



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
2021 Intersessional Meetings
Informal Presentation of Requests for Extensions to be considered
by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties

23 June 2021

Statement by MAG regarding Nigeria's Article 5 extension request
Check against delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MAG welcomes the submission of a detailed Article 5 extension request by Nigeria. We commend Nigeria for the steps taken so far to respond to the new challenge posed by contamination resulting from the ongoing conflict.

MAG notes that the terminology used to refer to the contamination in the extension request is inconsistent. Evidence so far indicates that most of the "road-planted IEDs" while intended for vehicles due to their location, can be triggered by a footstep. In line with Action #21 in the Oslo Action Plan, anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature should be disaggregated as such and reported under Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention. We strongly recommend that all references to items that function as anti-personnel mines are referred to as "anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature", regardless of their location or how they were manufactured.

Nigeria's plans to establish a National Mine Action Centre and a National Mine Action Strategy are welcome steps to address contamination and strengthen the mine action programme in country. MAG welcomes our ongoing partnership with the Government of Nigeria in addressing complex challenges, including security, access and the impact of the pandemic. MAG witnesses every day the impact of mines on vulnerable communities and encourage Nigeria to include mine action considerations in future returns plans.

We also note that Nigeria plans to conduct non-technical and technical survey from July 2024. MAG has been conducting NTS already in accessible areas. As more areas become accessible, NTS should be undertaken as soon as possible, followed by TS and clearance without delay.

Nigeria has received limited international assistance to address the contamination problem and the support received so far has been largely short-term and piecemeal. We encourage Nigeria to commit national resources to mine action to demonstrate commitment to address the problem. Donors should also be encouraged to step up with more sustained, multi-year funding that would allow to become more effective through long-term planning of operations.

MAG has been responding to the humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria since April 2017 and remains committed to supporting Nigeria to achieve its Convention obligations.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

ENDS