

First International Forum on Landmines, Non-State Actors and Humanitarian Agreements

Final Declaration (original in Spanish)

Gathering in Bogotá for the “First International Forum on Antipersonnel Mines, Non-State Actors and Humanitarian Accords,” organised by Geneva Call and the Colombian Campaign against Antipersonnel Mines, participants adopted the following final declaration:

- Considering that antipersonnel mines cause daily suffering and human drama.
- Considering that mines affect primarily civilians, agriculture and avert internal displaced persons from returning home.
- Recognising that the Colombian government has a strong will to act rapidly and concretely to help civilians and to take necessary measures to fight against mines.
- Recognising the important contribution of the Colombian government to the success of the Forum through authorising the participation of Francisco Galan.
- Expressing the need to engage all armed groups in Columbia to cease using mines.

Participants:

1. Recall that the utilisation of mines is a violation of International Humanitarian Law
2. Reaffirm that antipersonnel mines is a humanitarian issue and thus need to be suppressed from both political and military debates.
3. Emphasize that only a humanitarian approach will bring together civil society, specialised organisations and parties to the conflict.
4. Note the declaration of the AUC on the matter and lament that the FARC have not judged necessary to inform the Forum on their projects.
5. Welcome with satisfaction ELN declaration which, for the first time, affirm publicly its willingness to limit the use of mines.
6. Note that engaging armed groups in the fight against mines must be done at both a regional and local level allowing a rapid implementation of programmes.
7. Invite the country to take into account the necessity of the victims and to consent to a total assistance.
8. Request the actors to respect International Humanitarian Law necessary prerequisite to engage peace talks.

Bogota, 5th of June 2004