

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ecuador reported that in 2017 it addressed 7 mined areas releasing a total of 33,728.07 square metres, 10,919.47 cancelled, 7,332.21 reduced, and 15,476.39 square metres cleared. Ecuador reported destroyed 453 anti-personnel mines, 5 mines and 5 explosive remnants of war. Ecuador reported that it had released 513,984.77 square metres destroying 11,884 anti-personnel mines during the period 2000 to 2017.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated in manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to provide information on progress made, disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.
3. The Committee welcomed Ecuador employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining objectives known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines by geographical area including the estimated size of each area, the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area.
5. The Committee observed a small discrepancy in the remaining challenge reported by Ecuador between 6 areas measuring 108,474 square metres and 5 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 97,468.61 square metres as given by Form D. The Committee would also welcome further updates from Ecuador on the impact of survey on its remaining challenge and annual milestones.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Ecuador reported that it will address 2 areas measuring 26,159 square metres in 2018, 9 areas measuring 12,555 square metres in 2019, 12 areas measuring 8,431 square metres in 2020, 10 areas measuring 10,340 square metres in 2021 and 26 areas measuring 7,521 square metres in 2022. Ecuador also reported that it will address 1 area of the Km² of Tiwinza measuring 7,594.61 square metres during the extension period will be carried out by the Binational demining Unit of Ecuador and Peru based on agreement between Ecuador and Peru.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee observed that Ecuador reported that the Engineer Battalion, General Demining Command and Binational Demining Unit of Ecuador - Peru use the Manual Demining Technique that has been established according to IMAS.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in

its extension request. The Committee observed that Ecuador had acted on its commitment to submit a relative to the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts.

9. The Committee observed that the Convention would benefit from Ecuador providing further information on: i) the outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance, ii) progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts, iii) efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Ecuador reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including activities by the IV Ecuador-Peru Binational Campaign for Anti-Personnel Mine Risk Education (ERM) in the communities of Míaza, Héroes del Cóndor and Shaime with an approximate population of 500 persons.
11. The Committee noted that further information from Ecuador would be welcome on its efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.