

ICBL Comments on Nigeria's Article 5 Extension Request
Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025

Thank you, Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines thanks Nigeria for submitting its Article 5 extension request.

Nigeria remains among the ten countries with the highest number of casualties from explosive ordnance, including improvised mines. The planned closure of all IDP camps in Borno State and the expected movement of over 300,000 internally displaced persons further highlight the urgency of robust survey, clearance, and risk education activities to prevent additional casualties.

We welcome Nigeria's efforts to fully establish a National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the ongoing work toward the adoption of national mine action legislation. These are significant and positive steps forward that we hope will be completed swiftly. The extension request outlines ambitious plans to build NMAC's capacity to both coordinate the mine action programme and directly engage in survey and clearance activities.

However, we note with concern that the request provides only a broad and high-level work plan through 2029. Critical details are missing, particularly regarding survey and clearance activities in the so-called "priority areas identified by the government." Similarly, while Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is included in the plan, no information is provided on the target audiences, delivery methods, or implementing actors—whether national, international, or both.

Most significantly, the extension request does not include a budget. There are no financial details provided for the planned activities, for the staffing and operations of the NMAC, or for the implementation of survey, clearance, and risk education. While the future adoption of mine action legislation is expected to allow NMAC to access government funds, it is unclear when this legislation will be passed, what level of national funding will be made available, or what financial support is being sought from international partners. At present, only limited donor support appears to be secured—namely, funding from UNMAS to train two NMAC teams, without provision of equipment.

In conclusion, while we commend the progress Nigeria has made in re-establishing mine action structures, we urge the authorities to strengthen the extension request by providing detailed operational plans, a comprehensive and realistic budget, and clarity on resource mobilization strategies. Only with this foundation can Nigeria demonstrate it is on a credible path toward fulfilling its Article 5 obligations.

Thank you.