
Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

25 November 2020

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Eighteenth Meeting
Geneva, 16-20 November 2020
Agenda item 11
Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of Anti-personnel Mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Executive Summary

Submitted by Nigeria*

1. Nigeria acceded to the Convention on 27 September 2001 and expeditiously ratified the Convention on 1 March 2002
2. Nigeria's commitment to the Convention was never in doubt as evidenced by the clearance of landmines and unexploded and abandoned ordinance from the Civil War in the 60s as well as the presentation of its initial transparency report on 22 June 2004.
3. In particular, at one of the Intersessional meetings and at the First Preparatory meeting for the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention, Nigeria reiterated the need for a robust and effective implementation of the existing instruments aimed at ending casualties and sufferings caused by anti-personnel mines as well as its commitments to the completion deadline of 2025. The Nigerian Government also made commitment to conduct Non-Technical Survey on suspected cases of contamination in conflict affected States of Adamawa, Bomo and Yobe upon improvement of security situation and thereafter provide a comprehensive report.
4. With report of increasing alleged use of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) by the insurgent group in these three affected states, the reconstruction efforts in the North East may not be feasible until appropriate demining operations are carried out. To achieve this, President Muhammadu Buhari approved the constitution of an Inter-Agency Committee on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to amongst others, develop a National Action Strategy for Nigeria, prepare a work-plan for the survey and clearance of anti-personnel mines in the region as well as to work audaciously towards the completion of Article 5 on the Convention.
5. Unfortunately, the Committee could not accomplish the above task due to the resurgence of the activities of the Boko Haram terrorists in the affected states. It is pertinent

* The present report was submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



to recall that at the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention held from 25th to 29th November 2019 in Oslo, Norway, Nigeria indicated its commitment to comply with its obligations under the Convention by developing an Article 5 Extension Request to be submitted by 31 March 2020. However, this also could not be achieved due to the global health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which grounded all activities not only in Nigeria, but across the globe.

6. It is reiterated that Nigeria is fully committed to the process established and adopted by the state parties for submission and consideration of Article 5 extension requests. In this regard, Nigeria is respectfully seeking for an extension of its deadline until 31 December 2021 which would provide the opportunity to present detailed report on contamination, progress made and work plan for implementation.

7. It is worthy to note that Nigeria has been in close contact with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation as well as Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
