

# Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

18 October 2016

English

Original: Spanish

English, French and Spanish only

## Fifteenth Meeting

Santiago, 28 November-1 December 2016

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

## Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

### Executive summary

### Submitted by Peru

1. In March 2008, Peru submitted a request, subsequently amended in August 2008, to extend the deadline for demining its territory for a period of eight years; an extension was granted until 1 March 2017.
2. In 2009, Peru had to contend with two types of mined areas in its territory: first, remaining contaminated public infrastructure, consisting of three maximum security prisons and two police bases, and, second, 35 hazardous areas resulting from the undeclared armed conflict with Ecuador in 1995, during which both countries laid anti-personnel mines along their common land border.
3. After the submission of the request for an extension of the demining deadline, the following hazardous areas around public infrastructure remained to be cleared in 2009:

Table 1

**Public infrastructure mine contamination to be cleared by the demining unit of the Peruvian National Police as of 2009**

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Location</i>		<i>Total area (m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>Mines</i>
	<i>Province</i>	<i>Region</i>		
Miguel Castro Castro prison	Lima	Lima	<b>3 862.00</b>	3 179
Yanamayo prison	Puno	Puno	<b>4 542.00</b>	2 990
Huacariz prison	Cajamarca	Cajamarca	<b>2 763.00</b>	2 879
Santa Lucia anti-drug police base	Tocache	San Martin	<b>No info.</b>	500
Tulumayo antiterrorism police base	Leoncio Prado	Nuanuco	<b>No info.</b>	500

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4. The specialized demining unit of the Peruvian National Police (DIVSECOM) was designated to carry out these operations.
5. At the time of the extension request in 2008, there were 35 hazardous areas in Peru containing buried anti-personnel mines, located in three sectors corresponding to the rivers after which they were named: the Santiago, Achuime and Cenepa rivers in the departments of Amazonas and Cajamarca.
6. The army's General Directorate for Humanitarian Demining (DIGEDEHUME) was appointed to carry out the operations on the border with Ecuador, in coordination with the national mine action authority (CONTRAMINAS).
7. Between January 2009 and December 2015, Peru destroyed 18,220 anti-personnel mines laid in its national territory, as follows:
  - 8,843 anti-personnel mines in mined areas around public infrastructure; and
  - 9,377 anti-personnel mines in mined areas along the northern border with Ecuador.
8. Humanitarian demining has proven to be one of the most effective ways to build trust between Peru and Ecuador, given the importance of exchanging information on mined areas as an operational planning tool.
9. Between November 2012 and December 2013, Ecuador provided Peru with documentation on 128 new hazardous areas in Peruvian territory. In March 2015, Ecuador handed over documentation to Peru on 10 hazardous areas in Tiwinza. Details of the areas still to be demined along the border with Ecuador (as of 2017) are set out below:
  - Total number of mined sites: 128 hazardous areas;
  - Total mined area: 411,694 m<sup>2</sup>;
  - Total number of mines laid: 6,318 anti-personnel mines.
10. There are an estimated 6,318 anti-personnel mines that remain to be cleared in an area covering 411,694 m<sup>2</sup> along the border with Ecuador; the distribution of the mines in 128 geographically dispersed areas causes logistical problems.
11. In the Amazon jungle, where these remaining contaminated areas are located, there is extensive and dense vegetation interspersed with rocky peaks and hard-to-access ravines that can be reached only by air. It is an area of large, fast-flowing rivers and heavy rainfall.
12. The mined areas of the Peruvian jungle to be cleared from 2017 onward are located in the departments of Amazonas, Cajamarca and Loreto. In the Cordillera del Cóndor region, the maximum elevation can reach 2,700 metres above sea level. The climate is varied, with temperatures between 10 and 38°C, constant humidity and rain nearly all year round. Rainfall has increased with the weather changes brought on by the El Niño phenomenon.
13. The use of aerial transportation complicates and substantially increases the cost of humanitarian demining efforts in terms of human, logistical and financial resources. Deminers have to travel long distances along mule tracks to get from their encampment to the worksite where the mined areas are located.
14. In order to proceed with a medical evacuation during a demining operation in the jungle, the assigned helicopter requires clement weather along the entire evacuation route, in other words 2.5 hours' flight time between the worksite and the closest city (Jaén). Good meteorological conditions are necessary to ensure medical evacuations, as well as the start and continuation of operations.

15. Peru considers it necessary to submit an extension request to the international community in order to complete the humanitarian demining along the northern border of the country, with a deadline of 31 December 2024 (seven years and 10 months). It is estimated that completing the demining work will cost US\$ 38,629,306.36. A copy of the National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2017-2024 is attached.

16. **Surveys to be undertaken to determine the exact location, size and other features of mined areas:** In order to identify the exact location and extent of the hazardous areas in the border area, the necessary non-technical and technical surveys will be carried out with the support of qualified staff trained for this work at the Humanitarian Demining School, using the records of the mined areas at the country's disposal.

17. **Area to be cleared during the extension (monthly or annually):** The estimated area covered by the extension request is 411,694 m<sup>2</sup>, to be cleared of mines between 2 March 2017 and 31 December 2024. The schedule of humanitarian demining operations from 2017 to 2024 is attached (annex 2).

18. **Land clearance methods to be used:** In order to clear the areas of anti-personnel mines, the army and police will use the manual demining technique known as "one man per lane", in accordance with the procedures set out in the Manual on Humanitarian Demining Procedures, in addition to demining techniques involving animals and mechanical equipment in parts of the jungle that lend themselves to such methods.

19. The schedule for humanitarian demining operations is set out below:

**Table 2**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Metres</i>	<i>Mines</i>
2017	Tiwinza	14	37 450.00	833
2018	Tiwinza	16	95 230.00	720
2019	Cenepa	20	9 458.00	746
2020	Cenepa	16	12 301.00	653
2021	Achuime	18	180 965.00	392
2022	Santiago	16	28 225.00	838
2023	Santiago	15	31 360.00	776
2024	Santiago	13	16 705.00	1 360
<b>Total</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>411 694.00</b>	<b>6 318</b>

20. Potential risk factors that may hinder the fulfilment of the plan within the established time frame:

- (a) Volatile meteorological and climate conditions (El Niño phenomenon);
- (b) The identification of additional hazardous areas;
- (c) Breaches of safety measures during the humanitarian demining process.

21. **Institutions/structures and changes thereto for the effective implementation of the plan:** In order to fulfil and go beyond the commitments made for the extension period, Peru will undertake the following steps:

- (a) Create additional demining teams with a view to completing the work more rapidly;
- (b) Allocate more logistical and financial resources.