
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

10 October 2017

Original: English

Sixteenth Meeting

Vienna, 18-21 December 2017

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

**Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the
destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with
Article 5 of the Convention**

Executive summary

Submitted by Ecuador

1. After the signing of the Peace Agreements of Brasilia, on October 28, 1998, that put an end to a bicentennial territorial dispute between Ecuador and Peru, the process of humanitarian demining in the border areas with Peru began. Ecuador ratified the Convention on 29 April 1999, and the Convention entered into force for Ecuador on 1 October 1999.
2. Following the signing of the Brasilia Peace Agreement, Ecuador identified a total of 128 mined areas totalling 621,034.50 square meters. These areas were estimated to contain a total of 10,910 mines of which 10,843 are anti-personnel mines and 67 are anti-tank mines.
3. The affected areas on the Ecuadorian side of the border are located in the Provinces of Morona Santiago, Zamora Chinchipe, Pastaza, Loja, and El Oro, as well as an area known as the Squared Kilometre of Tiwintza. During the period of the original implementation deadline Ecuador cleared 53 mined areas, totalling 118,707.39 square metres. During these operations a total of 4,621 anti-personnel mines, 65 antitank mines, and 8 UXO were destroyed.
4. By 2008, there were seventy-four (74) hazardous areas pending to be released, which are a consequence of the undeclared armed conflict of 1995 with Peru, in which both countries planted anti-personnel mines along their common land border. This area corresponds to 498.632,89 square metres.
5. However, due to several financial, technical as environmental concerns, Ecuador was unable to complete the process of total eradication of anti-personnel mines in its territory by its original deadline, 30 September 2009, set forth in the Convention.
6. For the said reasons, Ecuador requested the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP), to grant Ecuador an extension of eight (8) years, for the culmination of the work of eradication of anti-personnel mines, existing on the border areas with Peru, the 9MSP unanimously agreed to the request, and a new deadline set of 1 October 2017.



7. It can be noted that since the second semester of 2009, the Ecuadorian State assumed the responsibility of providing the necessary support to execute the humanitarian demining operations, under the Command General for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD), Project “Release of lands polluted by landmines known until the moment on the common border Ecuador- Peru” to the National Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES). This project which the needs of personnel, special demining equipment and equipment necessary to support humanitarian demining operations in Ecuador with a budget of USD 20,937,735.36.

8. In 2008, there was an increase of ninety-one (91) mined areas, due to complaints received from communities and the results of the Impact Studies in the provinces of Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe, correspondent to 244.599,50 m2 and 6.765 anti-personnel mines. During 2010, 2011, and 2012, the Ecuador - Peru Permanent Mixed Commission for Border (COMPEFEP), requested the humanitarian demining of 18 border points with Peru to establish the boundary demarcation line. On 2013, Peru delivered a hazardous area in the Province of Zamora Chinchipe, correspondent to 68.000,00 square metres and 400 anti-personnel mines, a situation that increased planning.

9. According to planning for the humanitarian demining operations of 2015, in the Province of Zamora Chinchipe, the non-technical studies of the hazardous areas were carried out, with the help of the information of the military units of the border zone, identifying 26 new objectives to demine with an area of 7,521.00 square metres, the same ones that have the respective records but not the coordinates and reference points, so that in 2016 these areas were increased.

10. During the first extension period, 2008-2016, Ecuador released a total area of 379,642.99 square metres, with the destruction of 6,810 anti-personnel mines and 16 UXOs. For the period, 2000 to 2016, Ecuador has been able to release 167 confirmed hazardous areas with a total of 498,508.38 square metres, resulting in the destruction of 11,431 anti-personnel mines, 74 anti-tank mines and 26 UXOs.

11. In compliance with the agreements between Ecuador and Peru regarding the exchange of information from areas outside the territory, Ecuador carried out the delivery during 2012 and 2013 of 128 hazardous areas, of which, according to the minutes of meeting No. XIII of National Action Authorities against Anti-personnel Mines of Ecuador and Peru subscribed on October 13 and 14, 2015, it was agreed that after the prioritization for the physical delivery of hazardous areas presented by Peru, Ecuador will deliver the 26 reference points located around the Squared Kilometre of Tiwintza; an aspect that has not yet been fulfilled. On the other hand, within the planning of the operations of humanitarian demining it has been contemplated to carry out the Quality Control of all the cleared areas to complete the process of humanitarian demining prior to the delivery of land, aspect that has not yet been executed.

12. Finally, it is a real challenge to perform humanitarian demining operations because of the geographic characteristics, weather conditions and accessibility to the hazardous areas described above.

13. On April 16, 2016 the whole Ecuadorian territory was devastated by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale. The earthquake particularly affected the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí. In response, Ecuador declared a national emergency which interrupted humanitarian demining operations in Ecuador during 2016. This tragedy left 673 people deceased, 6,274 wounded, 9 missing, and 28,775 displaced, 1,887 houses affected, and until this moment the aftershocks continue, amounting to 3,318 by February 2017. The 7.8 earthquake, along with the complex characteristics of the jungle like terrain and the unfavourable weather conditions in the clearing areas, make it impossible for Ecuador to finalize the process of total eradication of anti-personnel mines on its territory until October, 2017.

14. On 28 November 2016, Ecuador submitted to the President of the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties (15MSP) a request for extension of its 1 October 2017 deadline. Ecuador's request was for an additional 3 months, until 1 December 2017. The 15MSP requested that Ecuador submit a detailed request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March

2017, in order for Ecuador and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request agreed unanimously to grant the request.

15. The hazardous areas to be demined since 2018 are found in the Amazon jungle of the Province of Zamora Chinchipe and the Squared Kilometre of Tiwintza. These areas are among cliffs and ravines within dense vegetation. Climate conditions are also another factor limiting compliance with planned operations; the weather is varied, with permanent humidity and precipitation in almost the entire year. Access to these areas is exclusively by air, which increases the cost of operations and requires demining staff to undertake average travel of two hours a day from the base camp to the work zones. Due to these factors only 45% of planned operations could be achieved.

16. Ecuador projects that in by its deadline in 2018 the remaining challenge will total of 5 objectives (69 areas) measuring 100,496 square metres expected to contain 3,893 anti-personnel mines.

17. Ecuador has developed a National Plan for Humanitarian Demining to guide clearance during the second extension request, (2018-2022). This request includes the annual targets, as summarized here:

- 2018: 2 areas measuring 31,215 square meters
- 2019: 9 areas measuring 9,590 square meters
- 2020: 12 areas measuring 14,734 square meters
- 2021: 10 areas measuring 1,946 square meters
- 2022: 26 areas measuring 65,006 square meters

18. Based on the Command General for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD), Project “Release of lands polluted by landmines known until the moment on the common border Ecuador- Peru” to the National Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES), with an initial budget of USD 20,937,735.36. Annual Budget allocations towards Ecuador’s work plan are summarised in the table below. During the first extension request this project has allocated a total of USD 8,730,063.08. This will ensure USD 12,207,672.28 is available for Ecuador’s mine action programme during the second extension period until completion.

19. Ecuador deems necessary to submit its request for renewal to the international community, pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, in order to conclude humanitarian demining on the common terrestrial border with Peru, with a deadline of December 31, 2022, according to the implementation of the National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2018-2022.
