



## **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 2020 Intersessional Meeting**

**30 June – 2 July 2020**

### **Statement by the HALO Trust on the Article 5 Extension Request Submitted by Colombia**

#### Check Against Delivery

We welcome the Article 5 extension request submitted by the Republic of Colombia. As a member of the *Clearing the Mines* Advisory Board, HALO also aligns with the statement provided by Mine Action Review.

In HALO's assessment, there is a great deal to be supportive of within this extension request. This includes Colombia's victim assistance, mine risk education and inclusivity approaches, which are some of the best globally. There are, however, several points that would benefit from additional clarification.

HALO welcomes the development and adoption of a new land release policy in 2020. We encourage Colombia to ensure that the policy is in accordance with the relevant sections of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) with a particular focus on the progressive use of Non-Technical Survey and Technical Survey methodologies.

Colombia's extension request states that no explosive ordnance was found in 38% of mined areas cleared to date. This is a worryingly high level and normally an indication that there is scope for better application of survey methodology. Colombia should explore whether greater use of survey could enhance efficiency and effectiveness of Article 5 implementation.

There is currently no evidence-based estimation of anti-personnel landmine contamination in municipalities that are currently inaccessible. We encourage Colombia to provide additional details on the planned micro-targeting methodology proposed for 2024 and 2025, including clarification as to whether the use of non-intrusive non-technical survey techniques will be explored. This could limit exposure to security risks and provide an improved understanding of remaining contamination.

HALO commends the Government of Colombia for its significant budgetary contributions to mine action. In the extension request's projections of required international funding, we recommend that Colombia include transparent historical and future funding projections. Colombia should clarify which funding has been secured to date and develop a mobilisation strategy for the additional remaining funding.

HALO would like to again commend Colombia for submitting such a detailed Article 5 extension request and to reaffirm its commitment to supporting Colombia as it progresses towards completion.

**ENDS**