

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF NIGERIA AT THE INTERSESSIONAL
MEETINGS AND FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE FOURTH REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION 22-24 MAY, 2019
AT GENEVA SWITZERLAND DELIVERED BY MR. ODE IKWE**

Madam Chair,

My delegation thanks Members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the ISU for their constructive engagements in the work of the Committee. We have great confidence in their experience and ability to steer deliberations to a successful outcome.

2. Regrettably, we note that a significant portion of the global population, including many in my country, have experienced the tragic consequences of the production and use of Anti Personnel Mines by terrorists and armed militants. These have continued to undermine otherwise peaceful societies, cause internal displacement and strife, and are responsible for hundreds of deaths each day.

3. In this regard, my delegation commends the renewed efforts of all States towards the addressing the scourge associated with Anti-Personnel Mine and hopes that the forth coming Fourth Review Conference of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention scheduled to take place in Oslo from 25th – 29th November, 2019 will build on the gains of the conclusions of the Third Review Conference.

4. My delegation wishes to reiterates the need for a robust and effective implementation of numerous instruments already in place to put an end to the casualties and sufferings caused by anti-personnel mines and their aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Madam Chair,

5. Nigeria considers this meeting as offering veritable platform to enable us engage in constructive and collaborative discussions, in order to forge a clear path to addressing the menace of the Anti-Personnel Mines. I wish to inform you that as soon as security conditions permit, non- technical survey of antipersonnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) will commence in Nigeria's three most conflict affected states, Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa and this will enable us to provide necessary information on the discovery of any contamination from antipersonnel mines, including victim-activated IEDs. Thereafter, we will provide adequate report on all suspected or confirmed locations in Nigeria's most conflict affected areas. We acknowledge that much needs to be done. In this regard, international support is required, particularly through capacity building programmes that are tailored towards transferring the necessary technologies and equipment to developing countries, upon request.

6. We strongly support and advocate the inclusion of women in peace and security process. It is to be noted that the African Union Agenda 2063, places particular emphasis on the engagement of women and youth in the continent's development. At the sub-regional level in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa, in September 2010, developed an integrated plan of action for the implementation of Security Council (SC) resolution 1325 (2000). Building on the sub-regional efforts, Nigeria, in August 2013, launched a national action plan to fully implement the relevant provisions of SC resolution 1325 (2000). The plan reflects Nigeria's commitment to ensuring active and direct participation of women in conflict prevention, mediation, resolution and peace building.

Madam Chair

7. In conclusion, be assured that my delegation will actively participate in all processes geared towards putting an end to the suffering and casualties caused by Anti-Personnel Mines.

8. I thank you for your attention.
