

**Response to the Questions Concerning the Request
Submitted by Nigeria**

**Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka, Zambia)**

The Inter-ministerial Committee on Anti Personal Mines Ban Convention acknowledged receipt of 12 pertinent questions pertaining Nigeria's Article 5 Extension Request that was earlier submitted, seeking clarifications. After carefully considered the questions, the Committee came with the following answers/clarifications as requested. It is hoped that the respective clarifications will meet the demand of the committee on Article 5 implementation:

1. The request contains different terminology which is inconsistent throughout the Extension Request. The Extension Request would benefit from ensuring consistency in the use of terminology. In particular, the terminology used includes "landmines of an improvised nature", "IEDs emplaced along roads" or "Road Planted IEDs" and "Victim Activated IED – pressure plate activate".

According to expert organizations consulted, evidence so far indicates that most of the "road-planted IEDs" while intended for vehicles due to their location, in reality function as an anti-personnel mines according to the Convention (i.e. placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person.).

In this regard, the request would benefit from ensuring that references to items that function as anti-personnel mines according to the definition of the Convention are referred to as "anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature" regardless of their location. Additionally, the request would benefit from ensuring that areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines are disaggregated from those areas that are contaminated by UXO and ERW.

Response 1

Agreed! The idea was to give some meanings for each IED category. IEDs emplaced along routes of movement typically targeting Nigerian Security Forces (NSF) are the main explosive hazard threat at present in terms of the number of such their wide geographic spread. Person Borne IED (PBIED) IED carried by unwilling persons usually minors (boys and girls) constitute a persistent threat to lives although there has been a decline compared to previous years. The use of Vehicle Borne IED (VBIED) is limited in number and is used for specific tactical effect. Please refer to the UNMAS Explosive Hazards Threat Assessment 2019 in Northeast Nigeria for more information (Annex A).

2. The request indicates that Nigeria will undertake several actions to build national capacity, including the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre, development of National Mine Action Standards, and development of a national mine action strategy and work plan for implementation. **The Committee welcomes the efforts of Nigeria and would welcome further information including a more detailed timeline for implementation of these efforts (Action #1). The request would also benefit from information on how Nigeria envisages the National Mine Action Centre would be established and its partnership with international implementing partners once established.**

Response 2

National Standards for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) was already completed after the validation by the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The standards was adopted on the Mine Action Sub-

Workgroup (MASWG) meeting on 9 July 2021. Furthermore, the National Standards for Non-Technical Survey drafted by UNMAS will be finalized in October 2021.

Given the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) is a novel concept in Nigeria, the Government has felt the need to understand and learn precisely the mandate and functions of a NMAC. Hence, on 7 July 2021, the Government has submitted a concept note to the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) requesting support to raise funds for a themed study tour to a national mine action authority in a country which has a similar context and background to Nigeria. The request for a study tour of a country with functional Mine Action Centre/Authority and possibly which shares similar terrain with Nigeria is to avail the Committee adequate knowledge of the structure and operation of the Centre to enable adequate recommendation that will facilitate quick establishment of a NMAC in Nigeria. The initial consideration was Afghanistan, but the recent development in that country made the Committee members to propose Sri Lanka or another suitable country. The study tour is aimed at least in March 2022. The proposed 14-day study tour will be participated by 8 members of the inter-ministerial committee. Subsequent to the study tour, the Inter-Ministerial Committee needs 1-2 month of preparation and officially launch the NMAC in June 2022.

Nigeria has the unique advantage of having a privileged partnership with all international mine action partners who have been working primarily on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Non-technical survey in the northeast over four years now. This partnership makes it easier for NMAC (when established) to take over the national leadership role for mine action. While mine activities have been carried out with success in Nigeria, NMAC will more systematically address mine action directly with all concerned ministries and institutions. With the guidance and support of UNMAS, the NMAC will continue to partner with international and national mine action partners and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian mine action. The Government of Nigeria acknowledges that the primary responsibility for mine action lies with the government for addressing the issue and accountable to the beneficiaries in affected communities. This responsibility should be vested in a NMAC as soon as it is established. The NMAC will be charged with the regulation, management and coordination of a national mine action programme within its national borders, including the development of national mine action standards, standing operating procedures and instructions. In light of the above, the NMAC will work in close coordination with UNMAS, MAG, DRC and other stakeholders as well as local and international donor representatives in all mine action related activities.

