

Statement H.E. Beatriz Londoño Soto
Colombian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva
Third Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, Switzerland, February 27th, 2018

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to take the floor on this Third Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. First, I want to commend the work carried out by the Implementation Support Unit.

All of you have witnessed the Colombian commitment with this instrument, as well as its humanitarian objectives, which are a permanent reminder of our international responsibilities to avoid and alleviate the suffering of millions of people.

Our common goal, to reach a mine free world by 2025, requires our coordinated efforts as well as the technical expertise and political will that might allow us to overcome difficulties and challenges that we will have to face during the process.

The endeavors of the last couple of years have allowed us to clean more than 5 million square meters of our territory, which right now are cleared of suspicion of the presence of mines. We count with almost 5.500 certified men and women trained for humanitarian demining and we have destroyed thousands of artefacts.

These accomplishments have been reached with the combined efforts of several actors: state agencies, civil society, the military forces, and the permanent support of the international community, which has been, and will continue to be a fundamental component in this process. We want to extend our deep appreciation for the valuable support of several countries and organizations.

We are convinced that removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout our territory, sponsoring risk education, assisting the victims and promoting development programs in affected communities, are key elements to build a sustainable peace. A comprehensive approach guarantees that, in the future, Colombia is going to be a mine free country.

International cooperation, both technical and financial, are key elements for this process and must be sustainable to produce real changes worldwide.

However, countries receiving international cooperation also have responsibilities. We must be accountable and promote transparency while properly managing the resources and capacities we are obtaining. This is the only way to guarantee the continuity of the assistance for a sustained period, required to get closer to our objective of a mine free world.

My country, as a receptor of international cooperation, as well as a provider of technical assistance is decided to continue working with all of you, in order to achieve our common goal and to keep working towards the construction of a safer world.

Thank you