

Decisions on the request submitted by Nigeria for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Nigeria for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension 31 December 2028.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Nigeria had not been able to complete the implementation of all the commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, Nigeria had made commendable progress, including in establishing a national mine action centre and strengthening its national capacity for the implementation of Article 5.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a three-year extension, Nigeria was projecting that it would need approximately three years to continue efforts to build national capacity and to gather information through increased national coordination and through survey and clearance activities to better determine the extent of contamination. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed Nigeria requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that a sustainable national capacity is in place to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance. The Meeting also noted the importance of Nigeria continuing its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including donors, on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including through the establishment of a National Mine Action Platform, where possible.
5. In recalling that the request is dependent on the strengthening of capacity of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), national allocations from the State budget, recruitment, training and deployment of NMAC humanitarian demining teams, improvements in security and access to suspected mined areas, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Nigeria submitting to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, by 30 April 2027, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting emphasised that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, progress in implementation of new methodologies, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting further noted the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, costed, and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied by all those involved for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.

7. The Meeting further noted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that a sustainable national capacity is in place to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance. The Meeting also noted the importance of Nigeria continuing its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including donors, on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including through the establishment of a National Mine Action Platform, where possible.
8. The Meeting, in observing the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Nigeria in its request, noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Nigeria. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, as well as mine risk education and reduction efforts, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.
9. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Nigeria is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting also noted that the plan is ambitious and contingent upon national and international support, the security situation, the strengthening of the national coordinating mechanism and partnerships in implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Nigeria reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Nigeria's work plan, including progress in the establishment, recruitment, training and deployment of NMAC humanitarian mine action teams, and the development of a national mine action strategy;
 - b. progress made in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance) including information spot clearance tasks and on the type of contamination located and destroyed;
 - c. update on how additional clarity obtained through the initial contamination analysis and survey may change Nigeria's assessment of its implementation challenge and efforts to address mined areas in accessible areas, including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. the remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, to the extent possible, by disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas,' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
 - e. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - f. Progress on the development of NMAS, including a timeline for drafting and the approval of NMAS;

- g. updates on the establishment and maintenance of a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation;
 - h. implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;
 - i. efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention; and
 - j. Updates on its resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Nigeria to support implementation efforts, including through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform, including the terms of reference, scope, membership and meeting frequency.
10. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Nigeria reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.