



ARTICLE 5 EXTENSION REQUEST PRESENTED BY
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present a request of extension to Your Excellency in your capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban (APMBC) and on their Destruction.

2. Nigeria acceded to the Convention on 27 September 2001 and expeditiously ratified the Convention on 1 March 2002.

3. Nigeria's commitment to the Convention was never in doubt as evidenced by the clearance of landmines and unexploded and abandoned ordinance from the Civil War in the 60s as well as the presentation of its initial transparency report on 22 June 2004.

4. You will recall that at the Inter-Sessional Meetings and First Preparatory of the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC that was held from 22 to 24 May, 2019, Nigeria reiterated the need for a robust and effective implementation of the existing instruments aimed at ending casualties and sufferings caused by Anti-Personnel Mines as well as its commitments to the completion deadline of 2025. The Nigerian Government also made commitment to conduct Non-Technical Survey on suspected cases of contamination in conflict affected States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe upon improvement of security situation and thereafter provide a comprehensive report.

5. With report of increasing alleged use of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) by the insurgent group in the three affected states, the reconstruction efforts in the North East may not be feasible until appropriate demining operations are carried out. To achieve this, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, approved the constitution of an Inter-Agency Committee on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) to amongst others, develop a National Action Strategy for Nigeria, prepare a work-plan for the survey and clearance of Anti-Personnel Mines in the region as well as to work audaciously towards the completion of Article 4 on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of the Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

6. Unfortunately, the Committee could not accomplish the above task due to the resurgence of the activities of the Boko Haram terrorists in the affected states. It is pertinent to recall that at the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC held from 25th to 29th November, 2019 in Oslo, Norway, Nigeria indicated its commitment to comply with the obligations of the APMBC by developing an Article 5 Extension Request to be submitted by 31 March 2020. Regrettably, this also could not be achieved due to the global health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which grounded all activities not only in Nigeria, but across the globe.

7. It is however, reiterated that Nigeria is fully committed to the process established and adopted by the state parties for submission and consideration of requests for extension. In this regard, Nigeria is respectfully seeking for an extension of its deadline until 31st December, 2021 which would provide the opportunity to present detailed report on contamination, progress made and work plan for implementation.

8. It is worthy to note that Nigeria has been in close contact with the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as well as Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and have had fruitful deliberations. Nigeria will continue to cooperate and work closely with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Implementation Support Unit as it continues in the efforts to fulfil the obligation of Article 5.

9. I thank you.
