



## **Regional Stakeholders Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone Support for Mine Action in Peru and Ecuador**

### **Background**

The *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* establishes in its Article 5 that each State Party, “shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced”, “ensure the effective exclusion of civilians” and “destroy, or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.”

To support this obligation, Article 6 of the Convention provides that “each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other States Parties to the extent possible”, [...] for mine clearance and related activities”. In that spirit of cooperation and assistance, the Organization of American States (OAS) created in 1991, a humanitarian demining pilot program to assist Nicaragua, which at that time was one of the countries on the continent most affected by anti-personnel mines.

From there, the OAS program spread to other affected countries. With OAS’ contribution, several countries in the region declared themselves free of anti-personnel mines, including Costa Rica in 2002, Honduras in 2004, and Guatemala in 2005. In 2010, Nicaragua fulfilled its obligation under Article 5, thus helping Central America to become one of the first regions in the world to free itself from the scourge represented by these cruel weapons. South America is also making progress in mine clearance obligations under the Convention. In 2020 Chile completed its work, joining Suriname and Venezuela, who had finished in 2005 and 2013 respectively. In the Americas, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are currently carrying out mine clearance activities.

Regarding Ecuador and Peru, both have stated that they remain committed to completing their clearance obligation and to contribute to achieving the goal of The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone, but in order to do so, they will need international cooperation and assistance, partly due to delays in humanitarian demining operations in 2020 caused by the Covid-19 health emergency and subsequent financial crisis.

### **Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining**

To support OAS’ resolutions “The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone” CP/CSH-478/02, and in particular that of “Support for Action Against Anti-personnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru” XXXIV-O/04, the OAS, together with the Governments of Ecuador and Peru and the Convention Secretariat (the Implementation Support Unit, ISU), will host a Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining 10 and 11 February 2021 in a virtual format with speakers from Bogota, Geneva, Lima, Quito, Santiago, and Washington DC.

This Regional Dialogue will take place with financial support from the European Union Council through its Decision 2017/1428 that seeks, among other objectives, to support the efforts of the States Parties to the Convention to fulfil their mine clearance commitments under Article 5. For registration and more information: <https://bit.ly/MineFreeAmericas>.

## Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: The Americas as an Antipersonnel Mine-Free Zone

**Day One | Wednesday 10 February 2021**

09:00-12:00 (GMT-5 Ecuador, Peru, USA) | 15:00-18:00 (GMT + 1 Switzerland)

### 09:00 – 09:30 Opening Session

15:00 – 15:30



- Secretary General of the Organization of American States H.E. Luis Almagro
- European Union's Special Envoy for Disarmament H.E. Marjolijn van Deelen
- President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention H.E. Robbert Jan Gabriëlse, the Netherlands
- International Campaign to Ban Landmines, APP Director, SEHLAC María Pía Devoto

<p><b>09:30 – 10:30</b> 15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p><b>The Oslo Action Plan: The Americas Free of Anti-Personnel Mines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Status of the Ottawa Convention and Oslo Action Plan ISU Director Juan Carlos Ruan</li> <li>▪ The OAS and comprehensive mine action in the Americas OAS Advisor Carl Case</li> <li>▪ Civil society perspective ICBL Board Member &amp; CCM Deputy Director Camilo Serna</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:30 – 10:50</b> 16:30 – 16:50</p>	<p><b>Recent Success in Mine Clearance in the Americas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chile: achieving mine clearance completion Colonel Juan José López Demuth, Executive Secretary, National Demining Commission</li> </ul>
<p>15 minutes</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p><b>11:05 – 11:25</b> 17:05 – 17:25</p>	<p><b>The Challenge of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Colombia: progress and challenges in mine clearance Martha Hurtado, Coordinator, Comprehensive Mine Action Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:25 – 11:50</b> 17:25 – 17:50</p>	<p><b>Ecuador and Peru: A Shared Path</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Humanitarian Demining on the Ecuadorian-Peruvian Border Progress and Achievements Brig. Gen. Francisco Armendariz Sáenz, Commander of Ecuador's Army Corps of Engineers Army Colonel (ret.) Guillermo Portillo, Adviser, Ministry of Defense of Peru</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:50 – 12:00</b> 17:50 – 18:00</p>	<p><b>Closing Session – Second Day Preview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delegation of the European Union to the UN Geneva Head of Disarmament Section Marketa Holmokova</li> </ul>

*(Day two's program continues in the next page)*

## Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: Support for Mine Action in Peru and Ecuador

Day Two 7 Thursday 11 February 2021

09:00-12:15 (GMT-5 Ecuador, Peru, USA) | 15:00-18:00 (GMT + 1 Switzerland)

### 09:00 – 09:30 Opening Session

15:00 – 15:30



- Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador H.E. Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo
- Acting Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru H.E. Francisco Tenya Hasegawa
- Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Peru H.E. Diego Mellado
- AP Mine Ban Convention Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein
- Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation of Assistance Diana Castillo, Colombia

<p><b>09:30 – 10:00</b> 15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p><b>Ecuador: Achievements and Challenges in Mine Clearance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ General Situation, Challenges, and Actions to be Taken Marcelo Torres Garzón, Staff Lieutenant Colonel, Commander of Ecuador's 68 "Cotopaxi" Engineers Battalion</li></ul>
<p><b>10:00 – 10:30</b> 16:00 – 16:30</p>	<p><b>Peru: Achievements and challenges in mine clearance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ General Situation, Challenges, and Actions to be Taken Army Brigadier General Jorge Agramonte Aguilar, Peru's Director General for Humanitarian Demining</li></ul>
<p>15 minutes</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p><b>10:45 – 11:40</b> 16:45 – 17:40</p>	<p><b>Discussion: Cooperation and Assistance from the Donor Perspective</b></p>

### 11:40 – 12:15 High-Level Closing Panel

17:40 – 18:15



- Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ecuador H.E. Charles-Michel Geurts
- Director of the OAS' Department of Public Security Guillermo Moncayo
- AP Mine Ban Convention Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein
- Permanent Representative of Ecuador to International Organizations in Geneva H.E. Emilio Izquierdo Miño
- Permanent Representative of Peru to International Organizations in Geneva H.E. Silvia Alfaro Espinosa