

**PRESENTATION ON NIGERIA'S OBLIGATION ON ANTIPERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION  
BY THE NMAC REP, AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN GHANA ON 13TH FEB 2024**

---



# INTRODUCTION

---

- **On behalf of the Nigerian Mine Action and the inter-ministerial Committee on the antipersonnel mine Ban Convention, I appreciate the APMBC Convention's role in creating an enabling platform for capacity building and support in the Mine/EOD sector.**
- **I also appreciate the role of UNMAS, JICA, MAG, and other development partners for cooperation and support in many ways to actualize the Nigerian National Mine Action Centre.**

- 
- **2. As you may be aware, Nigeria acceded to the Ottawa Convention on 27 September 2001 and expeditiously ratified the same on 1 March 2002. Since then, Nigeria has worked diligently to meet its obligations to the Convention through the Ministry of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and subsequently the Inter-Ministerial Committee.**
  - **Nigeria has been participating in most APMBC engagements to be acquainted with the global activities in Mine Action.**

- 
- **3. In the 2009 Article 7 report, Nigeria indicated that it had identified areas where antipersonnel mines of improvised nature were suspected to be emplaced.**
  - **However, in November 2011, at the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties, Nigeria presented a formal declaration of completion of the destruction of antipersonnel mines in contaminated areas.**
  - **Unfortunately, the activities of non-state actors in the North East region of Nigeria led to the discovery of antipersonnel mines and Explosive devices areas in About 34 LGA of the region, which was tagged as the epi-center, causing internal displacement and loss of lives and properties.**

# INTER-MINISTARIEL COMMITTEE

---

- **4. As a result, in 2019, the Government of Nigeria constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention to develop a National Mine Action Strategy and a work plan for the survey and clearance of antipersonnel mines in the North Eastern States affected by the Boko Haram Insurgency.**
- **The members of the Committee are the Ministry of Defence (as a coordinating Ministry), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Emergency Management Agency, the Northeast Development Commission, and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPs.**

# INTER-MINISTARIEL COMMITTEE

---

- **5. Since its inception, the Committee has succeeded in working with other partners in the Mine Action Sector, and It secured a 4-year extension through Article 5 Extension Request From (31 December 2021 to 31 December 2025).**
  
- **At the end of the 19th Meeting of State Parties, held virtually in November 2021. The purpose of this extension request is to:**
  
- **a. Establish a Mine Action Centre.**
  
- **b. Come up with a National Mine Action Strategy and Work Plan**
  
- **c. Strengthen efforts to deliver on Mine Risk Education activities.**
  
- **d. Continue strengthening coordination between partners to deliver a comprehensive response.**
  
- **e. Prepare the groundwork for the Non-technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey (TS), and clearance when access to these areas becomes available.**

- 
- **Furthermore, the Committee also succeeded in organizing stakeholder engagement and coming up with a draft of the National Mines Action Strategy for Nigeria, which is still being scrutinized.**
  - **The Committee visited the BAY States of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa (epi-centers) to achieve its obligation.**
  - **Interacted with the State Governors, Military Commanders, UNMAS, MAG, DRC, and other national stakeholders in the Mine Action Working Group in the Northeast, such as YAF, NEMA, SEMA, NPF, as well as NSCD**

- 
- **In 2022, the Committee submitted an interim report to the FGN through the Minister of Defence, where the need for the establishment of the NMAC to coordinate all mine action activities in Nigeria was adequately discussed, and the FGN graciously approved the establishment of NMAC in Maiduguri. Borno State.**
  - **Also, The Federal Government of Nigeria approved the Inter-Ministerial Committee to serve as the center's structure.**



- 
- **However, considering the bureaucratic process before the full operationalization, NMAC has been reaching out for strategic partnerships with stakeholders for capacity building and other support.**
  - **a) The Governor of Borno State has already donated a facility in Maiduguri to be officially taken over by NMAC on Saturday, 17 February 2024, to serve as the Centre's office and other support.**
  - **b) JICA sponsored NMAC staff for a study tour in Cambodian Mine Action CMAC for a better understanding of Mine operation activities**
  - **c) We are actively working with the APMBC secretariat in Geneva for additional capacity building through a study tour.**
  - **d) We also closely working with UNMAS in creating Mine Information systems and Mine Risk Education, etc**

# ACCESS IMPROVEMENT

---

- **6. With the improvement of access, Nigerian Mine Action is expected to carry out during the period of extension:**
  - **i. Conduct NTS and TS in the accessible communities to map out the contaminated areas in the 34 LGAs of the three States in the North East, with a view to their subsequent clearance as of July 2024.**
  - **ii. The Committee (NMAC) intends to collaborate with APMAC Secretariate, UNMAS, JICA, MAG, DRC, and others to conduct an evidence-based survey to determine the extent of contamination and the size of the contaminated area.**
  - **iii. Now that the center is about to be taken up, we request an additional extension to respond to the Convention's obligations.**

# LOOKING FORWARD

---

- **With the improvement of access to some of the contaminated communities, Nigeria, through the NMAC, planned to achieve the following milestones:**
- **1- Full Operationalization of the NMAC,**
- **2- Strong and strategic partnership with Neighbouring Countries of Tchad, Niger, and Cameroon for easy assessment of contaminated neighbouring communities and the possibility of joint Surveys**
- **3- Strong and strategic partnership with development partners in the Mine Action sector**

- 
- **4- Re-submission of an extension request to the Convection to enable the Centre to respond to the challenges ahead**
  - **5- Update and implement the work plan, mine action strategy, and other necessary mine action policies.**
  - **6- Strengthening non-technical survey activities for continuous data collection and development of the information management system.**
  - **7- Attracting resources/funds for victims' support**
  - **8- Increasing and improving mine risk education in the contaminated communities around the country**
  - **9- Strong collaboration with regional Mine Action Centers for better output.**

# CONCLUSION

---

- **The baby NMAC Centre will once again call on the stakeholders for organizational support in the following areas:**
  - **1. Extended capacity Building on technical mine action operation**
  - **2. Development of Protocol and documentation on mine action pillars**
  - **3. Capacity building for resource attraction and partnership**
  - **4. Support for mine action tools and equipment for mine action operations**
  - **5. Share valuable information that will empower the regional approach in achieving mines-free communities in Africa and the world.**

- 
- **Thank you for the opportunity and for listening.**