



UNMAS

Colombia

Keeping Up the Momentum

Panel Discussion

3 April 2014 • 10.00 – 12.00

NLB Conference Room 4

A light lunch (sandwiches and refreshments) will be served after the Panel Discussion

Organized by: **UNMAS, Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Colombia and Japan**

Panel Chair: **Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, DPKO**

Opening address: **Ambassador María Emma Mejía , Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations**

Panelists: **Ambassadors and Senior Representatives from Permanent Mission to the United Nations from Japan and Colombia, Humanitarian Demining Battalion and civilian deminers, UNMAS.**

Colombia is heavily impacted by improvised explosive devices, with the characteristics of landmines, used indiscriminately by non-state actors to protect areas and assets of strategic importance. These devices have injured or killed over 10,600 victims since 1990, including 359 people in 2013 alone. Colombia has the world's second largest number of mine victims and the presence of these hidden killers hinders socioeconomic development. Colombia, as a State Party to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, is committed to the clearance of hazardous areas and created the Humanitarian Demining Battalion (BIDES) to address the problem. The Government has also decided to allow civilian humanitarian operators. In 2013 The HALO Trust began to conduct humanitarian demining operations and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action ended the second phase of the accreditation process. Great progress by the BIDES, supported by civilian operators has been achieved. The Government of Colombia and Japan, and the United Nations share a common vision for a mine free world and encourage your attendance at this event. Your commitment and assistance to mine action in Colombia will contribute to the welfare and development of the Colombian population.

Panel Discussion RSVP.

For security reasons if you do not have a United Nations ID, please RSVP to intern02.colombiaun@gmail.com and come to the 47th Street Entrance (47th Street and 1st Avenue) with a photo ID. Please allow a few extra minutes to enter the United Nations compound.

#mineaction2014

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