

**Mine Action Review Comments on Extension Request submitted by Niger
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18–21 June 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

We thank Niger for presentation of its request for a five-year extension, which is its fifth request.

The extension request largely focuses on the Madama military base, in Bilma department of Agadez region (bordering Libya), where there is legacy contamination from conventionally-made landmines. Niger has not reported any clearance of this mined area since 2020.

However, the extension request also explains that since 2015, the regions of Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillabéry have been facing the threat of explosive devices, in particular Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The request does not specify whether the IEDs are victim-activated and meet the definition of an anti-personnel mine or are alternatively vehicle-activated or command- or time-denoted devices, which are not covered by the Convention.

At the regional conference held in Ghana in February 2024, Niger stated that "1,398 mines have been destroyed to date". It was not clear which period this related to or whether these mines were improvised anti-personnel mines or improvised anti-vehicle mines, recognising that this is often hard to determine. Improvised anti-vehicle mines which can be detonated by a person, are deemed to be anti-personnel mines.

Mine Action Review recommends that Niger provide the following key information:

- Further details regarding the nature and extent of the hazardous areas in other regions of the country, resulting from IED contamination. This should include how many improved anti-personnel mines Niger has destroyed in recent years, as well as how it plans to address improvised device contamination during the 5-year extension period, if the improvised contamination does indeed include victim-activated devices.
- Greater detail on the work plan with respect to the Madama military base.
- Greater clarification on the required budget, which has almost quadrupled compared to Niger's previous four-year extension request.
- Information on how Niger plans to take gender and diversity considerations into account in its mine action programming.

Providing better quality work plans and budgets, which include Niger's plans for both addressing the legacy mined area at the military base and plans for tackling the contamination from victim-activated improvised mines, if this exists, will increase Niger's chances of securing international funding to implement its Article 5 obligations.

Thank you.