

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA

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

1. Colombia reported that in 2023 it released 129 mined areas measuring 1,053,186.50 square metres, including 27,717.10 square metres cancelled, 160,389 square metres reduced, and 865,080.40 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 129 anti-personnel mines, and 65 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. Colombia reported that in 2023, 29 zones, located in 27 municipalities and 14 departments were declared mine-free.
4. 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 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)

5. The Committee observed that Colombia provided clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Colombia reported that it has identified a total of 591 mined areas measuring 4,473,370.30 square metres, including 274 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) measuring 2,265,648.72 square meters and 317 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) measuring 2,207,720.58 square meters. (Action #22)
6. The Committee welcomed Colombia reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size. (Action #22)
7. 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

¹“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 2023, 909 municipalities currently have no known contamination by anti-personnel mines corresponding to 81% 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 94 municipalities (8,8%), and that no humanitarian demining activities have taken place in 118 (12%) 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.

8. 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)

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 updated milestones milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established, including 15 zones measuring 596,017.1 square metres in 2024, and 5 zones measuring 191,549.42 square metres in 2025. (Action #20)
11. Colombia reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including an annual allocation in 2023 from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of COP 5,986,012,889 (USD 1,566,178) in 2022 of US \$350,811 from the Government of Colombia, representing an increase over 2022. Colombia also reported that these resources were allocated mainly to risk prevention activities and care for victims, with a differential approach and to strengthening the operational capabilities in information management of the Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (AICMA). Colombia further reported that in 2023, an annual national financial contribution from the General Budget of the Nation (PGN) was made to the Brigade of Humanitarian Demining Engineers (BRDEH) of COP 127,636,328,948 corresponding to US \$33,395,167 to cover personnel and operating costs of the tasks assigned and under development for the year, and that the Demining and Amphibious Engineer Battalion (BDIAN) executed a contribution of 2023 COP 34,000,000 from the national budget for 2023.
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:, Development Programmes with a Territorial Approach (PDET), including 52 municipalities that are assigned to an accredited organisations with ongoing humanitarian

demining tasks, and an additional 69 municipalities that are included as part of the 2023-2025 operational plan, the Comprehensive National Substitution Program (PNIS), with 10 municipalities declared free of suspicion of contamination, with humanitarian demining tasks active in an additional 26 municipalities, and 20 municipalities prioritized for action in 2024. Implementation Framework Plan (PMI) of the Final Agreement 2016-2031, with mine action responsible for 5 indicators related to the clearance of territories located in ethnic towns and communities as indicated in the Ethnic Chapter (6.2) of the Final Agreement and which they are related to, Law 1448 of 2011 or Victims Law, return and relocations of displaced populations, and the land restitution programme. (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, including an increase in the number of women participating in non-technical survey and clearance, highlighting that AICMA includes 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 2023, 14 confirmed areas measuring 87,306 square metres 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 2023 and with the participation of the AICMA sector, the consultation, preparation and issuance of Annex G "Assignment of areas that present instability factors in terms of security and attention to specific events" was carried out as part of the Colombian Technical Standard 6483 - 2021 "Assignment of Humanitarian Demining tasks". (Action #5)

16. Colombia reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including the role of information management for planning, monitoring and evaluation of tasks. Colombia also reported that Information management system was used to develop the Strategic plan, (2020-2025), and that in 2023, the Information management system maintained the quality certification of the statistical operation "Results of Humanitarian Demining Operations. (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. (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; and,

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

19. 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)

20. 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 annual action plans are coordinated through the National MRE Round table based on three strategic components, i) coverage, ii) quality, and iii) Coordination. 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).

21. Colombia reported on its efforts to integrate MRE activities with wider efforts, including the inclusion of MRE in the Humanitarian Response Plan, protection cluster area of responsibility. Colombia further reported that in compliance with the Final Peace Agreement of 2016, and as part of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), "Situación Territorial de la región de Urabá", 11 parties

were trained in Mine Risk Education, 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, 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 different needs when it comes to 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).

22. Colombia reported on its efforts to provide context-specific MRE programmes, including that MRE takes into account the focus on gender, ethnicity, age, sex, victims and in general the needs of the diverse population. The Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) advances contracts with resources from the General Budget of the Nation with ethnic organizations: Indigenous and Afro people, associations of victims of anti-personnel mines, women, youth, among others, as a strategy for localizing and strengthening grassroots community organisations. Colombia further reported that the differential approach and action without harm are part of the approaches included in the Colombian Technical Standard NTC 6481 Mine Risk Education and its applicability is mandatory. In this sense, MRE interventions must start from a differentiation of the specific situations of boys, girls, women, older adults, people with disabilities and ethnic groups, to ensure that MRE interventions address their specific situation (Action #29).
23. Colombia reported on its efforts to prioritize people at risk and that the OACP shares a matrix of events including accidents and incidents that have occurred to address that a micro focus is made for the implementation of the activities in these areas (Action #30).
24. Colombia reported on its effort to build national capacities. Colombia reported that MRE activities are implemented through 29 community, local, national and international organisations. Colombia further reported that it has a platform 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 OACP. Within the framework of MRE, the participation of women is promoted, guaranteeing gender parity, especially in decision-making scenarios (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25. The Committee observed that Colombia provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including insecurity, and that 11 humanitarian demining operations were suspended due to security developments in the assigned areas, including the kidnapping of three officials from a demining organisation, and the retention of 10 men and 4 vehicles in another municipality. (Action #8)

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)
#1	# 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						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% 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						
#5	% 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						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# 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						
#9	% 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)						The Committee observed that Colombia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Colombia on these efforts.
	% 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						The Committee would welcome additional information from Colombia on its efforts to report 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						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
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						

