

GICHD remarks on APMC Article 5 extension request submitted by the Republic of Colombia

Intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention June 2020

The GICHD would like to congratulate the government of Colombia on the development and submission of their recent Article 5 extension request for four years and ten months.

A considerable amount of work has obviously gone in to developing this request for an extension until 31st December 2025. The document itself is well constructed and includes a significant amount of detail including important data and statistics.

Based on a review of the request it is clear that certain overarching contextual factors exist that might potentially impede Colombia's ability to address all known contamination within the requested extension period, notably;

- As the Colombian Office for the High Commissioner for Peace, has correctly highlighted the existing security situation and in particular the use of improvised AP mines by Organised Armed Groups (GAO) is one of the challenges for achieving completion.
- In particular the mine action programme is facing challenges gaining a truly accurate, evidence-based account of the extent of AP contamination in the 165 municipalities where security concerns hinder access. It would be extremely useful if Colombia could include an overview of how it plans to obtain this information.
- The request acknowledges that levels of funding for the programme have been in decline over the past three years. The relatively ambitious operational targets that have been set will require sustained or increased resources. As such, additional information on how these gaps will be filled through domestic or international funding would be useful.

The request predicts that by 2025, according to the operational plan, the average productivity will be around 30% higher than that which has been recorded by the programme in recent years. Such an aspiration is to be commended. However, it would

be useful to the reader if the document could include further details on how such improved productivity will be achieved.

In more general terms, the extension request demonstrates significant efforts to reflect or address different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men, which is in line with Action #3 of the Oslo Action Plan.

It is also clear from the document that Colombia has prioritized the strengthening of EORE programming in recent years, an important development for the mine action programme which is also in line with Action #24 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The GICHD recognizes that Colombia has made significant improvements in Information Management, whilst further efforts are undoubtedly still required, the recent enhancements in data entry from operators and the integration of multiple IM systems will help contribute to the realization of Action #9 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The GICHD would like to again commend the Colombia for submitting such a detailed Article 5 extension request, and to reaffirm its commitment to supporting Colombia in its path to completion.