CYPRUS

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JULY 2028

Not on track to meet deadline
(Lack of effective control)

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 1 KM²

Light
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	0	0

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- None

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

No tangible progress was reported in 2025 towards the Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus) and the Turkish Cypriot authorities agreeing to complete mine clearance on the island, and for a sixth consecutive year no mined area was released. In 2025, however, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General held three meetings (in March, July, and September) with the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, and the then Turkish Cypriot leader, Ersin Tatar. The first meeting in March resulted in agreement on six new initiatives to build trust, including one on demining. Following the second of these meetings, held in July 2025, the UN Secretary-General reported that, "an agreement on demining will be closed once the final technical details are established", but no further progress has since been reported.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot authorities should both work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus and make progress towards releasing the 29 remaining hazardous areas on the island.**
- **Cyprus and the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) should update, consolidate, and align data on remaining mined areas.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- No national mine action authority or mine action centre

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None (Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and DOK-ING were last active in 2017)

OTHER ACTORS

- UN-supported mine action in Cyprus is coordinated by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on behalf of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of anti-personnel (AP) mined area in Cyprus is unclear. Cyprus's most recent Article 7 report, submitted in July 2024, repeated that 21 AP minefields laid by Turkish Armed Forces remained: 1 in the buffer zone in the vicinity of the Deryneia village, and the other 20 north of, but "overwhelmingly situated adjacent to the buffer zone". Cyprus said it did not know the size of these mined areas or if they contained mines other than AP mines.[1] In a media report in June 2024, sources from the Cypriot government indicated that no AP mines were left in the buffer zone, or indeed elsewhere "inside the Republic", although it is unclear if the reference to demining in the buffer zone referred only to AP mines laid by its own forces.[2]

It is acknowledged that anti-vehicle (AV) mines remain in territory controlled by the Cypriot government for defence purposes. The media report also claimed to cite an estimate from the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) that 7,000 mines remain emplaced across the island, covering a total of 2km^2.[3] In August 2026, the same media source claimed to cite a UNFICYP estimate that there are 47 hazardous areas in Cyprus that "may be contaminated with mines or other explosive remnants of war", extending over about 1.7km^2 of land.[4]

Contamination data in UNFICYP's mine action database cited by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) differ from those provided by Cyprus (and, at least in part, from the 2024 media report cited above). It shows that, across Cyprus, 29 mined areas covered a total of 1.5km^2 at the end of 2024, a level unchanged since the end of 2019.[5] The contamination consisted mostly of AV mines (see Table 1). North of the buffer zone, mined areas include one confirmed hazardous area (CHA) and five suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) thought to contain a mixture of AP and AV mines. Nineteen hazardous areas recorded south of the buffer zone contain only AV mines (13 CHAs and 6 SHAs), as do three of four CHAs in the buffer zone (the mine type in the fourth was unknown).[6] UNMAS reported that there were no changes in recorded contamination in 2025.[7]

Table 1: Mined area in Cyprus (at end 2025)[8]

Location	CHAs	Contamination	Area (m^2)	SHAs	Contamination	Area (m^2)	Total areas	Total area (m^2)
South of the buffer zone (territory under effective control of the Republic of Cyprus)	13	AV mines	418,543	6	AV mines	174,014	19	592,557
Buffer Zone	4	AV mines (3 areas) Unknown (1 area)	703,581	0	N/A	N/A	4	703,581
North of the buffer zone (territory not under effective control of the Republic of Cyprus)	1	Mixed (AV mines and AP mines)	170,493	5	Mixed	65,281	6	235,774
Totals	**18**		**1,292,617**	**11**		**239,295**	**29**	**1,531,912**

N/A = Not applicable.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 by a 180km-long buffer zone, following the invasion by Turkish Armed Forces in the north of the island. Minefields were laid by both the Greek Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish Armed Forces. Permission for UNFICYP to access areas within and outside the buffer zone remains limited.[9]

TERRITORY UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Cyprus's latest Article 7 report (covering 2023) reiterates that no AP mines remain in the minefields laid by the National Guard that are in territory under its effective control.[10] In total, between becoming a State Party on 1 July 2003 and its original Article 5 deadline of 1 July 2013, Cyprus released 20 mined areas under its effective control.[11]

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

2 "Buffer zone now free of mines, government says", *Cyprus Mail*, 8 June 2024 https://bit.ly/3KGlRcz.

