



STATEMENT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AT THE TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF STATE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Delivered by Mr. Steven Griner, Director of the Department of Public Security, General Secretariat of the OAS

Session 8 – Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (Colombia)

Thank you, Madame President.

On behalf of Secretary General Albert Ramdin, I am honored to reaffirm the commitment of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to supporting Colombia in its efforts to promote peace, security, and sustainable development in communities affected by antipersonnel mines. OAS Member States, through several mandates of the General Assembly, continued to highlight the importance of this work to advance the goal of an antipersonnel-landmine-free Hemisphere.

We congratulate Colombia for the substantial progress in its mine-action efforts, as reflected in the data submitted for this extension request. Since the previous extension period, significant advances have been reported in land-release operations. Nonetheless, remaining affected areas continue to pose serious challenges due to difficult terrain, limited safe access, and the possibility of recurring contamination.

The Government of Colombia has demonstrated strong national ownership through robust legal and institutional frameworks. At the same time, the country continues to rely on the support of the international community to carry out the full scope of operations, including the support of the AICMA-OAS Program for critical quality-management

functions. While this partnership ensures technical rigor and transparency, continued reliance on external actors highlights the need to strengthen long-term sustainability and alignment with national priorities.

The OAS has a long-standing history of supporting mine-action efforts in Colombia since 2003. As an impartial and trusted partner, AICMA-OAS maintains a fit-for-purpose quality management system and verifies that humanitarian demining organizations comply with national and international standards. Through its close collaboration with national technical counterparts, the OAS is well-positioned to accompany Colombia in progressively assuming full responsibility for these quality management functions, thereby consolidating national ownership while safeguarding operational integrity.

Madame President,

The OAS fully supports Colombia's extension request and encourages member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and the broader international community to maintain and, where possible, expand their technical and financial support to ongoing mine-action efforts. Such support is essential to sustain national ownership, advance land release, and help make the Americas the first region in the world to be free of antipersonnel landmines.

Thank you very much.