

**Mine Action Review comments on Nigeria's Article 5 Extension Request
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

In the interests of time we will deliver a few short observations and will submit full comments in writing.

We welcome Nigeria's Article 5 interim extension request to more accurately determine the amount of anti-personnel mine contamination, while acknowledging ongoing improvised mine use and access constraints due to security. We recognise that Nigeria is in the early stages of developing its national mine action programme with UNMAS support, and welcome the establishment of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and appointment of its Coordinator in 2024. It is also positive to hear today Nigeria's announcement that national mine action legislation is due to be signed by the Nigerian president in the coming months.

Mine Action Review would like to raise the following comments and questions:

1. Firstly, we welcome Nigeria's plans in 2025 to train mine action teams, initiate survey and clearance, and begin developing national standards, a NMAC budget, and work plan, as well as recruiting NMAC personnel. However, we note that a National Mine Action Strategy is not planned until 2027, and encourage its early development to guide coordination, resource mobilisation, and long-term planning.
2. Secondly, we would welcome additional information on how NMAC is planning to use the operational teams it plans to have trained by the end of 2025 and also how NMAC foresees best utilising the expertise of its international mine action NGO partners, as and when security conditions permit.
3. Lastly, in 2024, Nigeria received approximately \$3 million in mine action funding. Could more detail be provided on how these funds were allocated? Is the 2025 work plan fully resourced, or are activities contingent on further national or international funding? What proportion of total annual mine action funding will be provided by the Government of Nigeria versus international partners?

Additional points, provided in the written submission of the statement:

- We welcome the establishment of the Mine Action Sub-Working Group and encourage Nigeria to also consider creating a National Mine Action Platform to bring together *all* stakeholders, including donors, biannually to enhance coordination and exchange updates and challenges.
- Given ongoing insecurity, how will access to suspected hazardous areas for the NMAC humanitarian mine action teams be coordinated and granted? Will there be any information sharing on the clearance and explosive ordnance disposal operations currently conducted by the military? Will a prioritisation framework be developed to guide deployment of survey and clearance teams as access improves?