

## 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 ECUADOR

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

1. Ecuador reported that in 2021, no humanitarian demining operations were carried out due to the COVID-19 pandemic with data presented from the 2020 transparency report.
2. The Committee noted that information on progress for the period 2000 – 2020 was shared 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)

3. The Committee observed that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Ecuador reported a remaining challenge of 6 mined areas, consisting of 53 objectives measuring 40,056 square metres with an estimated 2,941 anti-personnel mines, including 5 confirmed hazardous areas consisting of 27 objectives measuring 32,535 square metres with an estimated 2,098 anti-personnel mines, and 1 suspected hazardous area containing 26 objectives measuring 7,521 square metres and estimated to contain 3,843 anti-personnel mines (Action #22).
4. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts and would welcome additional information in this regard.

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

5. The Committee observed that Ecuador in its 2022 extension request submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties included a national, evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey (Action #2, #19). Ecuador in its 2022 extension request indicated the following implementation milestone: 17 confirmed mined areas measuring 13,607 square metres in 2022, 9 confirmed mined areas measuring 11,829 square metres in 2023, 8 suspected mined areas measuring 4,534 square metres in 2024, and 1 confirmed mined area measuring 7,009 square metres and 18 suspected mined areas measuring 2,942 square metres in 2025 (Action #20).

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<sup>1</sup> A “high degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), information on the geographic location of each area.

6. Action #20 of the OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. The Committee observed that while Ecuador had reported an updated work plan based on new evidence and adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually, further information on how priorities have been established would be welcome (Action #20).
7. Action #1 of the OAP requests States to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by making financial and other commitments to implementation. The Committee observed that , while Ecuador reported that demining activities are carried out the Battalion of Engineers No. 68 "COTOPAXI, and that it has put forward efforts to assign national financial resources for demining operation as demonstrated in the development and approval in January 2022 of the Project "Release of land known contaminated by landmines and explosive ordnance in the common border between Ecuador and Peru", which ensures that allocation of resources and execution of the project in a period of 4 years. Ecuador had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on financial commitments to implementation for the current reporting period and would welcome information in this regard (Action #1).
8. Action #1 of the OAP requests States to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided in its Article 7 Report information on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans and would welcome further information in this regard.
9. Action #6 of the OAP requests States to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided in its Article 7 Report information on its efforts to implement Action #6 and would welcome information in this regard.
10. Action #3 of the OAP requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on efforts to implement Action #3 and would welcome information in this regard.
11. Ecuador reported that it made a provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion of its Article the Battalion of Engineers No. 68 "COTOPAXI is authorised to carry out humanitarian demining operations with the clearance of dangerous areas (Action #26).

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

12. Ecuador reported on its efforts to ensure its National Mine Action Standards reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS. (Action #5).
13. Ecuador reported having established an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9).
14. Ecuador reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including annual re-training on IMAS, the deployment of mechanical assets and quality control of mine detection dogs. (Action #27).

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

15. The Committee recalled that in granting Ecuador's request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Ecuador to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Ecuador had provided updated information on the following;

- Progress made relative to the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts;
- Outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance;

16. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on the following decisions of the 16MSP:

- Progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts;
- Efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort.

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

17. Action #32 of the OAP requests States to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that ,while Ecuador reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R), Ecuador had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on the methodologies use, the challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard.

18. Action #28 of the OAP requests States to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to implement Action #28 and would welcome information in this regard.

19. Action #29 of the OAP requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure if such programmes were developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report and would welcome information in this regard.

20. Action #30 of the OAP requests States to Prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and

coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided updated information on these efforts and would welcome information in this regard.

21. Action #31 of the OAP requests States to Build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered. The Committee observed that Ecuador had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report and would welcome information in this regard.

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

22. The Committee observed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Ecuador's progress in implementation of its Article 5 obligations (Action #8). Taking into consideration this impact, the Committee hopes that Ecuador's humanitarian demining and MRE/R operations might resume as soon as the public health situation will allow it to take place, in order for Ecuador to get back on track of its updated workplan.

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

Action s	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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans.
	% 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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes.
	# 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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and 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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts on 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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk.
	% 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						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements.

#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered				The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such 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				The Committee would welcome information on Ecuador's efforts to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age.



