

Nigeria's draft Extension Request – ICBL Comments
Intersessional Meetings, 22-24 June 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair,

We thank Nigeria for submitting its draft request and presenting it today.

Nigeria has been affected by new contamination, mostly of an improvised nature, since 2015. This contamination has had a severe humanitarian impact, with close to 800 casualties recorded by the Landmine Monitor since 2015. In 2019 alone, antipersonnel mines and other ERW in Nigeria caused 240 casualties: 110 people killed and 130 people injured and maimed. These figures placed Nigeria among the top five States Parties with the highest annual number of casualties in 2019.

While we are very pleased to see Nigeria's long-awaited re-engagement with the treaty and the initial plans to address the contamination – we believe Nigeria needs to proceed much faster than what is proposed currently.

Nigeria is requesting four additional years to establish national coordination bodies and to develop standards for mine action. While these are essential processes, much more needs to happen in Nigeria in the next few years, considering the ongoing significant humanitarian impact of contamination in the country.

With the support of partners and operators, Nigeria needs to urgently proceed with survey and clearance of all secure and accessible areas, to gain a better understanding of the scope and nature of contamination. In its revised request, Nigeria needs to include a complete plan in this regard, as required by Action#23 of the OAP, that will clarify what will be achieved, who will be responsible, with what capacity, in what time frame, and at what cost.

In the current draft request - Nigeria presents activities to take place up to the end of 2022, while asking for an extension until the end of 2025. We, therefore, suggest Nigeria requests one year only, until December 2022, to establish coordination and to develop a survey and clearance plan. At that point Nigeria would need to request a further extension to implement its plan in the accessible areas.

To bring down the unacceptable number of casualties and to support all communities at risk, Nigeria needs to carry out robust and targeted risk education, inclusive of women, girls, boys and men, including persons with disabilities, and different needs and priorities. We ask Nigeria to include a more detailed and costed workplan for the entire period of extension, and inclusive of MRE activities by all operators to fulfill the requirement of the OAP's Action#24.

In addition, Nigeria needs to include a comprehensive budget for all proposed activities, and clarify whether and how much donor funding it would need, as well as how it intends to mobilize it.

Lastly, we ask Nigeria to start providing annual updates through Art. 7 transparency reporting, which Nigeria has not done since 2012. Not only is this an obligation for States Parties under the convention, but it also provides a platform for Nigeria to lay out progress made and challenges encountered to partners and donors.

We will share more detailed comments and questions on the request directly with Nigeria.

Thank you.