

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION  
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

**Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019**

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

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Colombia reported that in 2018 it carried out humanitarian demining activities in 196 municipalities located in 25 departments which culminated in the identification of 112 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 614,313 square meters and 147 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 864,464 square meters. During the reporting period Colombia indicated having addressed a total of 1,353,902 square meters including 31,953 square meters cancelled, 478,324 square meters reduced and 843,625 square meters cleared, identifying and destroying in the process 251 anti-personnel mines, 149 unexploded ordnance and 123 improvised explosive devices.
2. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS. The Committee noted that Colombia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee observed that Colombia has provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Colombia further reported that it characterizes municipalities in 3 typologies of contamination:
  - Type 1: High Contamination (199 municipalities) – continuous reports of accidents and incidents.
  - Type II: Medium contamination (291 municipalities) – accidents reported until 2009.
  - Type III: Without humanitarian impact (183 municipalities) – Low incidents/no report of accidents.
4. Colombia indicates that interventions have occurred in 456 municipalities with 150 municipalities declared “free of mines”, 129 municipalities in which humanitarian demining operations are taking place, 172 were mines are not suspected, and 5 municipalities where information collection activities are currently taking place but that are not expected to be contaminated.
5. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that Colombia should present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

**III. National plans for clearance and survey**

6. Colombia reported that for 2019 it projects mine action interventions to be implemented in 80 municipalities with 1,616,801.67 square metres to be released in 2019. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the efforts that will be carried out in these municipalities as well as a timelines for these activities. The Committee further concluded that continued updates on its plan would be welcome.

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

7. Colombia reported in its 2014 National Demining Plan that it undertakes activities in accordance with the IMAS and that Colombia makes use of non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.
8. Colombia reported that it is in the continues the process of strengthening the way in which it carries out non-technical survey to consolidate the evidence-based decision-making approach and continues to internalize the use of the “tool box” and the strengthening of the understanding of the reduction of areas through technical survey.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the 10MSP had requested that Colombia provides updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon the decisions of the 10MSP by providing an updated plan to the 2014 Third Review Conference and keeping the States Parties informed on progress in implementation.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

10. The Committee concluded that Colombia had provided information on efforts to carry out MRE including through projects for MRE in emergency situations, through the integration of MRE in the education system, MRE projects as a part of demining projects and traditional MRE through the community. Colombia reported that a total of 49,034 people benefited from MRE activities. The Committee noted the actions taken by Colombia in Mine Risk Education and noted these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.