct mechanical as well as manual demining, and also use MDDs. In 2020, the MoD planned to deploy two MDDs that have been accredited for humanitarian mine action by the gendarmerie's Horse and Dog Training Centre and to increase the number of dogs in service.⁷⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

Turkey released a total of 6.91km² in 2019, about 9% less than the previous year, mainly as a result of a fall in the amount of clearance. Of the 2019 total, close to 90% was cancelled through non-technical survey.⁷¹

SURVEY IN 2019

Turkey cancelled 6,099,493m² through non-technical survey in 2019, one-tenth more than in 2018, with most of the released land (5,564,625m²) located on the border with Syria. The remaining 534,868m² of cancelled area was on the Iranian border.⁷²

Turkey did not release any land through technical survey in 2018 but in 2019 said it reduced 136,472m², including 79,055m² on the Syrian border and 55,156m² in non-border areas with a tiny amount on the Iranian border.⁷³

CLEARANCE IN 2019

Turkey's mine clearance of 0.67km² in 2019 (see Table 3) represented less than one-third the amount of land cleared in 2018 and the lowest output in three years, with sharp falls in each of the three areas where clearance was conducted. Army and gendarmerie deminers accounted for clearance of 127,788m² in the eastern border provinces of Ardahan, Doğubeyazıt, and Iğdır. Most of the Syria border clearance was conducted by six demining teams operating in the Hatay region with a small amount cleared by four teams in the Beşiriye/Kilis region.⁷⁴

Operators still managed to destroy more mines in 2019 than the 22,220 destroyed in 2018 largely due to a 60% increase in mines cleared on the Iranian border.⁷⁵

Table 3: Mine clearance in 2019⁷⁶

Region	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Iran border	513,814	25,619	0	4
Syria border	140,067	36	17	0
Non-border areas	18,844	304	0	0
Totals	672,725	25,959	17	4

Army EOD teams also reportedly destroyed 4,038 improvised explosive devices in 2019 in the course of security operations usually focused on non-border areas. Turkey did not provide any details of devices to indicate if any, or how many, were victim activated devices that qualify as anti-personnel mines and fall under its APMBBC obligations.⁷⁷ Turkey's Article 7 report also did not provide details of mine clearance, including of improvised mines, conducted in areas of northern Syria where it took control after launching Operation Peace Spring in October 2019. The MoD reported in January 2020 only that security forces had destroyed 891 mines and 1,660 IEDs.⁷⁸

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted by States Parties in 2013), Turkey is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2022.

Turkey will not meet this deadline and has confirmed it will seek a new extension in 2021.⁷⁹ Turkey's 2020–25 strategic plan says Turkey will request a three-year extension to its Article 5 deadline,⁸⁰ but it appears the amount of extra time to be requested has yet to be finalised.⁸¹ The plan also sets a general target of completing mine clearance by 2025 in line with the Oslo Action Plan.⁸² Neither target can be achieved without a dramatic acceleration in mine clearance operations.

Turkey has made significant progress in the past five years creating the institutions, processes, and operational capacity to pursue the goals set out in its 2013 Article 5 extension request and fulfil its APMBC obligations. The first two phases of the Eastern Border Project conducted between 2016 and 2018 resulted in release of 4.8km², a marked improvement on what was achieved in the 15 years between 1998 and 2013, when Turkey cleared a total of 1.15km² of mined area. However, the results remain modest in relation to the 150km² of remaining contamination and Turkey's strategic plan targets.

Turkey believes it will cancel at least a quarter of this contamination through non-technical survey,⁸³ but it will need to sharply accelerate clearance to achieve its strategic goals. Instead, clearance in 2019 fell back from the level achieved the previous year and has averaged a little under 0.75km² a year for the past five years (see Table 4). The setback to operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unlikely land release will significantly accelerate in 2020. Turkey, meanwhile, added to its treaty obligations by taking control of an area of northern Syria heavily contaminated by mines and improvised devices.

