



**20MSP** | Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties  
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## Colombia's Priorities for its Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

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It is an honour for Colombia to assume the Presidency of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, which remains the cornerstone of international efforts to put an end to the threat posed by antipersonnel mines.

As a State, Colombia is committed to multilateralism as a means to strengthen alliances, share good practices, and seek solutions to realise the objectives of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan.

Based on this commitment, it is our hope that the mine action community will continue working in a coordinated manner, taking advantage of the Convention's architecture in the upcoming year to achieve our common ideal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. One where mine survivors' rights are equally protected and guaranteed.

Our commitment stems from the belief that the fight against anti-personnel mines is a humanitarian protection effort, and a key component of sustainable development, humanitarian action, peace, and security.

Therefore, Colombia's priorities for its Presidency are as follows:

1. **Strengthening the architecture of the Convention:** It is necessary to guarantee the effective functioning of the Convention's machinery including the Committees and Implementation Support Unit; therefore, the Presidency will work within the framework of the Coordinating Committee, promoting increased coordination between all members.
2. **Promoting universal observance of the standards and objectives set by the Convention:** The Presidency will continue denouncing any violation of these standards. It will promote the adoption of appropriate measures to put an end to the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines by anyone, including non-state armed actors.
3. **Strengthening technical cooperation and constructive dialogue with mine-affected States:** Achieving a mine-free world requires solid collaboration among all actors pursuing this goal. Therefore, the Presidency will seek to strengthen platforms for dialogue with States Parties facing contamination, known or suspected, under their jurisdiction or control, placing special emphasis on those that will present extension requests in 2022, and those closer to meeting the 2025 mine-free ambition.
4. **Promoting mine risk education and adoption of safe behaviours to save lives:** Preventing new accidents is vital if we are to mitigate the humanitarian impact caused by anti-personnel mines. With this purpose and recognising the role that victims and survivors play in the protection of

the population and the development of their territories, the Presidency hopes to increase the exchange of good practices related to mine risk reduction for communities in proximity and in areas with a known or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines.

Likewise, the Presidency will promote the strengthening of national capacities and development of programmes to foster the adoption and understanding of safe behaviours, through relevant and high-quality methodologies and materials for preventive activities.

5. **Fostering the full, equal, effective, and non-discriminatory participation of mine victims in society:** This priority, fundamental for the development of affected communities, takes into account the role of mine victims in supporting victim assistance mechanisms within their communities. Consequently, the Presidency will seek scenarios to share policies, plans, and legal and regulatory frameworks to guarantee the rights of mine victims.

As part of this priority, the Presidency will seek to promote *individualised approach* meetings designed to support States Parties that have significant number of victims, to generate dialogues on cooperation and assistance to strengthen the national capacity of States.

The Presidency taking advantage of the knowledge acquired on this matter, will share its experience in supporting the strengthening of peer support, survivor networks established to guarantee the rights of victims, and empowerment of survivors as relevant actors for development and peacebuilding in their territories.

6. **Strengthening international cooperation and assistance to meet Convention obligations in the shortest time possible:** For this purpose, the Presidency will seek to facilitate the use, by the States Parties, of the tools that have been developed in the framework of the Convention and in the Oslo Action Plan. This so that States Parties in need of cooperation and those in a position to provide assistance, can work in a coordinated and efficient manner.
7. **Encouraging compliance with the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines:** The Presidency will promote a constructive dialogue with the States Parties that have not yet destroyed all the stockpiles of anti-personnel mines that they own or possess or which are under their jurisdiction or control. It will seek to understand the challenges and reasons for their lack of progress and encourage the drafting, as soon as possible, of plans for completion containing specific milestones, and to begin destruction of anti-personnel mines to ensure fulfilment of their obligations in the shortest possible time.
8. **Reviewing inventories of anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes:** The Presidency will invite States Parties which have retained anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes such as to develop methods to detect, clear, or destroy mines, to report in detail on the use of these mines, and explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes where possible.
9. **Promoting the existence of effective national enforcement measures:** The Presidency will continue the dialogue established by the Presidents of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, with States Parties that have yet not reported on or have not adopted laws or administrative measures that prevent and suppress any prohibited activity by the States Parties within the framework of the Convention.

10. **Strengthening the integration of gender and diverse needs in the Convention:** For the Presidency it is of the utmost importance to work so that the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men, as well as the diverse needs and experiences of the affected communities, are taken into account in the implementation of the Convention. Along the same lines, it will seek to adopt an inclusive approach that promotes the elimination of barriers to facilitate the full, equal, and balanced participation of men and women in the activities of the Convention.
11. **Strengthening transparency measures:** Taking into account the importance of the information that transparency reports provide as it relates to progress and challenges in the implementation of the Convention, the Presidency hopes to hold a constructive dialogue with the States Parties on the importance of complying with Article 7 obligations, annually by 30 April, and the tools available to support this obligation including the Guide to Reporting, and digital tools.
12. **Promoting multilingualism in all activities of the Convention:** Given that multilingualism promotes unity in diversity, harmony, tolerance, and international dialogue, the Presidency will promote multilingualism during the Intersessional Meetings and the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, with the objective of ensuring effective participation in common efforts by the entire mine action community.

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