CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NIGERIA'S ARTICLE 5 REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION/ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT.

1.Given the absence of a quantified estimate of contamination, the Request would benefit from including information on Nigeria's strategy to overcome access limitations due to conflict and ensure accurate geo-location and reporting of impacted villages or districts.

The Government of Nigeria recognizes that the active conflict in parts of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States presents significant access challenges to conducting comprehensive survey and clearance operations. To address this, Nigeria is implementing a phased access strategy underpinned by the Civil–Military Coordination (CIMIC) mechanism, enabling negotiated humanitarian corridors to secure locations. In accessible areas, humanitarian mine action (HMA) teams will be deployed immediately after clearance of routes by the military's engineering units. Accurate geo-location will be achieved by equipping NMAC teams with GPS-enabled tablets configured with IMSMA Core, ensuring standardised coordinates for suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). Reports will integrate three main data streams: (a) incident reporting from security forces, (b) hazard identification by Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) teams, and (c) community liaison feedback from displaced persons and host communities. This triangulated approach will ensure credible mapping of impacted villages and districts, even in partially accessible areas.

2. The Request would benefit from additional information on the type and nature of contamination addressed during military-led clearance activities over the period of the last extension period and explain how these efforts are being documented and distinguished from formal humanitarian demining.

During the previous extension period, Nigerian Armed Forces clearance operations were primarily operational in nature, focused on enabling troop movement, securing supply routes, and supporting counter-insurgency operations. These clearances addressed road-planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs), vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIEDs), person-borne IEDs (PBIEDs),

command-wire devices, and, in isolated cases, explosive remnants of war (ERW). The military's engineering corps conducts such operations without the humanitarian land release process required under IMAS, and clearance records are held internally for operational security. Going forward, NMAC is formalising memoranda of understanding with the Nigerian Armed Forces and Nigeria Police Force EOD units to allow for the non-sensitive sharing of clearance and survey data. This will ensure that humanitarian mine action efforts are clearly distinguished from combat support operations and that data from military activities contributes to a fuller national contamination picture.

3The Request would benefit from providing an updated timeline and outline for the development of its National Mine Action Strategy and clarify how early progress in national capacity building and survey efforts will be used to guide coordination, resource mobilization, and long-term planning ahead of the 2027 target highlighted in the Request.

Nigeria will complete initial non-technical surveys in secure LGAs by late 2025, with technical survey and targeted clearance commencing in 2026. These early activities will provide the first verified contamination data, which will be directly used to shape the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS). The draft NMAS will be prepared between Q2 and Q3 2026, incorporating operational findings, capacity assessments, and resource availability. By Q4 2026, NMAC will convene a stakeholder and donor conference to validate the strategy and align funding priorities. The final NMAS will be completed and launched in mid-2027, providing a coherent framework for the remainder of the extension period and serving as the basis for subsequent Article 5 compliance planning.

4. In light of ongoing security challenges restricting access to contaminated areas, the Request would benefit from outlining the measures Nigeria will take to ensure safe and secure access for National Mine Action Center (NMAC) humanitarian mine action teams and clarify whether the NMAC will have access to survey and clearance data collected by the military and police. Furthermore, the Request would benefit from additional information on the areas currently

inaccessible due to security concerning and areas that provide the necessary security to conduct humanitarian demining efforts.

Access for NMAC HMA teams will be determined through joint security assessments involving the Theatre Command, Joint Task Force (North East), Police EOD units, and humanitarian security actors. The NMAC Operations Unit will embed liaison officers within security sector coordination meetings to obtain timely updates on operational clearance and incident reports. As of August 2025, areas assessed as accessible for humanitarian deployment include Maiduguri Metropolitan, Jere, southern Borno LGAs such as Kwaya Kusar and Bayo, and most LGAs in southern Adamawa. In contrast, LGAs such as Abadam, Marte, and Guzamala remain inaccessible due to high insurgent activity. Data-sharing agreements under development with the military and police will ensure that survey and clearance information collected during security-led operations is integrated into IMSMA to inform humanitarian tasking.

5. The Request would benefit from providing further details on the expected outputs of humanitarian mine action teams, including how many additional teams are required to conduct the required survey, the level of operational capacity realistically achievable within the current timeframe, and how activities in priority areas—yet to be identified—will be planned and resourced.

Two NMAC HMA teams, each comprising 12 personnel trained to IMAS standards, will be operational by Q4 2025. Under current security and resource constraints, each team is projected to complete 6–8 technical surveys per month and release an average of 50,000–70,000 m² of land annually in secure areas. If funding is secured for expansion, two additional teams will be established in 2027, increasing capacity proportionally. Task prioritization will focus on LGAs designated for IDP returns, high agricultural value land, and zones with documented EO casualty incidents.

