

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

9 November 2016

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Fifteenth Meeting

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the general status and
operation of the Convention**

**Clearing mined areas: Conclusions and recommendations related to the
mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ireland, Zambia)**

Addendum

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Argentina	2
Chile	2
Colombia	3
Ecuador	5
Peru	6

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Argentina

1. In 2010 Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina had indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.
2. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Second Review Conference, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee further concluded that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

Chile

I. Progress in implementation

3. Chile reported that in 2015, it released 17 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 1,891,413 square metres and destroying 84,867 anti-personnel mines and 42,279 anti-tank mines. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
4. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Chile on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 151 to 78 and the amount of area reduced from 17,289,098 square metres to 9,174,736 square metres.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee concluded that Chile had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to five regions of the country. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines in each region and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2015, 60 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 5,819,963 square metres and 10 areas suspected to contain mines totalling 3,354,773 square metres remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee concluded that Chile provided updated milestones for the period of 2016-2020 with 18 areas totalling 2,185,365 square metres to be released in 2016; 14 areas totalling 2,748,492 square metres to be released in 2017; 12 areas totalling 954,176 square metres to be released in 2018; 15 areas totalling 2,883,267 square metres to be released in 2019; and, one area measuring 19,683 square metres to be released in 2020. The Committee concluded that the modified estimated progress for the period of 2016-2020 is more than the amount of area indicated by Chile in its request to be addressed during this period. The Committee further concluded that the number of areas and amount of area to be address is less than that reported by Chile to be pending.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Chile reported that the process of humanitarian demining in Chile takes as its guide the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) as well as the Chilean Army's Humanitarian Demining Manual. Chile reported that the safety of demining operations, for the deminers as well as for the population, is the main focus for Chile during demining operations.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

8. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Chile to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Chile was acting upon the decisions of the 11MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Chile reported that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas far from population centres and with difficult access, and that there is no regular transit of civilians through these areas. Chile reported that all mined areas are fenced and marked and that information is distributed to tourist, national agencies and private enterprises concerning the locations of mined areas. Chile also reported that its mine risk education campaign is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in schools within the communes of Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta, Copiapo and Puerto Natales to reinforce campaigns carried out in the past.

Colombia

I. Progress in implementation

10. Colombia reported that, in 2015, 355'432 square metres of area known to contain anti-personnel mines were cleared and that 173 mines and 10 items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed.

11. The Committee concluded that, as Colombia progressively obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge and is able to develop plans accordingly, greater measurability of progress in implementation over time could be possible. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome information on progress from Colombia to determine the extent of the problem including by reporting on results of non-technical survey efforts.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

12. Colombia estimates that the remaining suspected contamination totals 51'244'350 square metres. Colombia indicated that this amount of suspected hazardous areas has been calculated considering the following:

- (a) "Events" in Colombia's information management system have been divided into two periods, 1990–2009 and 2010–2015. For both these periods, events that are "open" have been considered.

- (b) Based on the results of current humanitarian demining operation, 15% of events from the first period (1990-2009) and 20% of events from the second period (2010-2015) are anticipated to generate a confirmed hazardous area (CHA).
- (c) An additional 20% has been added to both periods anticipating CHAs which will be located during non-technical survey, again based on results of current humanitarian demining operations.
- (d) For each possible CHA, an estimated area of 5'000 square metres has been calculated.

13. The Committee concluded that Colombia has provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing, for each Colombian department, the number of events. The Committee concluded that additional information would be welcome on the size and location of "events" that have been reclassified, as noted in Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, as those that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance or those that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

14. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that it would be welcomed if Colombia would continue to present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

15. Colombia indicated that a Strategic Plan for 2016-2021 was designed to gain a better understanding of the problem in Colombia and knowledge of the real extent of the problem. Colombia indicated that for 2016 a total of 20 new municipalities will have mine action interventions in 1'784 rural districts (veredas). The Committee indicated that it would welcome additional information on the efforts that will be carried out in these municipalities as well as a timeline of when interventions are set to take place and milestones for completion.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

16. Colombia reported in its 2014 National Demining Plan that it undertakes activities in accordance with the IMAS and that Colombia makes use of, in a linear manner, non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

17. The Committee recalled that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) had requested that Colombia provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 10MSP had requested that Colombia submit to the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon the decisions of the 10MSP by providing an updated plan to the 2014 Third Review Conference. The Committee concluded that updates on this plan as Colombia gains clarity of its Article 5 challenge would be welcomed. The Committee further concluded that as the plan covered the period of 2014-2016 an updated plan would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

18. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Colombia on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Colombia reported that a total of 217 people were injured or killed by anti-personnel mines (5 girls, 4 women, 22 boys and 186 men) with 187 having been injured and 30 killed. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Colombia was gender and age disaggregated.

