



Colombia, host to the Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World

- *Everything's set for the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention signed ten years ago in Ottawa.*
- *Delegates from the 156 State Parties will participate, as well as Organizations from the civil society and the communications media.*
- *The event will take place between November 29th and December 4th in the city of Cartagena and its main objective is to evaluate the Convention's status and to determine an action plan to surpass the pending challenges.*

Bogotá, 3 de Nov - "The Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World" is the name given to the *Second Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*", which will be hosted by Colombia.

Between November 29 and December 4th, the city of Cartagena will receive Heads of State, chancellors, military and civilian experts in the fight against Anti-personnel Mines, NGOs and every entity interested in evaluated the actions, achievements, difficulties and challenges of each one of the 156 State Parties to the Convention, in the commemoration of the ten years of the Convention's execution.

In November 2008, during the Ninth Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva, Colombia was appointed as the host to the Review Conference, after almost a year of work before the International Community by Colombia's Vice President, Francisco Santos Calderón, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Colombia's Permanent Mission before the UN.

"Colombia is extremely proud of hosting this Second Review Conference, for it receives this distinction as a recognition to the actions performed in the country in this matter and as a sample of the international community's support to continue in the fight against this calamity", assures Vice President Francisco Santos, who has led the fight against anti-personnel mines in the country.

During the Conference, Colombia will show as its achievements the destruction of the totality of stockpiled arsenal held by the Military Forces; the delivery of fields which have been left mine-free thanks to the work of the six Humanitarian Demining Platoons which the country currently has; the comprehensive assistance to the victims of these artefacts, including medical, psychological, social and productive support, in addition to economic reparation to which they have rights; and, the development of an institutional and legal framework that facilitates opportune victims' assistance and the implementation of Comprehensive Mine Action in the Country.



“While the Colombian State has fulfilled its acquired obligations in humanitarian demining matters, illegal armed groups continue to plant mines systematically and indiscriminately. We trust that the international community will join our efforts of rejection and will demand from these illegally armed groups to stop planting these artefacts”, said Vice President Francisco Santos.

Why a Review Conference?

To guarantee the fulfilment of the dispositions contained in the Convention it was decided to, among other things, hold regular encounters between the State Parties to review and consider any issue relevant to its application or practice.

The Review Summits are the most important meetings held by world leaders to examine the problems brought forth by anti-personnel mines in each one of the countries and thus provide an outlook of the anti-personnel mine problem at a world level.

This second review to the fulfilment of the Mine Ban Convention looks to document what each State Party has achieved, ten years after the signing of the Convention, and the responsibilities that, from this point on, will be assumed in order to enforce its content.

The first Review Summit was held in November 2004, in Nairobi (Kenya).

All information related to the development of the *Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World* is available on the Conferences Web Site: www.cartagenasummit.gov.co

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