

ICBL comments on the extension request by Nigeria

18MSP MBT, 16-20 November 2020

We are pleased that Nigeria has submitted a request for a new clearance deadline, albeit very late and incomplete. Indeed, faced with new contamination (of mostly an improvised nature), Nigeria needs a new deadline under the convention to declare, clarify and clear its contamination. We welcome Nigeria's presence at the MSP today and hope that Nigeria will fully engage with the Mine Ban Treaty and community from now on. [CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

We also applaud the extensive and prolonged efforts carried out by the Committee on Art. 5, the Presidency and the ISU to help ensure the final submission of this request.

While we appreciate Nigeria has made a formal request for a new clearance deadline, we regret Nigeria has not been able to present a complete request nor made progress on the ground, but instead is asking for another year *"to present [a] detailed report on contamination, progress made and work plan for implementation."* We welcome, however, the creation of an Inter-Agency Committee on the convention and hope it will urgently undertake all necessary steps to fulfill Nigeria's obligations.

We ask Nigeria to use this one-year interim extension to take the following steps:

- Conduct survey of areas suspected of contamination and present a detailed report in this regard;
- Prepare a comprehensive extension request that would include detailed information on existing contamination and progress made to date in addressing it, and a detailed work plan with a budget for clearance of all existing contamination;
- As part of the request, Nigeria needs to also present a comprehensive plan and budget for targeted risk education activities. It should also urgently enhance its current mine risk education efforts considering the ongoing high number of casualties;
- Nigeria should proactively engage with donors and partners to secure the technical and financial assistance, if needed;
- Lastly, Nigeria needs to also start reporting annually on progress made on as required by Article 7 of the treaty.