3. Establishing a baseline of contamination under the coordination of the National Mine Action Centre will be essential for Nigeria as areas become accessible. **In this regard, the request would benefit from additional information on how Nigeria intends to prioritize operations once the areas are accessible (i.e. safe return of IDPs and refuges etc..).**

Response 3

Once the areas are accessible, the NMAC will work in close coordination with the State Governors, State Ministries of Reconstruction Rehabilitation and Resettlement and Women Affairs and Social Development, North East Development Commission (NEDC), National Emergency Agency (NEMA) military, Nigeria Police Force, Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and other relevant key organizations including Mine Action Area of Responsibility members as part of the Humanitarian Response Plan to do priority setting for mine action operations. The NMAC will establish Regional Mine Action Centres (RMAC) in each state to carry out their functions on behalf of the Government, facilitate regular

meeting of the resettlement leads, assist in the preparation of State/LGA work plans, compile mine survey and clearance task dossiers issued to the mine action agencies, and liaise with the stakeholders regional command to obtain security authorization for the proposed clearance tasks and eventual safe return of IDPs and Refugees to their local communities.

4. The request provides details of Nigeria’s efforts to determine the type and extent of contamination in order to develop an evidence-based detailed, costed workplan for completing its Article 5 obligations. The request further indicates that due to the difficulties presented by the security situation the extent of contamination is not clear. Furthermore, the request indicates that irregularity and non- selectivity of the use of IEDs in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) do not allow to estimate the scale of contamination with explosive ordnance and identify all contaminated areas. **In this regard, the request would benefit from greater clarity and timeline of Nigeria to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up to date data on the status of implementation, including information regarding confirmed and suspected hazardous areas, the size of mined areas, and the type of contamination (Action #9).**

Response 4

Currently, the mine action information management system is operated by UNMAS. Subsequent to the establishment of a NMAC and as accurate information is crucial for the effective management, planning and implementation of mine action activities, UNMAS has promised to assist Nigeria to install information management system mine action (IMSMA) in the NMAC and five members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee will be trained to use and manage the system. The system will help document the scale and scope of EO contamination, and record mine action activities, including where they took place and how they have been monitored. This activity can be concluded by September 2022. This process will result the Government of Nigeria to produce data systematically for decision-making, and for the coordination, control, analysis, and visualization of information.

5. The request indicates that humanitarian demining activities are planned to take place in the North Eastern States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, including 34 Local Government Areas affected by the insurgent’s activities which are in potential danger of IEDs, UXO and ERW, constituting an estimated 93,000 square kilometres. **In this regard, the Committee would welcome further detailed information, to the extent possible, on all mined areas, (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and further information on the geographic location of each area within each of the affected local government areas. Should this information not be available, the Committee would recommend not speculating on the amount of contamination but to carry out evidence based survey, once possible, to acquire detailed, disaggregated information on contamination.**

Response 5

The NMAC once established, will collaborate further with UNMAS, MAG and DRC to conduct an evidence-based survey to determine the extent of contamination and the size of the contaminated area. To this end, UNMAS will assist in carrying out an evidence based survey, once possible, to acquire detailed, disaggregated information on contamination. Currently, the sizes of SHAs are not available. However, below are lists of some known and suspected contaminated areas within the BAY States as compiled by MAG:

Known contaminated areas:

- Konduga LGA, Borno (Konduga-Bama road, Auno/Chabbol, Nyaleri/Sandia/Yejiwa village) – antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found

- Gwoza LGA, Borno (Pulka, Bokko, Dure, Wala, Warabe villages, Ngoshe ward, Ashigashiya village, Firgi) - UXO found: projectiles, aircraft bombs
- Bama LGA, Borno (Shehuri/Hausari/Mairi, Dipchari/Jere/Dar-Jamal/Kotembe, Gulumba/Jukkuri/Batra, Kasugula, Kumshe Nduguno, Lawanti/Malam/Mastari/Abbaram, Wulbari/Ndine/Chachile) - UXO/ERW (aircraft bombs, mortars) and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Damboa LGA, Borno (Damboa Central and Koyeri Fulatari village) – ERW and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Dikwa LGA, Borno (Massa Village, Motor Park IDP Camp, Alhaji Bashir Camp) - Antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Jere LGA, Borno (Gongulong, Dala Lawanti, Dusuman village) – ERW and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Kukawa LGA, Borno (Kuluguwa village) - antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Mafa LGA, Borno (Bulamari, Ibramti, Kwatabul villages) - ERW and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Mobbar LGA, Borno (Damasak) - antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Monguno LGA, Borno (Gana Ali, Ngurno village) - ERW and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature found
- Ngala LGA, Borno (Ngala Ward, Old Gamboru) – ERW

