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**STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGERIA AT THE FOURTH REVIEW  
CONFERENCE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION HELD ON THE 25-  
29 NOVEMBER 2019 AT OSLO NORWAY**

**Mr. President,**

It gives me great pleasure to address you on this special occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). My delegation has great confidence in your ability and experience to steer our deliberations to a successful outcome. We believe that this Conference will build on the gains of the conclusions of the Third Review Conference.

2. As you are aware, Nigeria has been experiencing the tragic consequences of the production and use of Anti-Personnel Mines by non-state actors especially in the North Eastern region of the country. These have continued to undermine peaceful co-existence within the societies, thereby causing internal displacement and strife, and are responsible for loss of lives and properties each day. The government has, to date, not been able to conduct a comprehensive survey in suspected areas to ascertain the extent of the contamination as a result of the prevailing insecurity in the North-east. Those affected areas are affected by landmines of an improvised nature. For example, every morning, the Military undertakes clearance of the road Maiduguri to Bama before allowing civilian movements.

3. You would recall that at the first preparatory meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland in May, 2019, Nigeria committed to commence a non-technical survey of Anti-Personnel Mines including improvised mines, Anti-Vehicle Mines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) when the security situation improves in the three most affected states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. In this regard, the Nigerian Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of relevant Agencies to develop a National MineAction Strategy and to prepare a work-plan for the

survey and clearance of the anti-personnel mines in the affected areas. We would like to highlight that the Committee comprises the MoD, the North-east Development Commission, the National Emergency Management Agency the recently established Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs.

Nigeria wishes to comply with the obligations of the APMBC, namely by preparing an updated Article 7 transparency report and by developing an Article 5 extension request to work audaciously towards the clearance of all mined areas in order to meet the 2025 Convention deadline.

4. The Committee's preliminary investigation has discovered the use of victim-activated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which fall under the definition of AP mines according to the Convention. It is expected that the Committee's Article 7 report will provide details on all suspected or confirmed improvised landmine contamination areas in the affected areas and a work-plan for the commencement of survey and clearance of the landmines.

5. **Mr. President,** Nigeria considers these meetings as a veritable platform to enable us to engage in constructive and collaborative discussions, in order to forge a clear path to addressing the menace of the Anti-personnel Mines. I wish to assure you that Nigeria is determined to meet all its obligations under the Convention by 2025. We wish to reiterate the need for a robust and effective implementation of numerous instruments already in place to put an end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and their aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest. In this context, we would like to highlight that Nigeria is a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2010.

6. Nigeria requires the international support particularly through capacity building programmes that are tailored towards transferring the necessary technologies and equipment to developing countries, upon request.

7. In conclusion, be assured that my delegation will actively collaborate with the implementation support unit to the APMBC and the relevant committees. We are looking forward to working with the international community, the GICHD, UN agencies and INGOs in the realm of mine action. Our aim is to clear NE Nigeria from landmines as soon as possible and to alleviate the suffering of mine victims and survivors.

**I thank you for your attention.**