

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq, and Sweden )

#### Intersessional Meetings 19 – 21 June 2023

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA

##### I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Colombia reported that in 2022 it released 18 mined areas measuring 1,327,735.73 square metres, including 122,062.51 square metres cancelled, 243,522.02 square metres reduced and 962,151.20 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 247 anti-personnel mines, and 110 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that Colombia reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature employed by armed non state actors and welcomes Colombia applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Colombia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2020 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was more than that projected in Colombia's 2020 extension request. The Committee welcomed Colombia providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

##### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Colombia provided clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Colombia reported that it has identified a total of 573 mined areas measuring 3,801,429.08 square metres, including 261 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 1,945,749.44 square meters and 312 suspected hazardous areas measuring 1,855,679.64 square meters (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Colombia reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate

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<sup>1</sup>"Clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions, provinces and districts including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel and the size of the areas.

baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. Colombia reported that to 31 December 2022, 889 municipalities currently have no known contamination by anti-personnel mines corresponding to 79.2% of municipalities in the country. Colombia further indicated that humanitarian demining activities are currently being undertaken in Colombia also reported humanitarian demining operations being conducted in 99 municipalities (8,8%), and that no humanitarian demining activities have taken place in 134 (11.9%) municipalities due to security concerns. The Committee observed that Colombia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome continued updated information from Colombia on these efforts.

7. Colombia reported on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations, including that the National Development Plan 2022-2026 "Colombia World Power of Life" points out the need to transform the relationship with women and girls from its cultural, economic and social structures in order to overcome gender-based violence, discrimination and inequality. In line with this purpose, an Information Management System is in place that disaggregates information on the basis of gender and other variables associated with age, ethnicity allowing for more accurate reporting and decision-making that strengthens the inclusive nature of mine action (Action #18).
8. Colombia reported that the security conditions for Humanitarian Demining interventions in priority areas, at the signing of the Final Agreement (2016), have been instable in relation to the dynamics of the conflict at the territorial level. Colombia provided the following example indicating that that security conditions in 22 municipalities of 8 departments have improved which implies that some areas or the totality of the municipality can now be prioritized for land release activities. The Committee welcomes Colombia welcomes continued updates from Colombia on this matter.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)**

9. The Committee observed that Colombia's 2020 extension request contained a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance for the period 2020-2025. Colombia further reported that the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan defines mine action in Colombia as a tool for peace that enhances other policies aimed at promoting human, socioeconomic and sustainable development (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee observed that Colombia submitted an updated work plan "Operational Plan for Integrated Mine Action 2023-2025"(Action #19).
10. Colombia reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually, 103 areas measuring 3,537,961.2 square metres in the period 2022-2025, including 37 areas measuring 1,784,256.4 square meters in 2023; 15 areas measuring 596,017 square meters in 2024 and 5 areas 191,549 square meters in 2025 through 12 Departments of the country (Action #20).
11. Colombia reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including an annual allocation in 2022 of \$350,811USD from the Government of Colombia, with 100% of these resources allocated to Mine Risk Education. Colombia also reported that the Humanitarian Demining Engineering Brigade was allocated \$23,778,107 USD for personnel and operational costs and the Demining Battalion of the Navy was allocated \$1,227,666 for personnel, operational costs and purchase of equipment (Action #1).
12. Colombia reported on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses, highlighting that mine action is integrated into broader frameworks including the "National Development Plan

2022-2026: Colombia World Power for Life, Development Programmes with a Territorial Approach (PDET), including 52 municipalities that are assigned to an accredited organisations with ongoing humanitarian demining tasks, and Law 2272 of 4 November or “Peace Law” that will guarantee the prioritisation of territorial and national plans with a focus on humanitarian demining throughout the national territory and allow the Integral Action Against Antipersonnel Mines-AICMA to generate direct contributions to peace building and enable other policies that generate social, economic and environmental development to enter the territories most affected by the armed conflict (Action #1, Action #6).

13.Colombia reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, highlighting that the Comprehensive Action Against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) there are three major actions to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender approach: i) Guarantee a gender perspective in the field of mine action ii) Ensure a gender perspective in the work of the AICMA and its communications; iii) Ensure disaggregated information systems that allow the analysis of sectoral information. (Action #3).

