

**STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AT THE 22ND
MEETINGS OF STATE PARTIES TO THE APMBC**

**ASSEMBLY HALL, PALAIS DE NATIONS CENTER, GENEVA 1 – 5
DECEMBER 2025**

Madam Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is an honour and a solemn responsibility to address this distinguished assembly at auspicious moment.

The legacy of landmines and explosive remnants of war continues to endanger lives across parts of Nigeria, especially in the North-East and the wider Lake Chad Basin. Years of insurgency by non-state armed groups, including Boko Haram and ISWAP, have resulted in the widespread, indiscriminate deployment of improvised mines. These hidden dangers place civilians at constant and disproportionate risk, undermining safety, recovery, and long-term stability in the region.

In the face of this evolving challenge, Nigeria reaffirms its strong commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines. Our participation today underscores our determination to fulfil Article 5 obligations—

not only as a legal duty, but as a moral responsibility to protect human dignity and support lasting peace and development.

In June 2025, Nigeria had informed it will institutionalize the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) through legal, policy and budgetary frameworks as well as build operational capacity. We experienced a slight delay in the institutionalization efforts, however we are taking steps to make up for the lost time. Part of the steps taken is the appointment of personnel from MoD (including two Assistant Directors) who under the supervision of the Director Joint Service Department will manage the day-to-day affairs of the NMAC and serve as the focal persons on mine action related issues. The appointment and deployment of these personnel will further strengthen the NMAC and enhance its operationalization efforts. We have also formalized the request for technical support from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to assist us in operationalizing the Centre

In addition, preparations are currently underway for a mine action stakeholders' meeting. The stakeholders' meeting will serve as a platform to guide the development of a National Mine Action Strategy and a work plan, along with Standard Operating Procedures for us to be able to conduct evidence-based surveys once the security context improves. In addition, we will continue to expand risk education as well as victim assistance and support to survivors. All of these are outlined in our Extension Request under Article 5 of the Convention.

In spite of the progress I have just stated, the realities on the ground remain complex. The country has witnessed a surge in attacks by non-state armed groups particularly in the northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, resulting in further contamination, with an increasing number of incidents coming from mines of an improvised nature or IEDs. Indeed, we are seeing more civilian casualties, which is alarming. The active conflict and the resulting security situation limits the understanding of the full extent of contamination that we are facing.

Madam Chairman,

Despite these challenges, the Government of Nigeria is committed to meet its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. With the help of UNMAS and the international community, particularly the Government of Japan and the British Government, we are currently training our security forces to conduct search as well as explosive ordnance disposal and IED disposal to respond to the threat. As mentioned earlier, we have also taken more concrete steps in institutionalizing and operationalizing the NMAC, which will be guided by the soon to be drafted National Mine Action Strategy.

Madam Chairman,

I would like to re-echo the rationale of our extension request:

1. To complete the institutionalization of NMAC—through legal, policy, and budgetary frameworks;
2. To build operational capacity, including the recruitment, training and deployment of humanitarian mine action teams;

3. To conduct evidence-based technical surveys and clearance once access improves;

4. And continue victim assistance, and survivor support, particularly in affected communities and IDP camps.

In the next three years, Nigeria will prioritize:

- Developing national mine action legislation;
- Embedding mine action in our national development plans;
- Enhancing coordination between civilian, military, and humanitarian actors;
- And ensuring regular reporting through Article 7 mechanisms to keep States Parties informed of progress.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Government of Nigeria remains fully committed to meeting its legal and political commitments under the Convention. We recognize our obligations under international humanitarian law and our highest priority of protecting our population from the scourge of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war. However, we cannot do this alone.

We therefore respectfully call upon the States Parties to the Convention, who are in a position to do so, to support our efforts in meeting our obligations. We take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Mine Action Service who has been a constant supporter of our work in Nigeria.

Nigeria stands ready to meet this challenge and I urge all States Parties to the Convention not only to grant our extension request, but

to be partners and supporters of our work in our successful and collaborative journey toward a mine free Nigeria.

I thank you all.