



**STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**AT THE**

**TWENTIETH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL  
MINE BAN CONVENTION, 21 TO 25 NOVEMBER, 2022, GENEVA,  
SWITZERLAND**

**DELIVERED BY**

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**NIGERIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA,  
SWITZERLAND**

**NOVEMBER, 2022**

**NIGERIA'S OPENING STATEMENT AT THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION, 21<sup>ST</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022,  
GENEVA SWITZERLAND**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate the people of Columbia and by extension, you, Mr. President, on your election as the President of the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. I assure you of the support and commitment of my delegation, as we work assiduously towards the goal of reaching concrete outcomes under your able guidance. My delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African Group and would now make few remarks in my National capacity.

2. At the very outset, I wish to, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, thank the Secretariat of the Convention for all the work invested into making the 20<sup>th</sup> MSP a reality, especially at a time that marks halfway into the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. Permit me also, to congratulate States Parties on the celebration of the Twenty-fifth anniversary since the adoption of this vital Convention.

**Mr. President,**

3. Nigeria acceded to the Ottawa Convention on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 and expeditiously ratified same on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2002. Indeed, my country has worked stridently to meet up with obligations to the Convention, through its established relevant authorities, including the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, as well as the Presidential Inter-Ministerial Committee on Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. (APMBC)

4. Notwithstanding the declaration of the completion of destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in November 2011, Nigeria, at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, identified some portions of the North East as vast areas of Anti-Personnel Mines of improvised nature and reported the use of same by non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), leading to loss of lives and livelihood as well as internal displacement. In reacting to this, the Government of Nigeria, in 2019, constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to develop a National Mine Action Strategy and work plan for the survey and clearance of anti-personnel mines in areas affected by insurgency in the North Eastern States of Nigeria.

**Mr. President,**

5. At the 19 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in 2021, Nigeria presented a request for a 4-year extension of the fulfilment of its Article 5 obligation. Following the granting of this request, Nigeria was required to; among others, Establish a Mine Action Centre, strengthen efforts to deliver on Mine Risk Education activities, Continue strengthening coordination between partners to deliver a comprehensive response, Prepare the groundwork for Non-technical Survey (NTS), conduct Technical Survey (TS) and clearance when access to these areas becomes available, and to submit an updated work plan for implementation of Article 5 beginning from 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

6. It is gratifying to note that a Committee saddled with this responsibility has secured approval for the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) to coordinate all mine action activities in Nigeria and is currently working towards opening a Mine Action Office in Maiduguri, North-eastern Nigeria. Furthermore, Nigeria is collaborating with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention to facilitate a study tour of a country with functional National Mine Action Committee to understudy its operations.

**Mr. President,**

7. The operating environment in Nigeria remains volatile, particularly in Borno State, where major supply routes have become dangerous due to risks of attack by non-state armed groups (NSAGs), as well as from unexploded ordinance, particularly landmines of an improvised nature. It appears that Road Planted IED, Person-Borne IEDs (PBIEDs) and Vehicle-Borne IEDs (VBIEDs) remain the primary weapon of choice for insurgents in the North-east. In view of this, I should like to stress that, Nigeria, through the support of partners like the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Mine Action Group (MAG) and Daish Refugee Council (DRC), would continue to deliver Explosive Ordinance Risk Education to affected populations in the North Eastern States of the country, including to IDPs, host communities, returnees and refugees, as well as Explosive Ordinance Awareness training to UN personnel and the humanitarian community. Furthermore, UNMAS conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice and Beliefs (KAPB) survey and an Impact Assessment of Explosive Ordnance on Groups of Populations in Borno State, to identify risks faced by people of different age, gender (by this we mean male and female) and location.

The goal of this assessment was to tailor risk education methodologies and modules for different demographics of the targeted population.

**Mr. President,**

8. The conduct of a Non-Technical and Technical Surveys to map out the contaminated areas of the Thirty-four Local Government Areas of the three States in the North East is anchored on the need to sequence clearance operations scheduled to commence in July 2024. In order to develop an immediate and future-oriented humanitarian mine action plan, Nigeria will collaborate with UNMAS, MAG, DRC and others to conduct an evidence-based survey to determine the extent of contamination in the North-east and the size of contaminated areas, including the IDP camps for the refugees, returnees and host communities.

9. Regarding the submission of an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention as required by State Parties, Nigeria is determined to submit a periodic work plan for implementation of its Article 5 obligation by 30<sup>th</sup> April of each year, in liaison with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention.

10. As I conclude, **Mr. President**, let me stress that Nigeria will continue to solicit for assistance towards the successful establishment and operation of a NMAC and other forms of assistance available to State Parties and other Stakeholders. On this note, allow me to extend sincere gratitude to our partners; UNMAS, MAG, DRC as well as the Director (ISU), Mr. Juan Carlos, for their continued support towards the fulfilment of Nigeria's obligation to the Convention.

11. I thank you.