Ecuador

I. Progress in implementation

19. Ecuador reported that, in 2015, it has addressed a total of 17 areas clearing a total of 66,414 square metres and cancelling a total of 16,177 square metres for a total area addressed of 82,591 square metres of areas. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Ecuador in 1999, Ecuador has addressed 177 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 493,831.38 square metres and destroying 10,856 anti-personnel mines.

20. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

21. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2015, seven areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 130,132 square metres containing 4,687 anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

22. Ecuador provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, and by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had cleared or otherwise released more areas than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee further concluded that Ecuador has a plan leading to completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with 80,132 square metres to be addressed in 2016 and the remaining 50,000 square metres to be addressed in 2017.

23. Ecuador reported that one area known to contain anti-personnel mines that totals 43,500 square metres is located in territory handed over by Peru as “private property” of Ecuador as stipulated in the “Brasilia Presidential Act”. Ecuador further reported that demining operations are carried out by a Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit of Ecuador and Peru. Ecuador reported that operations in this area commenced in 28 September 2015 with a total of 6’600 square meters having been cleared.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

24. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador. Ecuador further reported on the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. The Committee concluded that, since this time, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

25. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Ecuador was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation at a constant rate through the extension period.

26. The Committee recalled that Ecuador's request also indicated that there would be a 100 per cent increase in financing and increases in demining capacity relative to what was the case prior to the request having been made. The Committee concluded that, while Ecuador's reporting did not specify changes to funding and demining capacity, Ecuador was proceeding in a manner that suggested that sufficient funding and capacity were in place.

VI. Mine risk reduction

27. Ecuador has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Ecuador reported that the objectives of these efforts are not solely to prevent injury or death, promoting safe behaviour, but also to find solutions to risky behaviour in some affected communities. Ecuador reported that a second binational campaign on mine risk education was held in the border area of Santiago, Tiwinza, in the Province of Morona Santiago. Ecuador further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015.

Peru

I. Progress in implementation

28. Peru reported that in 2015 it addressed a total of 76,335.62 square metres and destroyed 897 anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Peru on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request.

29. The Committee concluded that the milestones presented in Peru's request for extension submitted in 2015 should allow for increased comparability going forward. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Peru used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS,

disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

30. The Committee concluded that Peru had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to four sectors of the country. This list included the number of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Peru reported that, as of the end of 2015, 140 areas suspected and known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 479'994 square metres remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

31. The Committee concluded that Peru had submitted a request for extension for considerations at the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In its request Peru reported the number of areas it would aim to address during in 2016 and over the extension period including 12 mined areas measuring 68'300 square metres in 2016; 14 mined areas measuring 37'450 square metres in 2017; 16 mined areas measuring 95'230 square metres in 2018; 20 mined areas measuring 9'458 square metres in 2019; 16 mined areas measuring 12'301 square metres in 2020; 18 mined areas measuring 180'965 square metres in 2021; 16 mined areas measuring 28'225 square metres in 2022; 15 mined areas measuring 31'360 square metres in 2023, and; 13 areas measuring 16'705 square metres in 2024. The Committee concluded that Peru had a plan to achieve completion by its requested extension deadline.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

32. Peru reported in its request for extension submitted in 2016 that the process of humanitarian demining in Peru is carried out in accordance with that established in Manual of Procedures for Humanitarian Demining of the Republic of Peru which was based on International Mine Action Standards. Peru reported that it is working on developing new policies on land release. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on any amendments Peru may make to its standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

33. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted a commitment on the part of Peru to proceed to implement Article 5 at a more constant rate through the extension period. The Committee concluded that Peru was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation of its plan presented within its extension request.

34. The Committee further concluded that Peru has submitted a new request based on new information acquired on additional mined areas.

VI. Mine risk reduction

35. Peru reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Peru reported that a second binational campaign on mine risk education was held in the border area of Santiago, Tiwinza, in the Province of Morona Santiago, Ecuador with the participation of CONTRAMINAS and military demining authorities of Ecuador in which training was offered to the local authorities and the population in general concerning the risk of mines.
