

**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**

30 November 2011

English only

**Eleventh Meeting
Phnom Penh, 28 November – 2 December 2011**

**Declaration of completion of the implementation of Article 5,
paragraph 1, of the Convention on the use, stockpiling,
production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their
destruction***

Submitted by Nigeria

1. Nigeria ratified the Convention on 23 July 2001. The Convention entered into force on 1st March 2002. Initially, in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, Nigeria reported no areas known or suspected to contain mines.
2. In 2009, news reports surfaced suggesting that anti-personnel mines formed part of a residual threat posed by explosive remnants of war. This residual threat was from the 1967 to 1970 conflict between Nigeria and the self declared republic of Biafra. This conflict involved a series of ground offensives and counter-offensives, resulting in significant amounts of explosive remnants of war (ERW) left after the conflict, including landmines laid by both Biafran and Nigerian forces. Few, if any, records were kept of the minefields laid, and the majority were apparently simply nuisance laid mines rather than “classical” minefields. Immediately after the conflict, the Nigerian forces removed the majority of the mines that they laid.
3. On 28 May 2009, Nigeria informed the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies that it was uncertain if references made to anti-personnel mines in press reports were accurate. Nigeria further informed the Standing Committee that, with these news reports having surfaced, it knew that it must “make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced” in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Convention. Finally, Nigeria informed the Standing Committee that it had contacted the Implementation Support Unit to acquire the necessary technical assistance to investigate the situation and that a visit, on the basis of funding having been made available through the European Union’s “Joint Action” in support of the Convention, would proceed in July 2009.

* Issued in the language of submission, without editorial changes, as received by the United Nations Secretariat.

4. Nigeria also indicated to the 28 May 2009 meeting of the Standing Committee that, should the results of a technical investigation result in a determination that there are anti-personnel mines in mined areas under Nigeria's jurisdiction or control, Nigeria was aware of its obligation to "destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as soon as possible, but not later than ten years after entry into force" of the Convention for Nigeria. Nigeria noted that it would have a deadline of 1 March 2012 to conclude implementation of Article 5.

5. In the information Nigeria submitted in 2009 in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention Nigeria reported "in (a) war affected area of Eastern Part of Nigeria", areas that were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Nigeria further reported that the type of mines would have been a "Biafran 'locally fabricated' explosive device (Obgunigwe) which was used as (an) AP landmine" and that they would have been emplaced "not later than January 1970". Some conventional landmines in the holdings of the pre-civil war Nigerian Army including Rangers APM, POM Z from former Czechoslovakia and Dingbat APM were sparingly used. Nigeria also reported that it had constituted an inter-ministerial committee to concern itself with mines and other explosive remnants of war to enable Nigeria meet its Convention obligations and that the Committee consisted of 15 representatives of relevant Ministries, Departments and non-governmental organizations.

6. At the request of Nigeria and, as noted, with funding provided by the European Union through its "Joint Action", the Implementation Support Unit commissioned Lardner Associates to undertake a technical visit to Nigeria between 25 June and 1 July 2009. The mission concluded that a fully viable and functional structure has been put into place to address the problems caused by explosive remnants of war in Southeast Nigeria, where the contamination has been causing casualties for the last 40 years. The mission further concluded that the organisation that had been hired was a competent, professional and responsive organisation that was able to deliver what is needed to support the protection of large numbers of the Nigerian population against the hazards posed by explosive remnants of war and therefore fulfil one of the key aims of the Convention.

7. Nigeria's response to the problems caused by anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war, including its need to implement Article 5 of the Convention, involved a contract having been issued to a commercial company to set up a mine action programme in Owerri south east of Nigeria. The terms of reference required the contracted organisation, RSB Limited, to undertake inter alia the following actions:

(a) Mine clearance as part of a broader explosive remnants of war removal and destruction programme, including a well planned and implemented survey process to identify the areas of need.

(b) Mine risk education, including (a) developing a significant programme for education of the population of southeast Nigeria of the hazards posed by explosive remnants of war with this involving radio and television campaigns, poster distribution processes and training sessions in villages, markets, churches and schools throughout the affected region and (b) establishing a "hot-line" for populations to report explosive hazards and for tasking and prioritising on the basis of these reports.

(c) Victim assistance, particularly the enumeration of mine victims from the Biafran/civil war.

(d) Reporting, including by monitoring implementation and providing reports to the Ministry of Defence in part to ensure that Nigeria can comply with its Convention reporting obligations.

8. The contract with RSB Limited was valued at N 500,000,000 (approximately US\$ 3.4 million) for the enumeration of mine victims and for the removal, clearance and destruction of mines.