14.Colombia reported on its efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity, with residual risk is currently being addressed by the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade (BRDEH) and the Humanitarian Demining Amphibious Engineer Battalion (BDIAN)’ with financing provided by the Government of Colombia. Colombia also reported that according to the current technical guidelines, humanitarian demining organizations will only address residual risk for a period of 6 months following handover of completed tasks and that following these six months the national armed forces of Colombia will address previously unknown mined areas identified in these areas. Colombia further reported that there currently a mechanism in place for communities to report contamination they discover in their communities and that as of 2022, 9 areas in the municipalities of Chigorodó, Granada, San Carlos, San Francisco, Sonsón, Nariño (Antioquia), Inzá (Cauca) Córdoba and Zambrano (Bolívar) were under intervention through this residual risk policy (Action #26).

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)**

15.Colombia reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date, highlighting that in 2022 it completed 17 Technical Standards within its National Mine Action Standards and that with the participation of the mine action sector, several of the annexes of the operational level Standards were updated (Action #5).

16.Colombia reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system highlighting the central role of information management in its planning, monitoring and evaluation of tasks. Colombia also reported that Information management system was used to develop the Strategic plan (2020-2025) (Action #9).

17.Colombia reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by the adoption of technical standards based on comments and feedback from organisations. Colombia further indicated that humanitarian demining organizations have increased their respective capacities. (Action #27).

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

18.In considering Colombia’s request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested Colombia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Colombia had provided the following information:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia's Humanitarian Demining Plan;
- Update on assessment of the remaining challenges;
- Adjusted milestones;
- Progress made relative to the development and adoption of land release standards and other efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency;
- Progress made in the establishment of a sustainable national capacity;
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age, and;
- Resource mobilisation efforts.

19. The Committee would welcome updated information from Colombia on the following decisions of the 18MSP:

- Progress made to strengthen the inclusive nature of Colombia's Mine Action Programme through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform;

20. The Committee recalled that in granting Colombia's 2020 extension request, the 18MSP noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee observed that Colombia had acted upon the decisions of the 18MSP by submitting an updated workplan.

## **VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)**

21. Colombia reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, highlighting that the national MRE strategy is circumscribed by the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and that it has a National Standard for Mine Risk Education (MRE), which entered into force, June 2021. Colombia also reported that the standard provides the frame of reference and humanitarian principles (humanity, neutrality, impartiality) to ensure that working approaches are conflict-sensitive, do no harm and take into account gender and diversity, amongst other measures. Colombia also reported that the national standard establishes the MRE intervention models used in Colombia including: MRE in Emergency Situations, MRE in the Education sector and MRE within the framework of humanitarian demining and land release operations. Colombia further reported that traditional communication and new communication mediums are employed to deliver MRE. Colombia further reported on mine risk education programmes in place, including the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #28).

22. Colombia reported on its efforts to integrate MRE activities with wider efforts, highlighting that differential approaches and actions without harm are included in the National MRE Standard and its applicability is mandatory. Colombia reported that this approach seeks to highlight the characteristics, conditions and needs of different individuals, in order to make MRE more effective. In this sense, MRE interventions must start from a differentiation of the specific situations of

certain groups of people, who, consequently, have needs of differential protection and care such as victims of displacement and refugees, as well as boys, girls, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic groups. (Action #28).

23. Colombia reported on its efforts to provide context-specific MRE programmes, and that the Colombian Technical Standard NTC 6485:2021:8 guides all MRE organisations to carry out their actions without discrimination and in accordance with differential approaches that are sensitive to gender, life cycle, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation and that MRE must consider the different characteristics of the communities served in the needs assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, with MRE interventions based on a differentiation of the specific situations of certain groups of people: women, girls, boys and men (Action #29).
24. Colombia reported on its efforts to prioritise people at risk and that the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) shares a matrix of events including accidents, incidents that have occurred and that a micro focus is made for the implementation of the activities in these areas (Action #30).
25. Colombia reported on its efforts to build national capacities, highlighting that it has a space called the National MRE Table, which refers to the articulation and effective participation of the network of MRE partners and allies at national, departmental and municipal levels. This space consolidates, manages and coordinates inter-institutional actions led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. Within the framework of MRE, the participation of women is promoted, guaranteeing gender parity, especially in decision-making scenarios. During the year 2022, 296 women were trained as multipliers of prevention messages and are able to conduct prevention workshops in most affected areas. Colombia indicated that in many cases this is done through the training of the local community to deliver MRE such as the training of the indigenous community leaders so that language is transmitted in their language and in line with their traditions to encourage safe behavior (Action #31).

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

26. The Committee observed that Colombia provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including insecurity, accessibility due to topography and climate, operational cost and, since last year, the ongoing pandemic. Colombia further reported that in some ways this threat has diminished as the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace has increased the contracting of organisations in the sector of MRE, including ethnic organisations and Victim Associations that live in the affected regions.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Colombia**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
<b>#9</b>	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						

#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						