3 Ibid.

4 "Erhurman: Christodoulides rejected Guterres proposal to clear mines", *Cyprus Mail*, 5 August 2026, https://bit.ly/4zahnmE.

5 Emails from Mark Connelly, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 8 April and 26 June 2020, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, and 22 March 2023; and interviews in Geneva, 30 April 2024, 9 April 2025, and 23 April 2026.

6 Emails from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 8 April 2020, 26 June 2020, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, and 22 March 2023; and interviews in Geneva, 30 April 2024, 9 April 2025, and 23 April 2026.

7 Interview with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

8 Emails from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 8 April and 26 June 2020, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, 22 March 2023; and interviews in Geneva, 30 April 2024, 9 April 2025, and 23 April 2026.

9 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 26 September 2017.

10 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

11 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Observations on implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus", 23 June 2015; and Article 7 Report (covering 2013), Form G.

Türkiye has accused Cyprus of disseminating "inaccurate and misleading information", saying that, "as part of its false allegations, the Greek Cypriot side claims that it has cleared all anti-personnel mines as of 2013 as part of its obligations stemming from the Ottawa Convention and that the only other mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines are located in the areas north of the buffer zone."[12] Türkiye has called this allegation by Cyprus, "a blatant falsehood."[13] The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) used very similar terminology in its letter of 3 June 2024 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Committee on Article 5 Implementation regarding the request by Cyprus for an extension to its Article 5 deadline.[14] Similarly, in a letter to Mine Action Review dated 28 August 2026, the TRNC asserted that, "The Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus falsely claims that it has cleared all anti-personnel landmines by 2013 within its own territory".[15] UNMAS UNFICYP records, however, also indicate that no AP mines remain in territory south of the buffer zone; that only AV mines remain in territory controlled by Cyprus (see Table 1); and that the three mined areas laid by the Cypriot National Guard in the buffer zone are also AV mined areas (see also below).

Türkiye and the TRNC have highlighted how Cyprus, in its completed Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2023 (covering 2022), said it cleared all AP minefields laid by the National Guard in the buffer zone by 20 January 2023.[16] In its response to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines the previous year, in 2022 (covering 2021), Cyprus stated at question 10, "On 20 January 2011, the clearance of all minefields laid by the National Guard located in the Buffer Zone was completed." In Form B of the document, it said, with reference to areas under its effective control, "All demining operations were completed by National Guard Engineers before the 31st of July 2013, which was the set deadline for the implementation of the provisions of the OTTAWA convention". It repeated: "In addition to the mine clearance operations carried out by the National Guard in the areas under the effective control of the Government, another programme was successfully completed on the 20th January 2011, which concerned the clearance of minefields located in the Buffer Zone."[17]

In its most recent published OSCE questionnaires on AP mine clearance, for 2022, 2023 and for 2024, although Cyprus stated (at question 10) that it concluded clearance of all minefields in the buffer zone laid by the National Guard by 20 January 2023 rather than 20 January 2011, in Form B, it reiterated that National Guard completed demining operations before the 31 July 2013 APMBC deadline of areas under its "effective control", and that, "another programme was successfully completed on the 20th January 2011 for the clearance of minefields located in the Buffer Zone."[18]

BUFFER ZONE

Four mined areas are reported to remain in the buffer zone at the end of 2025, three of which belong to the National Guard and contain only AV mines. The fourth belongs to Turkish Armed Forces and the mine type is unknown.[19] The Government of Cyprus considers the three minefields with only AV mines to be under its control and not within the buffer zone.[20]

TURKISH-CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

The extent of mined area in areas controlled by Turkish Armed Forces is not known. Cyprus made its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request for the same reason as the previous four extension requests (in 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021), on the grounds that areas "occupied by Türkiye" are, "the only ones in the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus that remain emplaced with anti-personnel mines or are suspected" to be so.[21]

Since the end of 2019, Cyprus has estimated that 20 Turkish-laid AP minefields remain north of and mostly adjacent to the buffer zone, plus one in the buffer zone near Deryneia village,[22] while UNMAS UNFICYP has recorded one CHA and 5 SHAs of mixed AP and AV mines north of the buffer zone covering a total of 235,774m^2 (see Table 1 above). Cyprus reports that both the size of the minefields north of the buffer zone and whether the mined area include mines other than AP mines is unknown.[23] It has further stated that it "continue[s] to be forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of its sovereign territory in the northern part of the island, which is occupied by Türkiye, rendering it impossible to verify the status of known or suspected minefields in this area".[24]

12 Statement of Türkiye on Cyprus's Article 5 deadline extension request, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

13 Statement of Türkiye on Cyprus's Article 5 deadline extension request, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024; and Statement of Türkiye, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024.

