

ICBL Comments on the Extension Request by Colombia

18MSP, 16-20 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We want to thank Colombia for submitting this extensive request, as well as for providing additional clarifications.

While we appreciate Colombia is not asking for time beyond 2025 in this current request, it is clear that Colombia will not be mine-free by 2025 and will ask for more time in the future.

Among positive points of the request we note the following:

- Colombia has made a significant progress in the past 9 years, improving management of mine action program, gaining understanding of its remaining contamination, and clearing a 54% of land in the accessible municipalities;
- There is a work plan for the 156 accessible municipalities with ongoing demining operations till 2023;
- A plan and budget for mine risk education is included in the request;
- A significant portion of the funding for mine action will come from the national budget;
- Colombia implements a strategy on gender and diversity in its mine action program.

The points that still require further work are as follows:

- Colombia should use terminology consistent with IMAS and report land release disaggregated by Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and clearance;
- Colombia should clarify the full plan for the remaining tasks within the 156 accessible municipalities. Colombia should conduct survey of the 4.9 km² of the 'projected' suspected contamination area asap to establish the exact extent of contamination;
- There is no operational plan for the 166 currently inaccessible municipalities. Pending the security situation, Colombia aims to classify the areas and potential contamination in the period 2024–2025. Colombia should undertake survey and establish a realistic baseline in those areas as soon as possible within the extension period, and report accordingly.
- Colombia needs significant funding from the donor community to implement its plan for the next 5 years. Considering recent drops in international funding, Colombia needs to demonstrate a robust resource mobilization outreach plan to secure all required funding.

Thank you.