Suspected Contaminated Areas (Remote Contamination Baseline Assessment):

- Bama LGA, Borno (Zangeri, Goniri, Soye, Dipchari, Abbaram village) – UXO, ERW (aerial bombs) and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature suspected
- Damboa LGA, Borno (Shettima Abogu, Talala, Luwa, Mulgoi, Bulajani, Modube village) – UXO, ERW (aerial bombs) suspected
- Dikwa LGA, Borno (Ajiri, Amtul, Anderi, Ardori, Boboshe, Bulana, Bulanga Maie, Bulunguwa Maiye, Dure, Gajibo, Isari, Kawari, Kotokuma, Kude, Lawanti, Mallam Maja, Mana Waji, Masa, Mida, Muliye, Mussule, Shehuri, Sulala village) – UXO, aerial bombs suspected
- Guzmala LGA, Borno (Lingir, Bunari village) – UXO (mortars) suspected
- Gwoza LGA, Borno (Amdaga, Ashigashiya, Bille, Dure, Fadagwe Digire, Firgi, Galta, Gidan Block, Gobara, Godole, Galta, Hambagda, Jeta Bush, Jige, Kirawa, Madube, Nagadiyo, Ngileri, Shiyadawuye, Subaka Garga, Uvaha, Uvaliye, Warabe village) – UXO, ERW (aerial bomb) and antipersonnel-mines of improvised nature suspected
- Kala Bage LGA, Borno (Sangaya, Rann, Addari, Meleri village) – UXO, ERW (aerial bombs) suspected
- Konguga LGA, Borno (Ngalamari, Sojiri, Kayamla, Kellumiri village) – UXO, aerial bombs suspected
- Kukawa LGA, Borno (Katari, Kekeno, Yoyo Pompomma, Karwaram village) – UXO (projectiles) suspected
- Mafa LGA, Borno (Ajiri, Awada 1, Boskoro, Bula Lawan Boramy, Dagumba, Farjallari, Gawa, Giskilla, Gumule, Kajeri, Madina, Saleri, Sunabaya village) – UXO/ERW suspected
- Marte LGA, Borno (Abbaganaram, Bukar Mairambe, Dubuwa, Gumawa Shuwari, Large, Moforo, Musune, Njillam, Old Marte village) – UXO (aerial bombs, rocket propelled grenades, mortars) suspected
- Monguno LGA, Borno (Abbari B, Adishiram, Barkannari, Fannameri, Gana Ali 1, Grade, Gumnari, Kazaa, Kazallari, Kessa Tamsuwa Ngurno, Kudo Ngan, Kuluwu Ajja Kaniya, Kwata Kura, Ngollom Kura, Ngurno, Rontoi, Shehuri, Zankari village) – UXO (mortar, aerial bombs)

Response 7

While Nigeria acknowledges lack of adequate capacity to wholly conduct a comprehensive humanitarian demining activities, it is our resolve that existing local partners particularly Deminers Concept Nigeria Limited which participated in the demining activities in the South East Nigeria and one emerging company Good Heart Nigeria Limited will be handy for improved capacity training that will enable them deliver the desired result. To this end, UNMAS has pledged to hire a Chief of Operations in September 2021. The Chief of Operations will be capable to deliver knowledge, training, evaluation and other services for NMAC. UNMAS will also provide technical assistance to NMAC in order to assist them and build their capacity to fulfil their obligations under the APMBC. In close collaboration with the Implementation Support Units of the Convention, UNMAS will assist NMAC to formulate completion plans for treaty obligations, and compliance declarations as well as advise on the development of transition plans for national mine action capacities to address any residual risk from landmines of an improvised nature through sustainable and nationally owned capacity.

8. The Committee further noted that while the ongoing security situation prevents Nigeria from being able to undertake required evidence-based survey of contaminated areas. **The Committee would welcome further information on a timeline for the planning, recruitment and training of national and implementing partners' survey teams for deployment to accessible and secure areas, together with a detailed budget for these activities.**

Response 8

For 2022, subsequent investment is planned by UNMAS through different initiatives including training of 40 persons from three Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and 40 officers from National Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and 20 person each from the 3 local implementing companies with the support of the Governments of Japan and Germany. These interventions will be completed by June 2022. MAG and DRC also will prioritize NTS for 2022. NTS is a priority as primary source of information of contamination.

