

Thank you Ambassador for the opportunity to add my comments to this very full MASG agenda. I would like to give a very short update on some of the latest developments in the Americas:

- The first element I would like to highlight is that the OAS is working in close collaboration with Colombia on the issue of Quality Management to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring. This collaboration will focus on continual improvement, in particular on the survey component of land release, attempting to define KPIs that will be used to enhance monitoring.
- This work will be accompanied by improvements in the information management system used to collect and analyse the data collected by our monitors and that provides data to the national authority in Colombia for their decision-making processes.
- We will be working in collaboration with the GICHD on both these issues to ensure harmonization with global good practice.
- Moving to **Ecuador and Peru**, and for those who were not able to attend our side-event on Wednesday during the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, I would just like to highlight, once again, the commitment of both states to work together to clear their common border of anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance (EO). In order to support this effort, the OAS Comprehensive Mine Action Program (AICMA) has just renewed our formal collaboration with Ecuador through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February of this year. The MoU frames the provision of targeted OAS support to Ecuador in the area of mine action, which complements the existing OAS arrangement with Peru. This new framework will enhance the multilateral collaboration involved in completing the work in these two countries with respect to mine action.
- As you are aware, the remaining known contamination in border areas between Ecuador and Peru is not extensive by global standards but is situated in hard-to-reach areas that involve significant and costly infrastructure support. We are convinced that remaining work can be completed prior to 2025, if sufficient support is forthcoming to supplement the resources of the national programmes.
- The mine action effort, between Ecuador and Peru is an integral part of the peace process established between the two countries, and the program is being designed in the framework of the triple-nexus. Humanitarian aspects related to fragile indigenous communities on both sides of the border, environmental conservation, encouragement of cross-border economic activity and the implementation of sustainable peace between the two countries are vital elements that must be considered within the context of this work.

- The OAS will be engaging with various state and civil society partners in design and delivery of the holistic support program, so that we can ensure the integration the various non-mine action components of the program in a sustainable framework.
- Finally, I would like to announce that a side-event on mine action in the Americas is being planned for the upcoming **General Assembly of the OAS during the first week of October in Peru**. The event will examine the impact of clearing mines in all three affected countries of the Americas (Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) and will draw linkages to the various related peacebuilding, humanitarian and development issues. I would invite those countries who will attend the OAS GA to join us for that event and we will share further details as they become available.
- Finally, I would like to thank the US State Department, as well as Canada, Italy and South Korea for their important support for mine action in the Americas.