



*Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Ginebra*



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 10 April 2018

in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Nicaragua - 8MSP Presidency

Mr. Carlos Morales Dávila
Ms. Nohelia Vargas Idiáquez

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Croatia

Ms. Ines Sprem Scigliano

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Ireland

Ms. Nicola Brassil

Lao PDR

Mr. Kalamoungkhoun Souphanouvong

Mozambique

Mr. Jaime Chissano

The Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. Manuel Mundaca

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer
Ms. Éléa Boureux

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle
Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

France
Italy
Zambia

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua, Mr. Carlos Morales, opened the third Coordination Committee meeting of 2018 and the sixth under the Nicaraguan presidency with warm greetings to all the Committee members. He then presented the provisional Agenda and asked the Committee if it had any additional items for inclusion on it. There being none, he proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee approved, without any corrections, the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 March 2018, as a correct record of what had transpired during that meeting.

4. Updates from the 8MSP Presidency

Mr. Morales informed the meeting that the new Permanent Representative had still not been appointed and therefore, he continued to remain in charge of all affairs of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua until the new PR arrived. He reassured the Coordination Committee that he would inform it as soon as the new Permanent Representative was officially appointed.

5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 8MSP

5.1 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Croatia and Mozambique)

Mozambique, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators, commenced the update by stating that a meeting with a representative of the Botswana Mission in Geneva was held to follow up on the status of its stockpile destruction programme. Mozambique reported that even though Botswana's deadline was not until December 2019, the Coordinators recognized the importance of obtaining updates from States Parties with obligations in order to offer them assistance, if needed, to assist comply with their deadlines. It was also reported that Botswana was doing its best to meet its Article 3 deadline and that following a visit of its partner organization, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), in December 2017, a Memorandum of Agreement for the project had been drafted. The MoA would hopefully be signed in May 2018. Mozambique added that it had reminded Botswana to provide this update through its Article 7 annual report due before 30 April 2018. Botswana affirmed that it would do so and continue to keep the Coordinators informed on the status of progress. Mozambique reminded the meeting that the ISU had established contact with Botswana during the Africa Regional Workshop in Addis Ababa held in 2016. In concluding, Mozambique requested the ISU representative also present at the meeting to provide additional information on the background of this engagement.

The ISU Implementation Support Specialist highlighted that Botswana's stockpile destruction project had started out as a country-focused Article 6 initiative based on the *country coalitions concept*; and the partnership between NPA and Botswana served as an example of good practice of the concept.

In concluding the Coordinators' update, Croatia informed that as requested by the Coordination Committee, the Article 3 Coordinators had drafted a CCM Article 3 Declaration of Completion

template with the support of the ISU and that it would be shared with the Committee in the following days.

The Presidency thanked the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention for the update and offered its support to the work of the Coordinators.

5.2 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Germany)

Bosnia-Herzegovina informed the meeting that it was finalizing the *Guidelines on CCM Article 3 and Article 4 extension requests* and that they were essentially based on the already existing Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) extension request procedure. It added that the guidelines would be circulated to the Coordination Committee members for comments ahead of the next meeting to facilitate discussion at the meeting.

Germany reported that it had submitted the draft proposal on *a mechanism to determine and elect successive Presidencies of the CCM* to the Coordination Committee to solicit its feedback and had received feedback from Italy and New Zealand. Germany thanked them for sharing their views and stated that it was working on incorporating their input into the document and would disseminate the modified proposal before the next Coordination Committee Meeting.

In contributing to the discussion, New Zealand clarified that it had no particular objection to the concept of geographical rotation of the CCM Presidency but had some reservations on the creation of formal geographical groups for this purpose, including because such groups were not envisaged in the Convention. Furthermore, there was concern that the process might become too restrictive and burdensome on States Parties of a regional group to nominate a President. It would recommend a system that was procedurally lighter with a fair degree of flexibility when it came to electing the CCM Presidencies. Both CMC and Australia thanked the Coordinators for the draft proposal and displayed their support of New Zealand's views; with Australia adding that while it would encourage underrepresented regions to take up the Presidency, it shared the view that, based on other Conventions, having a rigid process in place would more likely be counter-productive to the objectives of the mechanism.

Bosnia-Herzegovina thanked Germany for the hard work that had been put into drafting the document and reassured the meeting that the Coordinator's intention was not to impose a strict procedure, but to find the best possible way to help nominate future Presidencies and reduce the burden of this task on the incumbent Presidency and the ISU. It further encouraged the Coordination Committee to share concrete ideas that would make the process more manageable and thus move the matter forward.

The ISU Director emphasized that it was important to have a mechanism, without it needing to be restrictive, to allow States Parties to have more ownership in the matter and to shift the burden from the Presidency and the ISU in identifying and selecting future Presidencies. She reminded the meeting that there was still no President-Designate for the 9MSP and that the trend of not identifying the President-Designate in good time needed to be addressed in a more structured manner. The Director also highlighted that States Parties should already have been working on identifying the Presidency of the Second Review Conference (2RC). This would make use of the troika

established in the Coordination Committee to allow both the incoming and immediate past presidencies to attend meetings of the Coordination Committee. Furthermore, once the 2RC presidency was identified the candidate could immediately start attending meetings at the close of the 8MSP.

