

DRAFT

**Decisions on the request submitted by Nigeria for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

1. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Nigeria for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Nigeria has largely fulfilled the commitments it had made, as recorded by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information and provide, amongst other matters, information on security and access challenges faced by Nigeria in carrying out survey and clearance operations, a plan for mine risk education and reduction efforts, plans for the establishment of a national capacity to address the remaining challenge and information on resources made available from the government of Nigeria and international sources.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a four-year extension, Nigeria was projecting that it would need approximately four years from the date of submission of its request to prepare the groundwork for non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance, as well as to liaise with partners to carry out survey and clearance once the affected areas become accessible. The Meeting noted that during the extension period Nigeria has committed to establish a national mine action center, develop national mine action standards, strengthen partnerships and coordination for land release and mine risk education activities, continue information collection efforts to obtain clarity regarding remaining contamination, develop a national mine action strategy and produce a detailed plan for implementation. The Meeting noted that it is positive that Nigeria is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on progress made and remaining contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.
4. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Nigeria's efforts to develop National Mine Action Standards (NMAS). In this regard, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Nigeria in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Nigeria in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Nigeria reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Nigeria's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the

population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

7. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Nigeria's request for extension does not contain a clear detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance and that the planned activities highlighted in the request may be affected by changing circumstances, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations. The Meeting requested that Nigeria submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The meeting noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines, to the extent possible, annual costed projections of which areas will be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities indicating how priorities have been established. The Meeting further noted that this work plan should be developed in an inclusive manner taking into consideration gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.
8. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Nigeria, is contingent upon national and international support, the security situation, the establishment of a national mine action center and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms and partnerships in implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Nigeria reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
  - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Nigeria's work plan, including progress in the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre, development of National Mine Action Standards, strengthening coordination of delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, information collection efforts and the development of a National Mine Action Strategy and associated work plan;
  - b. Progress made in survey and clearance activities presented in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
  - c. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Nigeria's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;
  - d. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and total area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - e. Updates on Nigeria's efforts to establish a national information management system and its data collection efforts to ensure that Nigeria maintains accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation;
  - f. Updates on efforts to strengthen coordination amongst partners in Nigeria, including by consideration to the establishment of a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue;
  - g. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, priorities for implementation, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

- h. Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
  - i. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts including resources made available by the Government of Nigeria, including through the empowerment and provision to State entities of the required human, financial and material capacity to carry out its Article 5 commitments, and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
  - j. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
9. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Nigeria reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.