



STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE
AMENDED PROTOCOL II OF THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
24th CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES
GENERAL STATEMENT
15 NOVEMBER 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to add my voice to the others in congratulating The Republic of Bulgaria on assuming the leadership of 24th Conference of the HCP (High Contracting Parties) to AP II (Amended Protocol II). We assure you of our full support.

Türkiye believes that AP II constitutes an important instrument of IHL (International Humanitarian Law) and takes all feasible precautions to protect civilians from harm caused by weapons to which this Protocol applies.

We welcome all the efforts undertaken to promote the universalization of AP II, particularly the ones which encourage the other States Parties of the CCW.

We acknowledge that any action with respect to the termination of the original Protocol II should be taken with the consent of the HCP to this Protocol.

We also welcome the useful discussions on reviewing the operation and status of the Protocol and considering how to increase the rate of detailed national reporting in the Group of Experts.

Türkiye always elaborately delivers its national reports on time, contributing to confidence-building, transparency and cooperation, and calling others to do the same.

Mr. President,

We are profoundly concerned about the widespread use of IEDs by illegal armed groups and terrorists, which cause vast numbers of casualties each year and spread fear and disruption across affected communities.

We should increase international cooperation, information exchange and assistance for developing national capacities between us in order to curb access by terrorists and illegal entities to military explosives such as insufficiently secured ammunition and IEDs' precursor materials in solidarity.

We are glad for the works of a coordinating task force on IEDs, established by UNMAS (UN Mine Action Service), which facilitates a common understanding of the threat.

We welcome the updated Declaration on IEDs adopted at the Sixth Review Conference, which particularly recognizes the importance of addressing IEDs to reach sustainable development goals.

Mr. President,

Türkiye has been targeted by such atrocious terrorist attacks and its fight for counter-IEDs has been going on for several decades.

In 2021, victim-activated IEDs emplaced by PKK terrorist organization caused fifteen civilian casualties in Türkiye.

In Türkiye, 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.

Türkiye attaches great importance to awareness-raising regarding the IEDs threat among the civilian population, as well as all security personnel.

In 2021, via the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) project, 465 residents who live close to contaminated areas were given Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) by the NTS teams. These trainings are age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens.

I thank you, Mr. President.