14 Letter from Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the TRNC, to H.E. Gustavo Gallón, Chair of the APMBC Article 5 Implementation Committee, 3 June 2024.

15 Letter from Beniz Uluer Kaymak, Director General, MoFA, TRNC, 28 August 2026.

16 Statement of Türkiye, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024; and letter from Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, MoFA, TRNC, to Gustavo Gallón, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, 3 June 2024.

17 Response of Cyprus to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines for 2021.

18 Response of Cyprus to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines for 2022, 2023, and 2024.

19 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 23 March 2023; and Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2018/676, 6 July 2018, para. 44.

20 Interview with Demitris Samuel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Cyprus Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, Geneva, 19 May 2016.

21 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

22 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form C.

24 Statement of Cyprus, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

One minefield has been reported just north of the buffer zone in Mammari, where heavy rains led to mines being washed into the buffer zone in 2014 and 2015. UNFICYP raised the issue of clearance of this minefield with the Turkish Armed Forces and has offered assistance in this regard.[25] In 2017, a small area of the Mammari minefield was cleared by a Croatian commercial operator contracted by the Turkish Armed Forces.[26] No further information was available and it is assumed that there has been no further progress.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are coordinated by UNMAS on behalf of UNFICYP,[27] and UNMAS supports UNFICYP's mandate under UN Security Council Resolution 2537 (July 2020).[28] UNMAS focuses on the removal of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW); planning, coordination, data analysis, and minefield information management and assessments, in preparation for landmine survey and clearance; and advocacy and outreach to raise awareness, training in mine and ERW awareness for UNFICYP personnel, and minefield marking.[29] UNMAS UNFICYP has previously described its activities as providing expertise in mine action planning and coordination, quality assurance (QA) oversight, and management of mine action information.[30]

In 2024, Cyprus sought and was granted a fifth extension to its Article 5 deadline on the same basis as previous requests, that "areas of Cyprus's sovereign territory are occupied by Türkiye and are therefore de facto outside the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus".[31] The Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted the importance of Cyprus seeking a cooperative solution to the situation so that it will be in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5, and of keeping States Parties regularly apprised of efforts and other developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.[32]

The most recent reported release of mined area was in 2019 when 18 SHAs (nine under the effective control of Cyprus and nine in the north of the island) were checked and declared mine-free.[33] UNFICYP had defined the 18 areas as potentially hazardous as a result of mines laid in the areas. The successful inspection of the 18 SHAs was achieved following a 2019 agreement between the President of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in the context of confidence-building measures.[34]

While the Turkish Cypriot authorities have previously expressed potential interest in reaching an agreement on mine clearance if it involved reciprocity from the other side, most recently setting out proposals for cooperation via the UN Secretary-General in 2022,[35] the Greek Cypriot National Guard previously did not wish to discuss the matter.[36] The Government of Cyprus has maintained that mined areas in which AP mines have been or are suspected to be emplaced are in areas outside its effective control.[37]

The UN Security Council has made repeated calls for mine clearance on the island, most recently in January 2026, when it urged "the leaders of both communities to agree and continue a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus, and to overcome the existing barriers to this work as outlined in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's report (S/2026/8) in order to make expeditious progress towards clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island."[38]

The year 2025, however, did bring some initial signs of progress after the UN Secretary-General held three meetings with the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader. After the first, an informal meeting held in Geneva in March 2025, the Secretary-General reported that demining had been agreed as one of six trust-building initiatives.[39] He suggested that this agreement "lent some political impetus" to efforts to clear the remaining 29 mined areas on the island, even though "the previously-held positions of the sides remain the same."[40] Further meetings took place at the UN base in Cyprus between the two leaders in April and May 2025, to discuss the six initiatives.[41] In July 2025, after a second meeting with the UN Secretary-General in New York, the Secretary-General reported that demining was one of four initiatives to have been achieved, albeit that the agreement would be "closed" when the technical details were established.[42]

25 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form C; and email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.

26 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.

27 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.

28 UNMAS, "Cyprus" webpage, last updated 10 June 2026, accessed 30 July 2026, https://bit.ly/4borPfX.

29 Ibid.

30 UNMAS, "Cyprus" webpage, accessed 6 June 2024.

31 Cyprus Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 8 March 2024; and Decision of the APMBC Fifth Review Conference, 27 November 2024.

