



OAS | More rights
for more people

Antigua y Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brasil
Canadá
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Estados Unidos
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haití
Honduras
Jamaica
México
Nicaragua
Panamá
Paraguay
Perú
República Dominicana
San Kitts y Nevis
Santa Lucía
San Vicente y las Granadinas
Suriname
Trinidad y Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

**4th Review Conference
Mine Free World
Oslo, Norway, 25-29 Nov 2019**

Statement by
Mr. Carl E. Case, Senior Advisor
OAS Mine Action Program

During the Forty-Ninth Regular Session of the Organization of American States General Assembly, held in the city of Medellin, Colombia, from 26 to 28 June of 2019, the 34 Member States of the Organization approved Resolution 2945 “Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach,” which reiterated the OAS’s commitment to rid the nations of the Americas of antipersonnel landmines, destroy mine stockpiles, and condemn the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines, whether produced industrially, locally-manufactured, or improvised. The goal of this effort remains the same as it has been since the signing of the Antipersonnel Mine-Ban Convention: To make the Americas the world’s first antipersonnel-mine-free zone.

Since its inception in 1993, the Program of Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines has supported ten OAS Member States in a range of mine action activities and has accompanied five of these -- Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Suriname – in achieving landmine-free status. With some 200,000 mines and explosive remnants of war cleared from the region, over a million stockpiled mines destroyed, thousands of landmine survivors assisted, and people living in some 1,500 mine-affected communities reached through risk education campaigns, the OAS remains fully committed the goal of a mine-free world in 2025.

The OAS Program continues to prioritize coordination and quality management of mine clearance efforts, reduction of casualties through risk education, sustainment of victim assistance programs and protection of landmine survivor rights, as well as ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to implementation of the Convention.

Recognizing the importance of humanitarian mine action as a proven tool for peacebuilding in the region, it is important to underscore the results achieved by the Government of the Republic of Colombia in this area. These advances have been made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the international community, including those that have been channeled through the OAS, in order to support Colombia's efforts to fulfill its commitments under the Convention and to end the country's internal conflict and forge a lasting and true peace.

Finally, it should be noted that the Governments of the Republics of Ecuador and Peru, in their efforts to meet their commitments to complete the destruction of antipersonnel mines in mined areas, have requested that the OAS resume its previous cooperation on humanitarian demining. In that respect, the Organization has called upon Its Member States and other international donors and partners to provide technical and financial assistance for both countries to continue their work toward their respective completion deadlines in 2022 and 2024.

Antipersonnel mines and explosive remnants of war continue to have a serious humanitarian and socio-economic impact in the Americas, but the progress that has been made is significant. A redoubling of this effort is underway in order to achieve national target dates for completion and reach the goal of the Americas as an antipersonnel-landmine-free zone as an integral part of a Mine Free World in 2025.

Thank you