9. RSB Limited has operated in 11 of Nigeria's 36 States contaminated by explosive remnants of war (10 of which were contaminated with conventional and locally fabricated anti-personnel mines). Between, April 2008 and October 2008, RSB Limited surveyed all potentially affected States in Southeast Nigeria with 227 local governments visited to gather data. Between January and March 2009, a confirmatory survey was undertaken with 1,136 sites visited preparatory to removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines, which terminated in March 2010.

10. RSB Limited's activities included the development of two databases: one for recording the mine and UXO victims in Nigeria and the second recording the basic details of mines and UXO found and dealt with during operations. RSB Limited employed 183 deminers, trained internally and operating under basic standing operating procedures. In addition, there were a further 932 staff within the programme providing support, delivering mine risk education and carrying out administrative and other functions. RSB coordinated, prioritised and liaised with government officials at federal and local government levels. It trained and undertook limited quality management functions, with all deminers being former military staff and with some having undertaken demining operations as part of UN peacekeeping missions. The deminers had undertaken a minimum of a 3-week demining course to enable them to operate within the programme.

11. On 2 December 2010 at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties, Nigeria reported that four cities and their environs had been cleared, namely Enugu, Owerri, Port-Harcourt and Makurdi. Nigeria further reported that, while it believed that there were as of that date no more areas in Nigeria containing or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, it would keep the contractor on site to carry out any additional required actions. At that time, Nigeria also reported that clearance operations had resulted in the destruction of 101 Ranger/ POMZ type mines, 61 locally fabricated (Ogbunigwe) mines and 15,516 other explosive hazards.

12. After the end of the destruction of landmines, a collation exercise took place in all the 11 states where humanitarian demining took place. The 11 states technically surveyed totalled 153,278 square kilometres and the states that share common boundaries with those that the war took place (i.e., Adamawa in the north east and Ekiti and Edo in the south west) totalling 56,000 square kilometres were also checked because of traces of incursions by both troops during the war and the states were created after the war. The total number of areas excavated that contained landmines or Ogbunigwe was 1,136. A total of 820 conventional landmines were destroyed (including 203 buried but abandoned by the Nigerian Army) along with 646 Ogbunigwe, 426 improvised explosive devices and a variety of other explosive remnants of war. Areas contaminated with both anti personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war totalled 75,178 square kilometres.

13. Nigeria is now proud to declare that it has ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Nigeria furthermore declares that it completed this obligation 29 March 2010. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Nigeria will:

(a) report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intersessional Work Programme, including the Standing Committee meetings;

- (b) ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5; and,
- (c) destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its needs for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

Annex

List of areas addressed in the course of implementing Article 5

<i>Serial</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Number of Local Government areas demined</i>	<i>ID/code for area or task</i>	<i>Geographic references</i>	<i>Original Geographical estimated size of area</i>	<i>Estimated Contaminated areas</i>	<i>Date released</i>	<i>Number of AP Mines destroyed</i>	<i>Number of AV mines destroyed</i>	<i>Number of UXO destroyed</i>
1.	Abia	Umuahia	18	ABS/HD/011	5°25'N 7°30'E	6,320	4,600.11	23rd Dec 2009	56		51
2.	Akwa Ibom	Uyo	31	AKS/HD/022		7,081	3,350.43	8th Jan 2010	37		70
3.	Anambra	Awka	21	ANS/HD/033	6°20'N 7°00'	11,077	7,557.32	8th Jan 2010	51	19	541
4.	Benue	Makurdi	23	BNS/HD/044	7°20'N 8°45'E	34,059	10,720.00	12th Jan 2010	2		251
5.	Cross River	Calabar	18	CRS/HD/055	5°45'N 8°30'E	20,156	13,530.87	12th Jan 2010	10		61
6.	Delta	Asaba	25	DES/HD/066	5°30'N 6°00'E	17,698	8,395.31	12th Jan 2010	37	13	43
7.	Ebonyi	Abakaliki	12	EBS/HD/077	6°15'N 8°05'E	5,530	3,238.58	23rd Feb 2010	25		74
8.	Enugu	Enugu	16	ENS/HD/088	6°30'N 7°30'E	7,161	5,410.90	24th Feb 2010	56		71
9.	Imo	Owerri	27	IMS/HD/099	5°29'N 7°2'E	5,530	9,683.72	7th Mar 2010	425	237	3,409
10.	Rivers	Port Harcourt	23	RVS/HD/100	4°45'N 6°50'E	11,077	8,658.42	7th Mar 2010	121	8	12,624
11.	Nassarawa	Lafia	13	NSS/HD/300	8°32'N 8°18'E	21,117	3,750.00	11th Jun 2008	0		321
			227			146,806	78,895.66		820	325	17,516