



**El futuro
es de todos**

Cancillería
Misión Permanente de Colombia
ante las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

**Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

**Fourth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-
Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, Switzerland, February 26th, 2019

Thank you Mr. President.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I take the floor today, at this Fourth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, to highlight the importance of this instrument for all affected countries, for the world and for its common aspiration of a mine free world by 2025.

For Colombia, a comprehensive mine action is a commitment. We work with our national agencies, the military forces, operators, affected communities and the international community, with the common objectives of clear our territory, assist the victims, provide mine risk education and avoid that new mines are installed in our fields.

This has proven to be a difficult task. The magnitude of our contamination and the security conditions have made difficult our job. Despite the inconveniences caused by the characteristics of our geography, the adverse weather conditions, the security concerns and the general challenges of this process, Colombia will maintain its efforts to guarantee the safety of its population.

Our immediate goals are to guarantee the inclusion of women and the gender perspective in mine action, increase the effectiveness and economic efficiency of the humanitarian demining operations, prioritize territories taking into account the



opinion of affected communities, as well as to address the challenges faced by the humanitarian demining organizations.

During the last years, Colombia has cleared more than 8 million of square meters and counts with almost 5.700 certified men and women trained for humanitarian demining. These efforts come with those needed to guarantee territorial stability, as well as the consolidation of security, development and peace.

Taking into account the magnitude of the endeavors required to this purpose, the Colombian State has been transformed. Now the head of the demining sector is the High Commissioner for Peace, who will guarantee that all efforts are well articulated and produce better results.

The High Commissioner now has the responsibility to coordinate the comprehensive mine action, as well as to provide technical guidance and adopt national standards to guarantee that the national efforts are sustained and produce real effects regarding humanitarian demining. A comprehensive approach guarantees that, in the future, Colombia is going to be a mine free country.

All our efforts have been possible thanks to the permanent support we have received through technical and financial cooperation. International cooperation is fundamental to maintain operations and assist victims in the way we are doing it today. At this point, allow me to extend our deep appreciation for the valuable support that several countries and organizations have provided to Colombia.

Countries receiving international cooperation also have responsibilities. We must be accountable and promote transparency while properly managing the resources and capacities we are obtaining. This is the only way to guarantee the continuity of the assistance for a sustained period, required to get closer to our objective of a mine free world.

My country, as a receptor of international cooperation, as well as a provider of technical assistance is decided to continue working with all of you, in order to



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achieve our common goal and to keep working towards the construction of a safer world.

To conclude, allow me to express my appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit. The permanent support that we receive from it and the constant companionship of this Unit had facilitated our endeavors.

Thank you Mr. President.
