

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submitted by Nigeria

1. Following its experience of the tragic consequences in the production and use of anti-personnel mines by armed non-state actors especially in the northeast region, the Government of Nigeria (GoN) in November 2020 submitted a request for an extended deadline. A subsequent request submitted by the Government was granted by the Nineteenth Meeting of State Parties and a new deadline was set for 31 December 2025.
2. Anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature are a result of the ongoing conflict of the GoN against Boko Haram (BH) and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP). As the conflict persists, new contamination occurs. However, the full extent and type of contamination in Nigeria remains unknown. Due to the active conflict in northeastern Nigeria, access and the security situation has not allowed for comprehensive survey to be undertaken and no hazardous areas have been identified or defined. The extent of the contamination is presented through HEAT maps and details on the types of explosive ordnance is limited and is presented through the number of incidents.
3. With the deadline extended to 31 December 2025, the GoN has made slow but steady progress in enhancing its capacity to meet its obligations under the Convention. As part of this effort, in 2024, the GoN established the first National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) with the first Coordinator appointed in June 2024. The NMAC is mandated to plan, coordinate, implement and oversee mine action activities and operations. NMAC has the mandate to conduct quality assurance and accreditation of mine action organisations including government ministries, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and commercial operators. NMAC is tasked to develop and implement national strategies, including annual plans and national and mine action policies mine action standards. Following its establishment and with support from UNMAS, NMAC has chaired mine action sub working group meetings (MASWG). The meetings bring together mine action organisations and other stakeholders in mine action.
4. Throughout the extension period there has been limited survey and clearance operations conducted by the Nigerian Military. The Nigerian Military conducts clearance but mainly in support of military operations as well as for movement along the major supply routes through Improvised Explosive Device (IED) disposal. Nigerian Police Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units also conduct limited survey and clearance operations as well as IED disposal. However, records of such operations are not shared. During the requested extension period efforts will be made to seek synergies and information sharing with military and police authorities in order to collect as much information as possible and more closely determine the extent of contamination.
5. Humanitarian mine action organisations are currently limited to delivering explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities as survey and clearance activities remain the responsibility of security and defence forces. During the extension period, NMAC, in collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), will continue to advocate and seek approval from relevant government entities for access and for mine action organisations to conduct survey and clearance operations.
6. Some of the circumstances that prevent Nigeria from meeting its Article 5 obligations are as follows:
a) access to contaminated areas, b) national capacity, c) Coordination, and d) financial capacity. These are all matters that the NMAC will strive to address during the extension period.

7. With 418 civilian casualties recorded in 2024, the number of explosive ordnance (EO) civilian casualties in 2024 has surpassed those of 2023 (192), and 2022 (179). A significant number of the EO incidents resulted from IEDs. The available information is insufficient to present sex-age disaggregated data on casualties. UNMAS has developed tools to enable partners to collect the information in a disaggregated format and will work on entering the information in its information management database.
8. Nigeria is requesting a period of three years, until 31 December 2028, to enable the country to continue building its capacity to implement the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.
9. The purpose of this extension request is to build the NMAC's capacity and allow time for Nigeria to strengthen national coordination mechanisms and gather the necessary information through survey and clearance activities to determine the extent of contamination. The information will be gathered by the newly established NMAC through the first humanitarian mine action teams in the country trained by UNMAS with the support of the international community. The team, when fully trained and equipped, will have the capacity to deploy, conduct surveys, gather information on hazard areas and will be able to respond to explosive ordnance issues. This effort will be supported through the GoN and donor funding where possible. Once information is gathered, it will be analysed and will allow a better understanding of the extent and type of contamination. In addition to this effort, Nigeria with the support of UNMAS will develop a National Mine Action Strategy. Survey and clearance activities will be continuously adapted based on the results of these initial activities. Nigeria will keep the States Parties informed through its Article 7 Reports and will provide updates during formal and informal meetings of the Convention.
10. During the requested extension period, Nigeria intends to carry out the activities highlighted in annex 4 including the following:
 - a) Training NMAC humanitarian mine action teams: during the extension period humanitarian, mine action teams will be trained.
 - b) Survey and clearance activities by NMAC Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) teams in priority areas: the above-trained teams will start operations late 2025 or early 2026. Survey and clearance activities will be conducted in priority areas identified by the Government. The initial information gathered by the teams in 2026 and in 2027 will allow for a better understanding of the extent and type of contamination. Survey and clearance activities will be adapted based on the results of these initial activities. This will also allow Nigeria to prepare and allocate the necessary resources it has available to meet its obligations under the Convention. Depending on the type and extent of contamination, as well as access and security, this may include the training and establishment of more NMAC humanitarian mine action teams, the training of more Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) officers, the tasking of military units and/or permitting civilian demining organisations to conduct survey and clearance operations in the country. NMAC will also continue the delivery of EORE as well as victim assistance activities.
 - c) Development of a National Mine Action Strategy
 - d) Deliver explosive ordnance risk education
 - e) Recruitment of NMAC personnel and training needs assessment of NMAC personnel and capacity enhancement plan: While training of the NMAC teams is ongoing in 2025, NMAC will work on identifying and recruiting people for the NMAC. A training needs assessment will be

conducted to determine the level of technical advice needed to allow for the NMAC staff to deliver NMAC functions.

- f) Development of National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures: As part of its effort to strengthen its national capacity Nigeria will establish National Mine Action Standards and standard operating procedures to ensure that NMAC operates in accordance with international standards. The NMAC will also continue to advocate for the mine action legislation to be passed. NMAC will rely on UNMAS to be its lead adviser and advocate. NMAC will also continue work on its annual budget and workplan as well as advocating with GoN the need to include mine action into development plans.
- g) Resource mobilisation: NMAC will identify key partners and donors and seek funding support from them. This will be in addition to counterpart funding that will come from the Nigeria government.

11. When the NMAC structure is fully put in place (as shown in the organigram in Annex 3 of the extension request), NMAC will be directly involved in various aspects of mine action activities including the aspects of coordination as well as strategy of building capacity through day-to-day involvement in the business of coordination (including planning, stakeholders meetings, representation to government, field visits and workshops). NMAC personnel will be seconded from the various agencies of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. As of time of writing, the positions in the attached organigram have not been filled. Given the NMAC structure, NMAC is expected to receive its budget from the Ministry of Defence until such a time that mine action legislation is passed. The legislation will allow NMAC to receive funding directly from the Federal Government.

12. Considering the context of the active conflict, Nigeria makes the following assumptions: a) NMAC teams will be able to conduct survey and clearance in secured areas, b) GoN provides adequate funds to allow for survey and clearance activities as well as for NMAC day-to-day operations, c) NMAC will receive local and international financial and technical support.

13. Some potential risk factors may affect the realisation of this request, including: a) increased contamination due to an increase in fighting, b) areas released may be re-contaminated, and c) funding.