



National Stakeholder Dialogue in Colombia: Strengthening Participation and Inclusion of Victims of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance

Background

Assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines (victim assistance) in Colombia is coordinated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP), through the Comprehensive Mine Action Group (Descontamina), a specialized body created in 2011 to assist victims and strengthen coordination. The National Dialogue which will take place from 22 to 24 February 2021 contributes to the process launched in 2015 to strengthen the administrative capacities of the Associations of Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines.

Colombia is a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction (also known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention or Ottawa Convention), and one of 30 State Parties to have declared a significant number of mine survivors. As of 31 January 2021, Colombia has registered 11,994 victims of anti-personnel, of which 165 accidents occurred in 2020.

The primary objective of this National Dialogue is to strengthen the 11-member National Network of Mine Survivors Associations and to do so within the framework of the rights of persons with disabilities. By strengthening the Network, the Dialogue also contributes to the implementation of victim assistance measures set forth in the Convention and Actions laid out in the Oslo Action Plan (OAP, 2020-2024).

The National Dialogue is organized by the Government of Colombia, led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP), and is financially supported by the European Union (EU). The EU Council adopted in 2017 a Decision to support States Parties to the Convention who, like Colombia, are working to meet their national and international objectives. The Dialogue has the technical support from the Convention Secretariat, (the Implementation Support Unit, ISU).

The National Dialogue will be carried out through in a hybrid modality that will combine face-to-face participation of representatives of the associations at the national level with the virtual presence of the interested parties.

Specific objectives

1. Increase the capacity of leaders, including women leaders of survivor associations, contributing to improved peer support (Action 38 OAP).
2. Support the national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services (Action 37 OAP).
3. Identify challenges, including those along the comprehensive path to healthcare from the perspective of survivors and other persons with disabilities (Action 35 OAP).
4. Promote adoption of an inclusive approach to disability as understood by the Oslo Action Plan (Action 33 OAP).

5. Enrich reports presented to the Convention thanks to data collected through (during and after) the Dialogue (Action 8 OAP).
6. Advance in the approach to provide victim assistance within a broader rights-based framework, through coordination of national systems and public policies related to victims, and the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
7. To update the Comprehensive Path of Health Care and Functional Rehabilitation for mine and UXO victims with input from the survivor associations.

The National Network of Associations

The National Network is made up of 11 survivor associations, all of which are represented in person during the three days. With the aim of expanding the national coverage of the network and given the interest in becoming part of the Network, three associations - Cesar, Montes de María (Bolívar) and Santander - will link remotely. The representative of the National Board of Victims, of the Victims Law, will also participate in the Dialogue.

The survivor associations which will participate are the following:

#	DEPARTMENT	ASSOCIATION
1	Antioquia	Mine Victim Association of San Carlos (ASOVIMASC)
2	Arauca	Association of Landmine Survivors Demanding Dignity and Peace (ASODIGPAZ)
3	Bogotá	ASDISMAP
4	Bolívar	ASOVISPAZ
5	Caquetá	Association of Survivors of Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Traps of Caquetá
6	Cauca	Departmental Association of Survivors of Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance of Cauca (ASODESAM)
7	Córdoba	Association of Survivors, Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines of Córdoba (AVIMAC)
8	Chocó	Mine Survivor Association of the Choco Cimarrón collective
9	Huila	Association of Survivors of AP Mines, UXO, and other improvised munitions of Huila (AHVIMPEX)
10	Meta	Walking Together Meta
11	Nariño	Regional Association of Survivors of Mine, Explosive Traps and UXO (ASOVIC – ABADES) (UNITED FOR LIFE)
12	North Santander	Association of Survivors, Victims of Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (ASOVIVIR)
13	Putumayo	Mines Survivors Association of Putumayo