

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ecuador reported that in 2018 it addressed 3 mined areas measuring 34,858.29 square meters releasing a total of 14,068 square meters through clearance and reducing 20,790.29 square meters through technical survey.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee welcomed Ecuador employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Ecuador reported a remaining challenge consisting of 4 mined areas containing 60 objectives measuring 80,238 square meters with an estimated 3,260 anti-personnel mines in the Province of Zamora Chinchipe.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. Ecuador reported that it will address 12 mined areas measuring 23,383 square metres in 2019, 12 mined areas measuring 18,299 square metres in 2020, 10 mined areas measuring 20,688 square metres in 2021, and 26 mined areas measuring 17,868 square metres in 2022.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. Ecuador reported that the Ecuador's Engineer Engineering Battalion N° 68 "COTOPAXI" complies with the International Mine Action Standards IMAS 06.10 (Training Management), that outlines in circumstances of completion or cessation of work for periods greater than three months, before restarting the demining work re-training must be retrained in the areas conditioned for such work. Ecuador reported that this retraining was carried out February 18 to March 14, 2018.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made including submission by 30 April 2019, of an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee observed that that Ecuador had acted upon its commitments.

VI. Mine risk reduction

7. 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 fourth Ecuador-Peru Binational Mine Risk Education Campaign which targeted with an approximate 500 people.

8. The Committee concluded that further information would be welcome on efforts to ensure that MRE 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.