

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Colombia**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Colombia in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between Colombia and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on this request provided by expert organizations, including from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid, Humanity and Inclusion, UNMAS, Mine Action Review and the GICHD.

- On 19 March 2020 Colombia submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for an extension of its 1 March 2021 deadline.
- Following dialogue with the Committee Colombia submitted additional information on 7 August.
- Colombia's request is for 4 years and 10 months, until 31 December 2025.

In analysing Colombia's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee:

- The Committee welcomes the progress made by Colombia in addressing its remaining challenge.
- The Committee noted that, while Colombia has made progress, a lot of uncertainty remains concerning the remaining challenges due to a number of factors.
- In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of Colombia identifying as soon as possible the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish an updated evidence-based baseline of contamination in the remaining municipalities based on inclusive consultations with stakeholders including women, girls, boys and men from affected communities. The Committee noted the importance of doing to support Colombia's prioritization efforts and ensure that resources are directed to the most affected areas.
- The Committee welcomes the plan submitted by Colombia. Nonetheless, the Committee noted that given that the estimate of contamination is uncertain, so too must be the annual projections of what will be released. In this regard, the Committee welcomed Colombia's commitment to update the States Parties on progress on an annual basis.
- The Committee emphasized the importance of Colombia's efforts to:
 - Ensure updating and adoption of land release standards, in an inclusive manner, and the importance of Colombia making use of the full range of practical methods to release land as soon as possible and to continue to seek improved land release and certification techniques;
 - Ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered after completion. The Committee

further highlighted the importance of Colombia determining the national response to ensure a long-term solution;

- review its methodologies in allocating and reallocating task to organizations to ensure efficient and effective implementation;
- ensure that its national information management system contains accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation and making information accessible to stakeholders; and
- in strengthening the inclusive nature of planning processes.

In noting that Colombia provided implementation milestones for the period of 2020-2023 and Colombia's intention to review its work plan in 2023, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee emphasised that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget.

In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia's Humanitarian Demining Operational Plan 2020-2025 during the extension period, including on the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS;
- b. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- c. update on how additional clarity obtained may change Colombia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
- d. progress made relative to the development and adoption of land release standards and other efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including through an efficient process of allocation and re-allocation of municipalities and/or areas;
- e. progress made in the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- f. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- g. progress made to strengthen the inclusive nature of Colombia's Mine Action Programme through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform, including the terms of reference, scope, membership and meeting frequency;
- h. 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;

- i. 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;
- j. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Colombia to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Colombia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.