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NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MINE ACTION CENTER NIGERIA AND OTHER OBLIGATION ON ANTIPERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION 2024

PROTOCOLS

Standing on the existing Protocol

On behalf of the newly established National Mine Action Centre, Nigeria. 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 through Committees

3. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that on the 21st May 2024, Nigeria Appoint Khalifa M. Lawan as the First National Coordinator of the NMAC Nigeria, to Oversee and Coordinate the Mine Action Activities in Nigeria

With this development, Nigeria is looking forward to building an enabling environment for mine action partners to work with us in achieving the Convention's obligations and free contamination for safe communities.

Accordingly, NMAC Nigeria is mindful of the convention protocols and reports and will do everything possible to respond to those protocols and report very soon.

Also, taking into consideration the Mine Action 5 Pillars, NMAC Nigeria is welcoming partners to work with us in continue budling the centre's capacity for better output

NMAC Nigeria intends to collaborate with APMAC Secretariate, UNMAS, GICHD, JICA, MAG, DRC, HaloTrust, and other partners to conduct an evidence-based survey to determine the extent of contamination and the size of the contaminated area.

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 and Risk Education
- 8- Increasing and improving mine risk education in the contaminated communities around the country
- 9- Strong collaboration with Mine Action Centers worldwide for better output.

In conclusion, NMAC Nigeria 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity and for listening.