

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom, Algeria, Norway)

Intersessional Meetings 17 – 20 June 2025

I. Progress in implementation (Action 8, 20, 22)

1. Ecuador reported that in 2024 the 68th Engineer Battalion “COTOPAXI” addressed 4 mined areas containing the following ‘objectives’: PV-2_07, Obst_D-34, Obst_D-36, Obst_D-32, Obst_D-33, Obst_C-5, Obst_D-20, Obst_C-26, Obst_C- 23, Obst_D-22, Obst_D-25, Obst_D19, Obst_C-9. As a result, a total of 10,004 square metres were addressed, including 5,814 square metres cancelled, and 4,190.00 square metres cleared, destroying 367 anti-personnel mines.
2. Ecuador also reported that 20 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) without geo-referenced points located in the ‘Cordillera del Cóndor’ sector were also registered.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2024 updated workplan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was similar to that projected in Ecuador’s 2024 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Ecuador providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee further welcomed Ecuador employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

II. Remaining challenge (Action 18, 22)

4. The Committee observed that Ecuador provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge. Ecuador reported a remaining challenge measuring 22 mined areas measuring 9,964 square metres, estimated to contain 1,713 anti-personnel mines.
5. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Ecuador and encourages Ecuador to continue to provide updated information and clarity concerning remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs in line with Action 22.
6. Action 17 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify suspected and confirmed hazardous areas to the extent possible and establish as soon as possible, accurate baselines of contamination using data and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS. The Committee observed that Ecuador was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Ecuador on these efforts.

¹ “Some clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, province, and district within the State.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-3, 18-21)

7. Action 3 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans to implement Convention obligations as soon as possible and no later than the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties and ensure that they are periodically reviewed and updated based on new evidence. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador in this regard.
8. Ecuador reported having a national evidence based and costed work plan for clearance and survey in place for the period 2024-2025. Ecuador reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually, as well as how priorities have been established. In this regard, Ecuador projects to address 9,964 square metres in the period 2024-2025.
9. The Committee recalled that Ecuador in its 2024 updated workplan provided information on Ecuador's efforts to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria with consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities. Ecuador reported that prioritisation of mined areas is based on their proximity to the affected population.
10. Ecuador reported on its efforts to demonstrate a high level of national ownership, partnership and coordination, by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, as appropriate, including annual financial commitment to demining activities, including the allocation of the 68th Engineer Battalion "COTOPAXI" to address mined areas.
11. The Committee recalled that Ecuador in its extension request submitted in 2022 includes information on its efforts to make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. Ecuador reported that personnel, material, and equipment from the BE-68 "COTOPAXI" will form EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) teams, and that these EOD teams will retain the competencies and capabilities to execute operations in EOD and humanitarian demining.

IV. Efficient implementation, innovative approaches, methods, and technological means (Action 4, 9, 25)

12. The Committee recalled that Ecuador in its 2024 updated workplan provided information on efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards up to date in accordance with IMAS to ensure efficient, effective, and safe operations, including the publication of the manual, "Binational Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures of Ecuador – Peru" in 2015, and the "Army Field Manual, Humanitarian Demining Operations" that was updated between 2019 and 2022, and a new version was released in 2024.
13. Ecuador reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information system including through Ecuador's "Mine Action Information Management Office" which was established as the responsible entity for managing information throughout various stages of operations.
14. The Committee recalled that Ecuador's 2024 updated workplan contained information on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including the use of geographical referencing and data processing tools, and the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for technical survey, including obtaining imagery, elevation models, studying difficult access areas, and processing data.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them (Action 23)

15. In considering Ecuador's request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Ecuador to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee welcomed the information provided in follow-up to the decision of the 20MSP.
16. The Committee recalled that in considering Ecuador's 2022 extension request, the 20MSP also requested Ecuador to submit to the States Parties an updated work plan by 30 April 2024 for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee observed that Ecuador had acted on the decisions of the 20MSP by submitting an updated work plan accordingly.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (Action 18,23, 26-29)

17. The Committee observed that Ecuador's 2022 updated work plan contained information on its efforts to update the "Army Field Manual, Humanitarian Demining Operations (2024 Edition)" to include a chapter on Mine Risk Education, and that risk education activities are conducted in areas of demining operations and are integrated with demining plans. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts in this regard.
18. Ecuador reported on its efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas, including the marking of mined areas.
19. The Committee recalled that Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, including use of bilingual educational materials (Spanish and Shuar), bi-national education campaigns conducted between Ecuador and Peru, featuring audio-visual presentations, and multi-sectoral programs, with political, military, community and park rangers. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on how priorities were established, challenges faced, results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.
20. Action 26 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection. The Committee recalled that while Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on its efforts to conduct risk education activities in areas of demining operations, and that risk education is integrated into the overall priorities of demining efforts. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador in this regard.
21. Action 27 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risk, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that while Ecuador reported on efforts to deliver bi-national, and bi-lingual education campaigns, the Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to implement this action.
22. The Committee observed that Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on its efforts to target and train local leaders, and to use existing community structure to conduct risk

education activities, as well as information on Ecuador's implementation of multi-sectoral risk education activities involving government health and education sectors.