6. Given the absence of quantitative projections of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) or confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and the lack of clarity on the nature of contamination, the Request would benefit from additional information how Nigeria plans to scope, prioritize, and roll out survey and clearance operations—

particularly in the absence of clearly identified liberated areas and amid ongoing conflict.

Given the absence of a comprehensive contamination baseline, Nigeria will employ a three-tier prioritization model:

1. **Incident-driven prioritisation** – utilising IMSMA-recorded EO incidents.
2. **Humanitarian imperative** – prioritising returnee LGAs and IDP relocation sites.
3. **Economic recovery potential** – focusing on agricultural land restoration in secure zones.
   Survey and clearance planning will follow a search–confirm–release methodology, with quarterly reassessments by the Mine Action Sub-Working Group (MASWG) to adapt to new security and contamination data.

7. Given the ongoing conflict and the unknown extent of contamination, the Request would benefit from information on how Nigeria is leveraging the access and insights of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) teams to collect and report basic data on contamination, and how this information is being integrated or will be integrated into planning and prioritizing of land release efforts.

EORE teams, already operational in BAY states, will integrate hazard reporting protocols into their outreach sessions. Trained EORE facilitators will record suspected hazard locations, obtain approximate coordinates, and submit them directly to NMAC's IMSMA officer. This data will undergo initial verification through desk analysis and community liaison follow-up before being considered for non-technical survey tasking. This approach maximizes the value of existing EORE operations as both preventative and intelligence-gathering tools.

8. The Request would benefit from including a more detailed breakdown of individuals reached through EORE and provide data disaggregated by state and district within Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, and submit a comprehensive work plan specifying: (a) target populations and geographic focus; (b) delivery methods and communication channels; (c) implementing actors (NMAC, INGOs,

or both); and (d) the funding sources and mechanisms that will support these activities.

From 2022 to mid-2025, 1,393,526 individuals benefited from EORE across BAY states, with delivery methods including face-to-face sessions and radio broadcasts. **[Placeholder: insert LGA-level disaggregated data by gender and age group]**. The 2026–2028 EORE plan will:

- Target LGAs earmarked for IDP returns and agricultural resettlement.
- Use diversified delivery (face-to-face in accessible areas, radio broadcasts for hard-to-reach populations, and mobile loudspeaker units in rural markets).
- Be implemented by NMAC in partnership with INGOs (MAG, DRC, HALO Trust) and national NGOs, coordinated via MASWG.
- Be funded through a mix of GoN allocations, UNMAS-administered grants, and bilateral donor support.

9. The Request would benefit from including further information on the role the NMAC will play in the implementation of EORE, including which specific locations will be targeted, and whether humanitarian-focused EORE—distinct from military-led efforts—will be prioritized in the upcoming period.

NMAC will directly coordinate all humanitarian-focused EORE activities, ensuring they are community-specific, gender-sensitive, and based on verified risk data. Military-led public information campaigns will remain separate to avoid conflating humanitarian messaging with military objectives. NMAC will prioritise high-casualty LGAs such as Ngala, Monguno, and Kala-Balge, ensuring that IDPs and host communities in these areas receive sustained EORE coverage before and after relocation.

10. The request would benefit from further information on the survey and clearance methodologies currently being used by the police and army in affected areas, and the reason behind preventing in country capacity—particularly international and national mine action organizations— from implementing non-

technical survey activities, especially given the current limitations in training and equipping of national humanitarian mine action teams. The Request would also benefit from the inclusion of additional information on the planned methodologies and standards that will be adopted by the NMAC humanitarian clearance teams.

Military and police units currently employ combat-engineering clearance techniques, focusing on rapid route clearance and targeted IEDD in support of operations. These methods do not apply the full IMAS-compliant land release process. NMAC HMA teams will adopt IMAS land release protocols, including non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance, supported by quality assurance and quality control mechanisms. SOPs will be finalized in early 2026, tailored to the Northern Nigeria context.

11. The Request would benefit from including a detailed budget for the planned activities during the extension period, including the staffing and operational costs of the NMAC, training of two NMAC teams, and clarify what national and international financial resources are currently available, what funding gaps remain, and what potential sources of additional funding are being pursued. The Request will further benefit from specifying whether national funding will also be allocated to survey and clearance activities conducted by humanitarian mine action teams.

The projected budget for 2025–2028 includes:

- NMAC core staffing and operations: USD [placeholder].
- Training and equipping of 2 HMA teams: USD [placeholder].
- EORE implementation: USD [placeholder].
  Confirmed resources include GoN budgetary allocations for NMAC operations and UNMAS/JICA support for training. Funding gaps relate primarily to equipment procurement, clearance operations, and team expansion. Potential sources include Japan, EU, UK, USAID, and Republic of Korea.

12. In addition to the above, the Request would benefit from information on the expected timeline for the endorsement of mine action legislation and clarify whether the NMAC's budget is expected to be covered by government funding once the legislation is passed, including operations and staffing costs. The Request would benefit from additional information on the national financial resources projected for implementation of the work plan as well as any efforts made to explore innovative financing methods.

