



Statement by Turkey

23RD CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO AP II OF THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

General Statement

Geneva, 10 December 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

We congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the Twenty-third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II. We assure you of our full support.

Turkey continues being committed to Amended Protocol II, which contains norms to reduce the humanitarian impact of mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices.

We believe that the universalization of the AP II would further contribute to its goals.

We see value in submitting national reports as a tool of confidence-building, transparency, cooperation and assistance. Turkey always elaborately delivers its national reports on time.

Mr. President,

We believe that AP II is the appropriate forum to address the challenges posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

We are deeply concerned about the widespread use of IEDs by illegal armed groups and terrorists. Without any discrimination, we must react against all types of terrorist acts in solidarity and cooperation.

We should also increase technological cooperation and assistance among States Parties. UNODA's website on IEDs continues to play an important role with its compendium of existing guidelines and best practices on combatting IEDs.

We would like to thank you and IED Coordinators for your efforts to enable us to update IED Declaration. We hope that High Contracting Parties could agree on it with the view of final endorsement at the Sixth Review Conference.

We believe that it is crucial to take stock of the progress made on the implementation of the APII and agree on the way forward for the next Review Cycle.

Mr. President,

Turkey attaches great importance to hindering illicit transfer, stocking, possession and use of explosives. We know from our experiences how difficult and challenging it is to control and prevent dual-use materials from ending up in the wrong hands.

As set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2370 of 2017, all States must adopt and implement more robust national measures to prevent the supply of weapons and explosives precursors to terrorists.

In Turkey, laws and regulations are in place to control explosives and materials that could be used to prepare IEDs.

We are determined to prevent IEDs activities by proactively coordinating with national and international stakeholders.

Our National C-IEDs Working Commission under the Ministry of Interior works closely with National Intelligence, Presidency of Defence Industries, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and related Ministries.

The Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC) has prepared a "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Plan" targeting the most affected communities.

TURMAC plans to encourage local NGOs to initiate EORE activities by organizing workshops and training.

Thank you, Mr. President.