

ICBL Comments on Colombia's Article 5 Extension Request
Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025

Thank you, Chair.

On behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, we would like to thank Colombia for its request and offer the following remarks.

Despite progress, the humanitarian impact of landmines in Colombia remains stark. An average of 150 casualties annually, mostly civilians, underscores the urgency. Contamination continues to affect communities' access to land, water, healthcare, education, and livelihoods - especially where mines are laid near critical infrastructure.

We recognize Colombia's continued commitment and the challenges it faces, including a dramatic drop in international support. However, given the continued human cost, the urgency to survey and clear both known and suspected contamination cannot be overstated. While Colombia expresses ambition, the request lacks clarity on what it aims to achieve within the five-year period, and what will remain beyond 2030.

Colombia presents a partial plan for 2025–2027, addressing 3.06 km², but key inconsistencies and missing details - such as quantified targets for survey and re-survey efforts are major limitations. The plan for 2028–2030 is deferred, and there is no breakdown of planned activities by type (NTS, TS, clearance).

No detailed, multi-year, or costed risk education plan is included in the request, despite its importance in reducing casualties in the interim, and as required by Action#23 of the SRAAP.

The request does not contain a comprehensive or secured budget for the extension period. The reported need - possibly COP 4 billion (roughly USD 900,000) - is not clearly detailed or aligned with activities. A resource mobilization plan is not included either. Given the significant drop in international funding since 2021, this is a critical gap.

Concluding, Colombia's commitment is not in doubt. However, to meet Convention obligations and reduce harm to civilians, the country must urgently clarify its goals, provide a detailed and costed work plan - including for risk education - and outline how it intends to secure the necessary resources.

Thank you.