

**Notes for ICRC intervention to the
10th Meeting of States Parties**

Colombia's extension request

Monday, 29 November 2010

Throughout 2010, the ICRC has been in contact with the Programa Presidencial de Acción Integral Contra las minas antipersonal – PAICMA on the issue of Colombia's extension request under article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention and more generally on the humanitarian impact of weapon contamination in Colombia. The ICRC also expressed some remarks and comments during the discussions of the Colombian request at the Standing Committee on clearance in June this year.

We would like to pay tribute to the work of the analyzing group this year and in particular regarding the Colombian extension request, we find their analyses extremely complete and thorough.

This being said, we wanted to mention that we very much welcome the fact that the revised extension request filed by Colombia took into account the threat that the local population and deminers might face when asked to report or map contaminated areas, conduct surveys and eventually engage in clearance activities.

In June, we stressed that organisations undertaking humanitarian demining activities must ensure that communities, due to benefit from their actions, are not placed at greater risk, threatened, killed or displaced as a result of humanitarian demining. These purely humanitarian concerns have been included in the request and we hope that they will also be addressed and integrated at a later stage during both the prioritization process and the operational procedures of such activities. For example, this could be done through a risk assessment analysis carried out by future demining teams in order to determine whether the area is safe, the community is agreeable to demining and there is no risk of re-mining.