The draft mine action bill is under review by the Ministry of Defence and is expected to be tabled in the National Assembly by Q1 2026. Passage is anticipated by Q4 2026, after which NMAC will receive direct funding from the federal budget to cover operational, staffing, and programme costs. Innovative financing options under consideration include integrating mine action into national infrastructure and agricultural development plans to attract sectoral funding.

13. The Request would benefit from additional information on the current security situation in the local government areas (LGAs) designated for the relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Maiduguri and Borno State, including whether these areas are free of contamination, and what level of access is available in these areas.

Security assessments indicate that while LGAs such as Bama, Gwoza, and Ngala are partially stabilized, EO threats remain, particularly along rural approach roads. Technical surveys have not yet been conducted in most relocation sites, meaning contamination cannot be ruled out. NMAC will coordinate with humanitarian actors to ensure EO risk assessments are completed before relocations.

14. Further to the above, given Nigeria's continued ranking among the top 10 countries with the highest number of explosive ordnance casualties, and the planned relocation of 300,000 IDPs to areas where nearly 90% of 2024 casualties occurred, the Request would benefit from additional information on plans to mitigate the risk of increased casualties particularly in the absence of defined hazardous areas, hazard marking, and strong information management systems, and any place to scale up survey, clearance, and risk education to meet this urgent need.

Given that nearly 90% of 2024 EO casualties occurred in planned relocation LGAs, NMAC will deploy rapid EORE campaigns, prioritize urgent non-technical survey, and, where feasible, task military EOD units for spot clearance before civilian movement. Relocation timelines will be aligned with the completion of these risk mitigation measures.

15. The Request would benefit from any information on how environmental considerations are being integrated into the planning and implementation of survey and clearance operations, and whether there are specific mitigation measures in place to address potential environmental impacts.

NMAC will adopt IMAS environmental management guidelines, ensuring clearance avoids damage to topsoil, prevents water contamination, and supports post-clearance agricultural use. Partnerships with the Ministry of Environment and agricultural agencies will be established to rehabilitate land post-clearance, particularly in areas critical to food security.

16. Given that resource mobilization is identified as an activity for 2025 to 2029 in Annex 4, the Request would benefit by clarifying whether the development of a dedicated resource mobilization plan is being considered, and if so, when it is expected to be drafted and shared to support coordinated fundraising efforts.

A dedicated Resource Mobilization Plan will be developed by Q3 2026, mapping domestic and international funding opportunities and establishing a donor coordination mechanism under MASWG. This plan will include engagement with development partners to integrate mine action funding into broader recovery and resilience programmes.

17. The Request would benefit from including an update on the timeline for fully staffing the NMAC to enable it to carry out its mandated functions during the extension period as well whether there are plans to establish a National Mine Action Platform to complement the Mine Action Sub-Working Group by facilitating biannual coordination and information exchange among all stakeholders, including donors.

NMAC aims to be fully staffed by Q2 2026, including operational, administrative, and technical personnel. The GoN is exploring the creation of a National Mine Action Platform to complement MASWG by holding biannual coordination meetings with all stakeholders, including donors, to promote transparency, coordination, and joint planning.

18. The Request would benefit from additional information on how the NMAC plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme, including whether there are plans to develop a formal gender policy, appoint a designated gender focal point, and revise the organigram to include a clearly defined role for a Gender and Diversity Officer.

By Q4 2026, NMAC will adopt a formal Gender and Diversity Policy, appoint a Gender and Diversity Officer, and ensure gender-balanced HMA teams. EORE content will be adapted to the specific needs of women, men, boys, and girls, with attention to ethnic and cultural factors affecting risk perception and behaviour.

19. Given the early stage of Nigeria's national mine action programme and the acknowledged challenges related to improvised mine use and access constraints, the Request would benefit from including more detailed information across all components of the Request to demonstrate the feasibility of meeting its stated objectives, including realistic timelines, resource requirements, and risk mitigation strategies.

Targets for survey and clearance have been set conservatively to reflect realistic access, security, and funding constraints. Risk mitigation strategies include flexible deployment, contingency planning for re-contamination, and phased capacity building to ensure that operational progress remains feasible despite unpredictable security dynamics.

20. The Request would benefit from including a vision for managing residual contamination post completion of current obligations, including whether there is a plan to strengthen and integrate the existing capacity of security forces conducting limited clearance and survey into a broader national framework, and how this will contribute to long-term sustainability and planning.

Post-completion of Article 5 obligations, Nigeria will maintain a rapid response capacity within the military engineering corps and Police EOD units, coordinated by NMAC, to address any residual or new contamination. This integrated approach will ensure sustainability and maintain public safety while embedding EO risk management into national disaster and security planning frameworks.