Table 4: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	0.67
2018	2.08
2017	*0.82
2016	0.12
2015	0
Total	3.69

*Also included previously unreported clearance output relating to 2016.

- 1 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D.
- 2 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, Head of QM Section, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 3 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 1.
- 7 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 8 Response to Landmine Monitor questionnaire by Elif Comoglu Ulgen, Head, Disarmament and Arms Control Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 14 July 2008; and email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 9 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D; 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. A-1 and A-5.
- 10 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. A-1.
- 11 Ibid., p. A-5.
- 12 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 13 Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form C.
- 14 See for example "Turkey destroys dozens of mines in northern Syria", *Anadolu Agency*, 28 March 2020; "Syria: Bachelet warns of 'ticking time-bomb' as civilian casualties mount", Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 8 May 2020.
- 15 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.
- 16 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.
- 17 Presidency Decree No. 1 of 10 July 2018; Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form A; and Statement of Turkey on Clearance, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 29 November 2018.
- 18 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.
- 19 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.
- 20 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 8.
- 21 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 22 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 23 Email from Lt.-Col. Halil Şen, TURMAC, 21 June 2017.
- 24 Statement of Turkey, Standing Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019.
- 25 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 26 Statement of Turkey, Standing Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, Geneva, 24 May 2019.
- 27 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 28 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 29 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 30 Statements of Turkey, Standing Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019; and on Clearance, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 29 November 2018; email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form A.
- 31 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 32 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Statement of Turkey, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 20 December 2017.
- 35 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 36 Statement of Turkey, Fourth APMBBC Review Conference, 27 November 2019.
- 37 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 38 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, pp. 7–8, 10.
- 39 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 29 March 2013, pp. A-2, A-13, and A-14.
- 40 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", pp. 3 and 8; and Statement of Turkey, 15th Meeting of States Parties, Santiago, 29 November 2016.
- 41 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 42 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 8.
- 43 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. A-14.
- 44 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", p. 6.
- 45 Email from Hans Rissler, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, 3 October 2016.
- 46 Interview with Gen. Celalettin Coban and Col. Ali Güngör, TURMAC, in Geneva, 18 February 2016.
- 47 Email from Lt.-Col. Halil Şen, TURMAC, 21 June 2017; interview with Col. Zaki Eren and Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, in Vienna, 20 December 2018; and Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
- 48 Statements of Turkey on Clearance, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 29 November 2018; and Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 May 2019.
- 49 Statements of Turkey on Clearance, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 29 November 2018; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 50 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 51 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 52 Ministry of National Defence, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 8.
- 53 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Work plan for mine clearance activities", pp. 5 and 6.
- 54 Email from Lt.-Col. Halil Şen, TURMAC, 21 June 2017; Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A; Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form D; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 55 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 56 Email from Hans Rissler, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, 3 October 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form F; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 57 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A; email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 58 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 59 Statement of Turkey, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 20 December 2017. Statement of Turkey, Standing Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form A.
- 60 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 61 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 62 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 7.
- 63 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 64 UNDP, "Turkey, UNDP begin clearing landmine along eastern borders", 4 April 2016.
- 65 Emails from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019 and 24 June 2020.
- 66 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
- 67 UNDP, "Turkey, UNDP begin clearing landmine along eastern borders", 4 April 2016.
- 68 Email from Lt.-Col. Halil Şen, TURMAC, 21 June 2017.
- 69 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A; email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 70 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 7.
- 71 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D.
- 72 Ibid.
- 73 Ibid.
- 74 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 75 Ibid., Form D.
- 76 Ibid.
- 77 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 78 Burak Bir, "Turkey destroys hundreds of mines, IEDs in Syria", *Anadolu Agency*, 9 January 2020.
- 79 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC, 24 June 2020.
- 80 Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2021–2025, p. 5.
- 81 Email from Maj. Can Ceylan, TURMAC 24 June 2020.
- 82 Strategic Mine Action Plan, 2021–2025, p.
- 83 Ministry of National Defence Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 6.