



**Mine Action Review Comments on Nigeria's Article 5 Extension Request
Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
17 November 2020**

Thank you, Mr President.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review project.

Mine Action Review welcomes Nigeria's request to extend its Article 5 deadline to address new contamination from anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.

We appreciate that Nigeria previously did not have landmine contamination and that its original Article 5 deadline had expired. However, as announced in its statement at the Oslo Review Conference last November, Nigeria has unfortunately suffered from the new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by non-state armed groups.

Irrespective of who made or laid the improvised devices, be they non-state actors, insurgents, or terrorists, if the resulting emplaced IEDs are victim activated and meet the definition of an anti-personnel mine, then they're covered by the provisions of the Convention and such contamination must be reported, surveyed, and cleared under the Convention.

We commend Nigeria for rightly addressing the new mine contamination under Article 5. We hope that this serves as a positive example to other States Parties in the Lake Chad Basin and Sahel region, as well as elsewhere, which are also facing the challenge of on-going conflict and new contamination from anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.

We appreciate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed submission of Nigeria's extension request, and we look forward to Nigeria providing further details on the extent and location of mined areas, progress made, and its work plan for implementation of Article 5. We hope that Nigeria is able to submit this additional information in time for analysis by States Parties and expert organisations at next year's Intersessional meetings and for consideration at 19MSP.

As per its obligation under the Convention, Nigeria should also submit an Article 7 report as soon as possible to inform States Parties of the discovery and location of contamination to the extent possible. Nigeria's last Article 7 transparency report was submitted in 2014.

Thank you.