

**PRESENTATION ON NIGERIA'S ARTICLE 5
EXTENSION REQUEST FROM 2026-2028 AT
AP MINE BAN CONVENTION
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING HELD ON
17-20 JUNE 2025**

BY

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Nigeria's Article 5 Extension Request – Background

- Nigeria continue to face ongoing contamination from improvised anti-personnel mines by non-state armed groups (Boko Haram, ISWAP).
- The current Article 5 extension period granted in November 2021 ends on 31st Dec 2025.
- The active conflict prevents Nigeria from understanding the full extent of contamination mostly in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States.
- Mines of an improvised nature pose a growing threat; no confirmed hazardous areas yet.
- Over 600 IED-related incidents recorded between 2022– March 2025.

Progress During Current Extension Period

- a. Establishment of National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in April 2024 under the Ministry of Defence.
- b. Appointment of first NMAC Coordinator in May 2024.
- c. NMAC chairs Mine Action Sub-Working Group (MASWG).
- d. Limited clearance are conducted by military and police mainly for operational needs.
- e. UNMAS supporting NMAC with technical expertise, trainings, and IMSMA setup.
- f. Over **1,393,526** receive EORE training between 2022-date.

Challenges Hindering Article 5 Implementation

- i. **Access limitations:** Ongoing insecurity situation restricts survey and clearance activities.
- ii. **Limited national capacity:** NMAC is new and still building operational capability.
- iii. **Coordination gaps:** Need for stronger engagement between NMAC, military, police, and humanitarian actors.
- iv. **Underfunding:** Budgetary support for NMAC operations is insufficient; donor funding critical.
- v. **Unclear contamination:** Lack of verified data delays effective planning.

Justification for New Extension Request (2026–2028)

Nigeria need time to:

- Fully operationalize NMAC and national mine action capacity.
- Continue training and equipping humanitarian mine action (HMA) teams.
- Conduct systematic technical surveys and clearance in priority areas once allowed by the security situation.

Nigeria aims to develop:

- National Mine Action Strategy and Workplan
- Mine Action Standards and SOPs
- EO Risk Education and Victim Assistance Programs
- Extension to 31st Dec 2028 allows for sustainable progress.

Planned Activities and International Support Needs

- Develop mine action legislation and ensure inclusion in national development plans.
- Recruit qualified NMAC staff; conduct training needs assessment.
- Train NMAC HMA teams (with UNMAS support).
- Begin clearance and survey operations by 2026.
- Continue to deliver Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) across Borno Adamawa & Yobe (BAY) States and IDP communities.
- Resource Mobilization: Seek sustained support from government and donors .
- Nigeria will keep States Parties informed via Article 7 Reports and regular updates.

Conclusion

Nigeria remains fully committed to the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The requested extension until 31 December 2028 represents a strategic opportunity to build the institutional foundations, capacity, and coordination necessary for an effective and nationally owned mine action programme. We thank our partners for their continued support and call for sustained collaboration as we work to address contamination, protect civilians, and fulfil our Article 5 obligations.

Thank you



STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GABRIEL TANIMU ADUDA
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMBC)
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, GENEVA
17–20 JUNE 2025

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is both an honour and a solemn responsibility to represent my country at this important intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Nigeria remains deeply committed to the vision of a world free of anti-personnel mines, and we fully align ourselves with the principles and obligations of the Convention. Our engagement today reaffirms our determination to fulfil our responsibilities under Article 5, and to do so in a manner that prioritizes human security, dignity, and sustainable development.

The humanitarian and developmental consequences of landmine and explosive ordnance contamination continue to affect several parts of Nigeria, especially as a result of the protracted insurgency in the North-East and the wider Lake Chad Basin. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)—deployed indiscriminately by non-state armed groups—have become a devastating threat to civilian populations, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, and internally displaced persons.

In response, and in line with our obligations under the Convention, the Government of Nigeria made a historic advancement in 2024 with the formal establishment of the National Mine Action Center (NMAC). This institution now serves as Nigeria's lead coordinating body for all mine action efforts. With the expert support of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), NMAC has assumed the Chair of the Mine Action Sub-Working Group, ensuring enhanced coordination among national and international partners.

We are currently developing a comprehensive National Mine Action Strategy, accompanied by detailed Standard Operating Procedures and other foundational documents. These instruments will guide Nigeria's mine action sector, ensuring that interventions are coherent, evidence-based, and aligned with international best practices.

Moreover, we are working with relevant government bodies to secure an Executive Order that will give NMAC the legal and financial mandate required to operate effectively, pending the enactment of dedicated mine action legislation. This is a critical step in enabling organizations to safely and legally conduct surveys, clearance operations, and risk education throughout affected regions.

Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Nigeria's current Article 5 deadline is due to expire on 31 December 2025. However, given the realities on the ground—particularly the ongoing insurgency and the evolving nature of explosive threats—Nigeria is preparing to formally request an extension of its Article 5 deadline to December 2028. This additional period will allow us to make sustained, measurable progress toward the total fulfillment of our obligations under the Convention.

Our path forward is defined by a dual commitment: first, to building the institutional and technical capacity needed to address contamination comprehensively; and second, to deepening partnerships that provide predictable, long-term financial and technical support. We are firmly committed to maintaining the political will necessary to succeed, but we recognize that no nation can do this alone.

Over the next three years, our priorities include:

- Conducting evidence-based assessments to accurately determine the scope and scale of contamination,
- Expanding risk education, victim assistance, and community engagement, and
- Strengthening our coordination frameworks across government and civil society.

While the Nigerian government will continue to provide counterpart funding to support mine action, we respectfully call upon donor states, international organizations, and civil society partners to intensify their support for our national efforts. Your continued engagement is essential to ensuring that affected communities are not left behind.

In closing, I wish to express our deep appreciation to UNMAS and to all our partners for the invaluable support rendered thus far. Together, we can transform the vision of a mine-free Nigeria—and a mine-free world—into a tangible reality, where no child fears the ground beneath their feet and every citizen can live and work in safety and peace.

Let us uphold the promise of this Convention—not as a distant goal, but as a shared and urgent responsibility.

I thank you all!