



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 (Ecuador)

Madame President,

On behalf of Secretary General Albert Ramdin, I am honored to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization of American States to supporting Ecuador in its efforts to promote peace, security, and sustainable development in territories affected by antipersonnel mines. This commitment has been reiterated by the OAS General Assembly through multiple resolutions, reflecting our shared aspiration to advance the goal of an antipersonnel-landmine-free Hemisphere.

We congratulate Ecuador for the important progress it has made in its mine-action efforts, through the work of CENDESMI, its Humanitarian Demining Center, and national mine-action authority. As noted in its extension request, Ecuador had initially planned to fulfill its Article 5 obligations by the end of 2025. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Ecuador will require an extension until 2027 to achieve full completion. In its request, Ecuador, fully committed to its international obligations, highlights the need to conduct external quality control in the remaining areas before declaring land free of mines and returning it to its rightful owners.

Given that progress has been delayed due to limited financial resources, I wish to reiterate the offer of the General Secretariat of the OAS to provide technical support to Ecuador, if needed, in achieving the goal of a mine-free country by 2027, particularly considering the OAS-AICMA experience in carrying out quality management activities in Colombia.

Madame President,

The OAS fully supports Ecuador's extension request and encourages member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and the broader international community to provide their technical and financial support for ongoing mine-action efforts. Such support is essential to achieve the 2027 goal and help make the Americas the first region in the world to be free of antipersonnel landmines.

Thank you very much.