

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Colombia reported that in 2021 it released 22 mined areas measuring 1,369,628.40 square metres, including 96,372.40 square metres cancelled, 6,978 square metres reduced and 1,266,278 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 204 anti-personnel mines, and 66 item of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that Colombia reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature employed by armed non state actors and welcomes Colombia's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Colombia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2021 extension request. The Committee welcomed Colombia providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Colombia provided clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Colombia reported that it has identified a total of 219 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 1,623,015 square meters and 188 suspected hazardous areas measuring 1,333,834 square meters (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Colombia reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. Colombia reported that to 31 December 2021, 871 municipalities currently have no know contamination by anti-personnel mines corresponding to 78% of municipalities in the country. Colombia further indicated that humanitarian demining activities are currently being undertaken in 111

¹ "Clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions, provinces and districts including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel and the size of the areas.

municipalities and that no humanitarian demining activities have taken place in the remaining 140 municipalities due to security concerns. The Committee observed that Colombia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas. The Committee welcomes continued updates from Colombia in this regard (Action #18).

7. Colombia reported that local participation, including both men and women, is fully incorporated in the main stages of the land release process to ensure that the land will be used after handover. In this sense, efforts are undertaken during the land release process to identify and access all relevant sources of information taking into account the differential approach, especially age, gender, ethnicity and diversity. Colombia further reports that the organization that carries out Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and Clearance activities must keep the affected communities informed with respect to all decisions related to the land release process (Action #18).
8. Colombia reported that security conditions in 22 municipalities of 8 departments have improved which implies that some areas or the totality of the municipality can now be prioritized for land release activities. The Committee welcomes Colombia welcomes continued updated from Colombia on this matter.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

9. The Committee observed that Colombia has a Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Colombia further reported that the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan defines mine action in Colombia as a tool for peace that enhances other policies aimed at promoting human, socioeconomic and sustainable development (Action #2, Action #19).
10. Colombia reported that it anticipates addressing a total of 21 areas measuring 578,636.2 square meters in 2022; 37 areas measuring 1,784,256.4 square meters in 2023; 15 areas measuring 596,017 square meters in 2024 and 5 areas 191,549 square meters in 2025 through 12 Departments of the country (Action #20).
11. The Committee observed that Colombia reported on the allocation of annual financial commitments towards implementation, including an annual allocation in 2021 of \$1.3 million USD from the Government of Colombia, with 82% of these resource allocated to Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance. Colombia further reported that the Humanitarian Demining Engineering Brigade was allotted \$40,791,717 USD for personnel and operational costs and the Demining Battalion of the Navy was allotted \$1,149,960 for personnel, operational costs and purchase of equipment (Action #1).
12. Colombia reported that mine action is integrated into broader frameworks including the “Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace (2016)”, National Development Plan "Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity" (2018-2022), Law 1448 of 2011 or Victims Law” and is integrated into 2021 departmental and municipal policies. (Action #1, Action #6).
13. Colombia reported that within the approach of the Comprehensive Action Against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) there are three major actions to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender approach: i) Guarantee a gender perspective in the field of mine action ii) Ensure a gender perspective in the work of the AICMA and its communications; iii) Ensure disaggregated information systems that allow the analysis of sectoral information. Colombia reported that in 2019 it developed guidelines to ensure a gender approach in the delivery of its mine action activities. Colombia further reported

that its efforts taking into account the differential approach, especially age, gender, ethnicity and diversity (Action #3).

14. Colombia reported that residual risk is currently being addressed by the national armed forces with financing provided by the Government of Colombia. Colombia reported that according to the current technical guidelines, humanitarian demining organizations will only address residual risk for a period of 6 months following handover of completed tasks and that following these six months the national armed forces of Colombia will address previously unknown mined areas identified in these areas. Colombia further reported that there currently a mechanism in place for communities to report contamination they discover in their communities (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

15. Colombia reported that in 2021 it adopted 17 Technical Standards within its National Mine Action Standards. Colombia highlights the development of the Colombian Technical Standard on land release, aimed at positively impacting operational efficiency and effective progress in the implementation of the Demining Operational Plan(Action #5).
16. Colombia reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system highlighting the central role of information management in its planning, monitoring and evaluation of progress. Colombia further indicated that the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace has established mechanisms for validation and verification of information on reported on progress in implementation. (Action #9).
17. Colombia reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by the adoption of technical standards. Colombia further indicated that humanitarian demining organizations have increased their respective capacities. (Action #27).

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

18. The Committee recalled that in granting Colombia's request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested Colombia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Colombia had provided the following information:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia's Humanitarian Demining Plan;
- Update on assessment of the remaining challenges;
- Adjusted milestones;
- Progress made relative to the development and adoption of land release standards and other efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency;
- Progress made in the establishment of a sustainable national capacity;
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- 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;
- 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, and;
- Resource mobilisation efforts.

19. The Committee would welcome updated information from Colombia on the following decisions of the 18MSP:

- Progress made to strengthen the inclusive nature of Colombia's Mine Action Programme through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform;

20. The Committee recalled that in granting Colombia's 2020 extension request, the 18MSP noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the States Parties by **30 April 2023** an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

21. Colombia reported that it has a National Standard for Mine Risk Education (MRE), which was updated and entered into force in June 2021. This standard is the frame of reference and regulating the approach taken to ensure it is carried out in accordance with humanitarian principles (humanity, neutrality, impartiality) and ensures that the approach is conflict-sensitive, does no harm and takes into account gender and diversity amongst other measures. The standards also provides guidance for the effective assessment of needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the communities; as well as the planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of mine risk education efforts. Colombia further reported that the national standard establishes the MRE intervention models used in Colombia including: MRE in Emergency Situations, MRE in the Education sector and MRE within the framework of humanitarian demining and land release operations. Colombia further reported that traditional communication and new communication mediums are employed to deliver MRE (Action #28).

22. Colombia reported that the differential approach and action without harm are part of the approaches included in the National MRE Standard and its applicability is mandatory. Colombia reported that this approach seeks to highlight the characteristics, conditions and needs of different individuals, in order to make MRE more effective. In this sense, MRE interventions must start from a differentiation of the specific situations of certain groups of people, who, consequently, have needs of differential protection and care such as victims of displacement and refugees, as well as boys, girls, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic groups. Colombia indicated that in many cases this is done through the training of the local community to deliver MRE such as the training of the indigenous community leaders so that language is transmitted in their language and in line with their traditions to encourage safe behavior. (Action #28, Action #29, Action #32).

23. Colombia reported that it has an accreditation procedure in place that ensures quality of delivery of MRE. Colombia reported that MRE works hand in hand with territorial management and other organization working in Mine Action and that once new suspicion of contamination or new incidents are identified these areas are prioritized. Colombia reported that by 2021 there were 22 accredited/authorized organizations carrying out MRE in Colombia. (Action #30 and Action #31)

24. Colombia reported that in 2021 a total of 10,017 MRE activities were carried out by the sector benefiting 103,963 people in areas of risk including 51,567 men, 21,153 boys, 52,396 women, 20,287 girls including 21,574 people from indigenous communities and 23,287 afro Colombians. (Action #32).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25. The Committee observed that Colombia had provided update on challenges in implementation of its Article 5 obligations, including security, accessibility due to topography and climate, operational cost and, since last year, the ongoing pandemic. Colombia further reported that in some ways this threat has diminished as the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace has increased the contracting of organisations in the sector of MRE, including ethnic organisations and Victim Associations that live in the affected regions.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Colombia
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						

#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