9. The Committee welcomes Nigeria's plan to establish a national platform for regular dialogue and coordination with partners in 2021 (page 31). **The request would benefit from additional information on the platform, particularly information on how the platform will be organized, who will lead the platform how regularly will it meet and any additional information concerning its mandate and objectives.**

Response 9

Subsequent to the establishment of a NMAC, UNMAS will host a National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA) meeting which will be participated by the Inter-Ministerial Committee, critical staff of NMAC, Mine Action Area of Responsibility members as part of the Humanitarian Response Plan and other relevant partners on a bi-monthly basis (every second month) to encourage regular dialogues and effective coordination of mine action. This platform will be led by the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and co-lead by UNMAS where mine action stakeholders will have the opportunity to discuss emerging issues, and exchange best practices and lessons learned. Additionally, the discussions will focus on national case studies, and to go deeper into thematic mine action discussions, as well as to explore innovative approaches and solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the mine action community. UNMAS will also host a high-level meeting on Humanitarian Mine Action and Coordination on annual basis to gather mine action community of practice, for sharing knowledge and experiences, and triggering northeast exchange.

Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Ministry of Defence, Federal Ministry of Education, Ministry of National Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs as well as institutions such as civil protection, police, university and auxiliaries like the UN, Red Cross, all have a stake in issues related to landmines of an improvised nature. NMAC needs to build on its strengths and lessons learned and strategically work on partnerships to leverage development and recovery through mine action.

10. Nigeria includes information on the methodologies it intends to employ (page 25) to address mined areas. Category “C” (by cancellation) is separated from other land release efforts. This is problematic given that “cancellation” is the land release output of non-technical survey and should therefore already be included in Category a (survey). **The request would benefit from providing additional clarity by ensuring that the methodologies to be employed are clear.**

Response 10

There are no National Standards for NTS yet in Nigeria. The land release by cancellation could be an output of NTS. However, where the following conditions exist, the cancellation will be considered rather than wasting time and resources to conduct survey. Reasons for deciding that an area should not be define as a CHA (e.g. Cancelled) may include but not limited to the following:

- No evidence of previous armed conflict in the area;
- The land has been used by people and / or farm animals for a specific period with no evidence of EO;
- No EO accidents in the area (including animal accidents);
- Land indicated by local communities (and land owner / land user) as posing no hazard.

11. The request includes information on the resources required for the implementation on the work plan. **In this regard, the request would benefit from further information on Nigeria’s resource mobilization efforts, as well as resources which will be made available by the government of Nigeria to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to establish the mine action center and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.**

Response 11

The National Government has appropriated some funds (pending release) for take-off of activities of IMCAPMBC. Additionally, based on the recommendation of IMCAPMC, the mine action activities are also being captured for Year 2022 Appropriation Bill. It is also envisaged that on the establishment of NMAC, other sources of funding in addition to the Government’s appropriation will be available. Agencies such as North East Development Commission (NEDC), National Emergency Agency (NEMA), Victims Support Funds (YSF) and other national stakeholders would gladly support NMAC activities and programmes.

12. **The request would benefit from information concerning how Nigeria will ensure that activities are carried out taking into consideration women, girls, boys and men’s, including persons with disabilities, needs and priorities according to Action 3 of the Oslo Action Plan.**

Response 12

Nigeria through the NMAC (when established) with full support of UNMAS and other implementing partners will plan for optimum use of resources, prioritizes and targets services, and provides policy

and advocacy leadership ensuring a gender perspective throughout its operations. To this end, UNMAS has taken into serious consideration to promote women's participation in the capacity building trainings. All the trainings so far conducted by UNMAS, MAG and DRC on EORE have gender balanced. The NMAC will key in to UNMAS advocacy across UN system that ensures gender perspective in all our operations. The IMCAPMBC at present, is reaching out to Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs, Education and Women Affairs and Social Development to ensure a comprehensive inclusion of all (girls, boys, men, women and people with disability). This will be done at the National Headquarters of NMAC and the Regional or State offices when established. While the Ministry of Education would ensure inclusion of EORE into the school curriculum at elementary and tertiary levels, the Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs and Women Affairs and Social Development will collaboratively drive our out of school programmes. Additionally, the State Ministries of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs will also be engaged to ensure full support of the traditional institutions in the targeted communities. This will ensure that the beneficiaries in the targeted communities are all inclusive