32 Analysis of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Fifth Review Conference, 25–29 November 2024.

33 Cyprus Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, 11 August 2021.

34 Ibid.; and email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, Director for Political Affairs, MoFA, TRNC, 11 August 2022.

35 Email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA, TRNC, 11 August 2022; Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2023/6, 3 January 2023, Annex II, pp. 22–23; and letter from Damla Güçlü, Director-General, MOFA, TRNC, 2 May 2023, attached to email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA, TRNC, 3 May 2023.

36 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2024/12, 3 January 2024, para. 24.

37 Email from Giorgos Samouel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations Office, 10 August 2023; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

38 UN Security Council Resolution 2815 (2026), 30 January 2026, operative para. 19.

39 United Nations Office at Geneva, "Informal Meeting on Cyprus, UN Geneva: UN Secretary-General António Guterres Media Stakeout", 18 March 2025, https://bit.ly/3TSk8Wd.

40 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2025/447, 3 July 2025, para. 20.

41 Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2025/448, 3 July 2025, paras. 4 and 5; and "Rival Cypriot sides to work on removing landmines, other peace initiatives", *Reuters*, 2 April 2025, https://bit.ly/3H0lP0V.

42 United Nations Secretary-General, "Secretary-General's remarks to press following informal meeting on Cyprus", 17 July 2025.

The Secretary-General subsequently hosted the two leaders for a trilateral meeting in New York in September 2025, and held talks with both leaders (including the new Turkish Cypriot leader, Tufan Erhürman, who took office on 24 October 2025) during a visit to Cyprus at the end of July 2026, though no specific mention of mine clearance or progress on the issue was made by the United Nations in the aftermath.[43] After the meetings in Cyprus, however, a media source reported that the Turkish Cypriot Leader, Tufan Erhüman, said that the President of Cyprus rejected a proposal made by the UN Secretary-General for "more landmines to be cleared across the island. "'We agreed to clear the mines, the Greek Cypriot side rejected it,' he told journalist Nazar Eriskin".[44]

In a letter of 13 October 2025 to Mine Action Review, Mehmet Dânâ, the then Director General of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs" (MoFA), also attributed a lack of progress on mine clearance to the "Greek Cypriot side", "Most recently the issue of de-mining was also among the six cooperation initiatives agreed between the two leaders at the informal meeting on Cyprus held on 17–18 March 2025 in Geneva. However, to this day, no meaningful progress could be achieved on this humanitarian issue due to unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot side to move toward a positive outcome. While the Turkish Cypriot side remain committed to a mine-free Cyprus, also as agreed in Geneva at the said informal meeting, the Greek Cypriot leadership reneged from its commitment to a mine-free Cyprus and upon returning to the island stated that some of the minefields in the South should not be cleared."[45]

In his report to the UN Security Council on the United Nations Operations in Cyprus on 5 January 2026, the UN Secretary-General, however, stated that: "The Security Council's call, in its resolution 2771 (2025), for the sides to agree on 'a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus' gained traction during the reporting period. At the Secretary-General's informal meeting in a broader format on 17 July 2025, the sides reconfirmed demining as one of the trust-building measures."[46] Moreover, on the same date, the report of the UN Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus reported "Implementation of the demining initiative is pending the agreement of final technical details."[47]

Annex 1 to the January 2026 Report of the UN Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, from the President of the Republic of Cyprus, was silent on the issue of mine clearance.[48] Annex II to the report, from the "Turkish Cypriot side", however, states, "On demining, our vision, as the Turkish Cypriot side, is to have a mine-free Cyprus. In this context, we propose to have a holistic approach on the issue and realize our ultimate objective to clear our island of all mines. We, therefore, stress that we should devise a comprehensive work plan with a time-table, which would cover every minefield throughout the island."[49]

Despite the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus intensifying her efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Cyprus issue in the first six months of 2026, no significant developments were reported on mine clearance by July 2026,[50] when the UN Secretary-General reported, "UNFICYP followed up with the sides, without tangible progress, on the call of the Security Council in its resolution 2815 (2026) for them to agree on "a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus" and to advance the finalization of the technical details of the political agreement reached in July 2025 within the framework of the 10 trust-building initiatives. The 29 suspected hazardous areas across the island remain uncleared, including four active minefields in the buffer zone: three under the National Guard and one under the Turkish Forces."[51]