Germany agreed that there was no need for additional bureaucracy for this framework and that its objective was to allow States Parties to take on this responsibility thereby increasing ownership of the issue and avoiding the status quo. It remarked that it was necessary for this matter to be a dedicated agenda item at the 8MSP in order for States Parties to take note that this was an ongoing problem that would continue if not addressed in a concrete way.

After much discussion, it was agreed that all the Coordinators assist the current President with reaching out to potential 9MSP presidents by generating interest in taking up the Presidency during their bilateral meetings with States Parties.

5.3 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand reported that the Yaoundé Seminar on the CCM would, unfortunately, not be able to take place due to logistical reasons but that it would consider taking on another project. It reported to the meeting that there had not been new national legislations to report on; however, it expected to receive positive updates in the run up to the 8MSP. New Zealand was following up with a number of the Pacific Island participants in the Auckland Conference, including those that had referred to efforts on national implementing legislation.

5.4 Victim Assistance (Ireland and Italy)

The ISU Director provided an update on behalf of the Coordinators based on an email sent by Italy. She stated that the Coordinators were still waiting to hear back from States Parties they had previously reached out to that had challenges in fulfilling their victim assistance obligations. In addition to that, the preparation for the launch of the *Guidelines on Gender and Diversity-Response Victim Assistance in Mine Action* was on track to take place in the margins of the APMBC intersessionals in June 2018.

5.5 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR and the Netherlands)

The Netherlands, reporting on behalf of both Coordinators of the thematic discussion, notified the meeting that it had received news from the ISU that during the *Afghanistan Donor and Implementation Partners Coordination Workshop for Mine Action* in Geneva on 9 April, Afghanistan had announced that it would complete its clearance of cluster munition remnants by the end of 2018, well ahead of its 2022 deadline. Furthermore, it was reported that bilateral meetings held with Germany during a recent conference in New York had been fruitful and that Germany was doing its best to avoid submitting an extension request. Likewise, the Coordinators had also obtained information from Montenegro that it was making progress in clearing its cluster munition remnants. The Netherlands concluded its update by stating that the Coordinators' next step was to approach Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chile and Chad to inquire of their implementation of Article 4.

In confirming the Afghan announcement, the Director of the ISU clarified that when seeking additional information from the Mine Action Centre Director, it was made clear to the ISU that Afghanistan was scheduled to complete its clearance activity in March 2019 and not in 2018. Nevertheless, this would still be significantly well in advance of its 1 March 2022 deadline.

In line with the discussion, CMC commented that while this was much welcome news, it would also be a good time to start exploring the process of handling the issue of discovery of new contaminated areas after a State Party had declared completion of clearance. CMC informed that this was a process that would be especially relevant when dealing with States that had heavy contamination, and that it was an issue that the APMBC had examined and it would be timely for the CCM to do so in the near future. Responding to that, the Netherlands proposed that the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education be tasked to work on this topic, as it would seem fitting for them to do so.

Mr. Morales agreed to proposal made by the Netherlands and expressed its gratitude to the Coordinators for their diligence.

5.6 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Peru)

Australia, speaking on behalf of both thematic Coordinators, reported that they were working on the third of the targeted meetings which would bring together the two groups that they had met with earlier; that is, affected States and Donor States. This meeting was scheduled for the final day of the APMBC intersessionals in June. It was further reported that the Coordinators intended to use this forum to further institutionalize the country coalitions concept and recognize good practices established so far, such as the Lebanon, Botswana and Montenegro examples. In concluding the update, Peru informed that the Coordinators were working on finalizing the agenda for the June meeting.

The Presidency acknowledged the good work and thanks the Coordinators for the update.

5.7 Transparency Measures (Zambia)

In the absence of the Coordinator for Transparency Measures, the Implementation Support Specialist gave an update and informed the meeting that since the last meeting, the number of overdue initial transparency reports had decreased from 15 to 13 as a direct result of the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties organized by New Zealand and Australia. Two Pacific States Parties had submitted their long overdue initial transparency report - Cook Islands and Nauru. Additionally, Fiji had also confirmed it would submit its overdue initial report before 30 April.

The Implementation Support Specialist further reported that a reminder had just been sent to all States Parties through the first 2018 CCM Quarterly Newsletter. He added that already 13 States Parties had submitted their 2017 annual report and was hopeful that the numbers would increase considerably in the coming weeks.

Mr. Morales conveyed his thanks to the ISU for the update on transparency measures.