VII. Best Practices in implementation (Action 5, 6, 18)

23. The Committee recalled that Ecuador in its extension request submitted in 2022 indicated that gender equity is a component of Ecuador's programme. Ecuador's request further indicated that the 68th Engineer Battalion "COTOPAXI" includes female deminers in its personnel, who are trained in humanitarian demining operations based on the allocation of female personnel by the General Directorate of Human Resources of the Ecuadorian Army. The Committee also recalled that Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including the use of bilingual educational materials, (Spanish and Shuar languages).
24. Ecuador reported on how climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of Convention implementation, including the integration of environmental norms in the Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures of Ecuador and the Binational Manual with Peru. The Committee also recalled that Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on the 'mapping of natural reserves, and biodiversity density' provided by the Ministry of the Environment, and the positive impact of clearance of mined areas in Loja and El Oro which have allowed for the "Conservation of the flora and fauna of the POCARPUS Natural Reserve" and the "Conservation of the flora and fauna of the ARENILLAS Natural Reserve".

VIII. International Cooperation and Assistance (Action 40-42, 45)

25. The Committee recalled that Ecuador in its 2024 updated work plan reported on its efforts to do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet their Convention obligations as soon as possible, including making an annual financial contribution US \$9.45 million towards implementation for the period of 2022-2025 to covers personnel, and demining equipment costs.
26. Action 41 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports, requests for extension under Article 5 and updated work plans where applicable, and by taking advantage of the Individualised Approach tool. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador in this regard.
27. Action 42 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including by establishing an appropriate National Mine Action Platform, wherever possible. The Committee would welcome information from Ecuador in this regard.
28. Ecuador reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including between affected States Parties or triangular cooperation for the voluntary sharing of national experiences and good practices, including binational cooperation with Peru, joint risk education campaigns, and training, with a Binational Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures in place and information exchange on mine locations conducted as a confidence-building measure.

X. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

29. The Committee recalled that Ecuador's 2024 updated work plan contained information on challenges and requirements for assistance including:

- complex terrain
- dense vegetation
- high altitudes
- adverse weather
- lack of Infrastructure
- limited road access
- requirement for air transport for personnel, equipment, supplies, and medical evacuation,
- expensive of air transportation
- undiscovered/unregistered areas
- lack of precise geographical coordinates
- natural disasters

30. Ecuador further highlighted challenges in performing quality control in areas cleared many years ago is challenging due to vegetation regrowth and natural changes, increasing the time and resources needed.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Ecuador							
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#1	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors.						
#2	Percentage of affected States Parties reporting having sustainable national capacities in place able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance and undertake post completion activities, including management of residual risk.						
#3	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.						The Committee would welcome updated information on Ecuador's efforts to report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.
#4	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
#5	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities,						
#6	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.						
#8	Percentage of States Parties that submit Article 7 reports by 30 April of each year.						
	Percentage of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.						
#9	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.						The Committee would welcome updated information on Ecuador's efforts to report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.						
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance						
#19	Number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.						
	Number of affected States Parties that report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.						
#20	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.						
	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.						
#21	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national capacity in place to implement the Convention and address any previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas discovered following completion.						
	Number of States Parties that following completion, report the discovery of previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas.						
#22	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.						
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of extension requests submitted that ensure consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate, and the environment.						
#24	Number of affected States Parties that declare completion of their Article 5 obligations.						

	Percentage of these States Parties that submit voluntary Declarations of Completion.						
#25	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;						The Committee would welcome updated information on Ecuador's efforts to report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education.
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.						
#26	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.						
#27	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to establish an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes.
#28	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.						
#29	Percentage of affected States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to report on results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
40	Percentage of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance;						

	Percentage of States Parties that report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.					
41	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.					
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.					The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.					
42	Percentage of affected States Parties that report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.					The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.					The Committee would welcome updated information from Ecuador on its efforts to report having established a National Mine Action Platform.
45	Number of States Parties that report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.					
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.					