The previously mentioned trilateral meeting between the UN Secretary-General and President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader, held on Cyprus on 29 July 2026, appeared to bring no further movement. The new Director General of the TRNC MoFA, Beniz Uluer Kaymak, again sought to attribute the lack of meaningful progress on de-mining to "the unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot side to move toward a positive outcome". He informed Mine Action Review that, "During the trilateral meeting held on 29 July 2026, the proposal of the UN Secretary-General regarding the clearance of mines across the island was rejected by the Greek Cypriot leader", while the TRNC President is said to have, "responded favourably to the proposal, affirming the readiness of the TRNC to fully cooperate on this vital humanitarian matter."[52]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

UNMAS Cyprus is funded by the UN peacekeeping assessed budget for UNFICYP. The resources were reported to cover technical capacity for planning and coordination; awareness training for UNFICYP personnel; advocacy activities; and data management of mine action information.[53] UNFICYP's total budget decreased in 2025.[54] Furthermore, a media source, which reports drawing on a UN report presenting budget performance from 1 July 2024, indicates that overall, UNFICYP has experienced budget reductions and a structural reorganisation since July 2024.[55]

43 United Nations, "Readout of the Secretary-General's meeting with the Leader of the Greek Cypriot community, Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, and the Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Ersin Tatar", 27 September 2025, https://bit.ly/4yVurMw; Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/9, 5 January 2026, para. 4; UN Press Conference: António Guterres (UN Secretary-General), 29 July 2026; and "Cyprus's ethnic split must be resolved to stabilize a tumultuous region, UN chief says", *AP News*, 29 July 2026, https://bit.ly/4g087J6.

44 "Erhurman: Christodoulides rejected Guterres proposal to clear mines", *Cyprus Mail*, 5 August 2026.

45 Letter from Mehmet Dânâ, Director-General of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs", 13 October 2025.

46 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, 5 January 2026, para. 17.

47 Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, para. 8.

48 Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/9, 5 January 2026, Annex I, "Written update by the Greek Cypriot leader to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General, pursuant to and in accordance with UNSCR 2771 (2025)".

49 Ibid., Annex II, "Written update by the Turkish Cypriot side on the actions taken in support of the relevant parts of the UN Security Council Resolution 2771 (2025)".

50 Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/551, 6 July 2026, paras. 4 and 10.

51 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/550, 6 July 2026, para. 20.

52 Letter from Beniz Uluer Kaymak, Director General, MoFA, TRNC, 28 August 2026.

53 UNMAS, "Cyprus" webpage, accessed 22 July 2025; and UNFICYP, "Mine Action" webpage, accessed 22 July 2025.

54 Interview with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

55 "Unficyp report: budget cuts for a leaner force", *Cyprus Mail*, 28 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4wAqZVS.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In recent years, including 2024, only one member of staff has been deployed at UNMAS UNFICYP–the Chief of Operations–who is male.[56]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

There was no available information on environmental policies relevant to demining in Cyprus.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNFICYP has previously stated that it uses the New Generation version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).[57]

Cyprus has submitted annual Article 7 reports regularly since becoming a State Party to the APMBC in July 2003, most recently in 2024, covering calendar year 2023. Cyprus did not submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2024, and as at the start of August 2026, had not submitted an Article 7 report covering 2025. Cyprus has submitted five Article 5 deadline extension requests: in 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and most recently in 2024. Cyprus submitted most of the reports in a timely manner but provided only limited information due to its lack of effective control over remaining AP mined areas.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Neither the Republic of Cyprus nor Türkiye or the Turkish Cypriot authorities have disclosed any specific plans to survey and clear the remaining mine contamination. The self-proclaimed TRNC has reported that it made a proposal for a mine-free island on 8 July 2022 and that it had previously made comprehensive proposals for clearing mines from the island in 2014, 2015, and 2018.[58]

In its proposal for a mine-free island, dated 8 July 2022, reportedly conveyed to the Government of Cyprus through the UN Secretary-General, the TRNC said that it proposed that the ultimate goal be clearance of the 29 remaining SHAs to free the island from all landmines; demining to be facilitated by UNFICYP in coordination with the two sides; demining to commence in areas adjacent to the buffer zone (one minefield under the "jurisdiction" of the Turkish Cypriot authorities in Deryneia, the other three under the control of the Government of Cyprus); demining in each side to be conducted proportionately and simultaneously; and that both sides convene to discuss, in detail, the modalities of the demining operations.[59] At the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2024, Türkiye confirmed that this proposal was "still on the table".[60]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

All UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are said to be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).[61] In 2016, UNMAS updated the national technical standards and guidelines that are used in UNFICYP to reflect current best practice and to ensure the highest standards are applied for UNFICYP clearance operations.[62] No further updates have been reported.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

UNMAS has conducted non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS) in cooperation with representatives of the National Guard and Turkish Cypriot Security Force.[63] No clearance has been conducted since 2017 when the Turkish Armed Forces contracted DOK-ING to conduct clearance in the Mammari minefield and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to conduct QA of the demining.[64]

56 Interviews with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 30 April 2024, 9 April 2025, and 23 April 2026.

57 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 16 June 2021.

58 Email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA TRNC, 11 August 2022; and letters from Damla Güçlü, MOFA, TRNC, 3 May 2023, and from Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, MoFA, TRNC, to Gustavo Gallón, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, 3 June 2024.

59 "Proposal of the TRNC for a Mine-Free Island", provided via an email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA TRNC, 11 August 2022; see also Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2023/6, 3 January 2023, Annex II, pp. 22–23.

60 Statement of Türkiye (right of reply) on Cyprus's Article 5 deadline extension request, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

61 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.

62 Ibid.

63 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 26 July 2019.

64 Ibid.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

No mine survey or clearance was reported in Cyprus between 2020 and 2025.[65]

UNFICYP continued to raise the issue of demining in accordance with its mandate,[66] and the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy on Cyprus continued their efforts, but by the end of 2025, no substantive breakthrough regarding a plan for landmine clearance had been reported.[67]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CYPRUS: 1 JULY 2003
↓
ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JULY 2013
↓
FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 1 JULY 2016
↓
SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 1 JULY 2019
↓
THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 1 JULY 2022
↓
FOURTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 1 JULY 2025
↓
FIFTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 1 JULY 2028

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE (LACK OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL)

Cyprus is obligated to destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than 1 July 2028.

Cyprus reported clearing all AP mines in mined areas that it accepted were under its control within ten years of becoming a State Party, namely by 1 July 2013. In 2012, Cyprus submitted the first of five Article 5 deadline extension requests, on the grounds that Cyprus does not have effective control over remaining contaminated areas in the northern part of the island which are "occupied by Türkiye". Cyprus has provided the same justification for all subsequent extension requests. The fifth request, submitted in March 2024, sought an extension of three years until 1 July 2028.[68] This request was granted at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024.

The TRNC informed Mine Action Review that it "is fully committed to achieving a mine-free island to fulfil its obligations under the relevant international instruments, to which its participation is unjustly denied."[69]

Türkiye received a five-year extension to its Article 5 clearance deadline until 31 December 2030 at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025. Türkiye did not make reference to clearing AP mines in the occupied northern part of Cyprus in its extension request of 28 March 2025 or request additional time for clearance of the areas it controls there (see the Mine Action Review *Clearing the Mines* report on Türkiye for further information).[70]

In 2025 there were indications of some initial movement towards reaching an agreement on demining on Cyprus following meetings between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader, facilitated by the UN, when demining was agreed as one of six initiatives to build confidence between the two sides.[71] By the middle of 2026, however, no significant progress had been reported.[72]

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

It is not known whether plans are in place to address residual contamination once Cyprus's Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.

65 Article 7 Reports (covering 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), Forms C and F; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request; emails from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, 23 March 2023, and 16 April 2024, and interviews in Geneva, 9 April 2025 and 23 April 2026.

66 Interview with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

67 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/8, 5 January 2026, para. 17; and Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/9, 5 January 2026, para. 8.

68 See, e.g., the latest request by Cyprus: 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

69 Letter from Beniz Uluer Kaymak, Director General, MoFA, TRNC, 28 August 2026.

70 Türkiye's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2021. On the issue of Turkish jurisdiction, see, e.g., European Court of Human Rights, *Güzelyurtlu and others* v. *Cyprus and Turkey*, Judgment (Grand Chamber), 29 January 2019.

71 United Nations Office at Geneva, "Informal Meeting on Cyprus, UN Geneva: UN Secretary-General António Guterres Media Stakeout", 18 March 2025; and United Nations, "Secretary-General's remarks to press following informal meeting on Cyprus", 17 July 2025.

72 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/550, 6 July 2026, para. 20; and Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2026/551, 6 July 2026, para. 10.