5.8 Universalization (France and Panama)

Panama, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, informed that follow-up letters had been sent to Pacific States not Party to the CCM that attended the Auckland Conference in February 2018, and that 4 of the 7 States had already responded to the letters providing an update on their plans to accede to the Convention. Additionally, an outreach to parliamentarians was done during the 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) that took place in Geneva, where the ISU gave a presentation of the Convention at an informal meeting of the First Committee Project on the '*Parliamentary Role in Comprehensive Disarmament and Non-Proliferation*' on 27 March 2018. This was an initiative that the Coordinators pursued as they had perceived during bilateral meetings with States not Party that raising awareness amongst parliamentarians could be key in accelerating the accession process.

Panama informed the meeting that the Coordinators intended to organize an informal meeting with signatory States during the third week of May in Geneva, with the support of the ISU, and that invitations to the event would be sent out soon.

6. Update on 8MSP documentation preparation

The ISU Director communicated that the 8MSP documentation forecast had been submitted to the UNODA, and asked the Coordination Committee if they had any additional documents to submit besides the 3 documents that were being prepared by the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. She also posed the question to the UNODA to enquire if the draft *CCM Article 3 Declaration of Completion form* could be circulated during the 8MSP as a working document. The UNODA representative confirmed that it could be circulated as an in-session working document in English only and, if adopted, issued as a post-session document translated in all languages.

Responding to the Director's previous query, the Netherlands advised that the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education would need more time to produce the working paper on the issue of discovery of previously unknown contaminated land, and that it might be a document that would only be ready for the 9MSP.

In continuing with her update, the ISU Director shared the specific submission dates of 8MSP documents which she reminded aimed at giving States Parties the time to study them and prepare any comments before the MSP. She further informed the meeting that the *8MSP Provisional Agenda* was to be prepared by 2 June. She confirmed that a discussion on the process of election of the new Presidencies would be incorporated into the agenda and she would share it with the Coordination Committee before the next meeting in May. She continued by informing that the *ISU 2019 work plan and budget* would be submitted on 31 May as it has to be circulated to all States Parties for their consideration as agreed at the First Review Conference, 60 days prior to the MSP. She further noted that as was the case for the 7MSP, there would be no need to have the *8MSP Provisional Programme of Work* as it was a redundant document. Rather the *8MSP Provisional Annotated Programme of Work* which was a more detailed document would be the one submitted. As the *8MSP Progress Report* would be submitted to the UNODA on 29 June, and therefore, input from all Coordinators

would need to be received by the ISU by **22 June** to provide the secretariat sufficient time to consolidate the document and recirculate it to the Coordinators for their final approval. The Director reminded the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention to hand in their documents to the ISU by 11 June 2018 for the ISU to submit them to the UNODA on 15 June.

New Zealand queried if the *Auckland Declaration*, which had already been translated into the other UN languages by the Conference on Disarmament (CD), could be uploaded on the websites dedicated to the 8MSP. The ISU Director responded in the affirmative and added that it could also be handed out to delegates of the 8MSP.

The Presidency concluded discussions by conveyed his appreciation to all who had contributed to the discussion.

7. Update on the financing of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

The ISU Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, only 1 State Party made a contribution to the ISU Trust Fund amounting to CHF 60'641.89, bringing the number of States Parties that had made their contributions to the 2018 ISU budget to 38 and the total amount of contributions to be just over CHF 169'064 against a budget of CHF 465'440, which was 36% of the annual budget.

The Director further elaborated that a number of substantial contributors had not made their payments, and that these States had the tendency to do so later during the year, making the total contributions rather low at this stage. Hence it would be necessary for the Presidency with the support of the ISU to send out reminders to States Parties that were yet to make a contribution to the ISU's 2018 annual budget.

8. Update from the Implementation Support Unit on other matters

8.1 2018 First Quarter CCM Newsletter

The ISU Director announced that the CCM 1st Quarter Newsletter of 2018 had been sent out the previous week with a reminder to States Parties to submit their 2017 annual transparency reports.

8.2 French Guide to Cluster Munitions 3rd Edition

The French version of the *Guide to Cluster Munitions* had just been translated, and the next step would be to engage a graphics designer to consolidate the document before it would be ready for print; the hard copies of the French translation of the Guide would be made available by the 8MSP.

8.3 8MSP Webpage

The Director informed that the 8MSP web page would be launched shortly, but would not contain much information in the beginning as the Meeting documents had to be finalized and translated. Other information would be uploaded once available. The UNODA representative added that the UNODA would also be creating a web page for the 8MSP and that information on the new registration procedure would be posted there.

8.4 CCM Presidency Brochure and Webpage

The ISU Director highlighted that there was a newly-created section specifically on the Convention's Presidency on the CCM website which included a page on the current and previous Presidencies and the activities of the Presidencies. It was suggested that these web pages, along with the brochure on the Presidency, were resources the Coordinators could utilize when approaching States Parties identified as potential Presidency candidates.

Australia, in its contribution, suggested that the Coordination Committee approach targeted States to take up the Presidency as a group. Additionally, the outgoing committee members could perform the outreach together in requesting States to consider serving as the Presidency or a Coordination Committee member. In its contribution to the discussion, New Zealand inquired if information on the cost of assuming the Presidency was posted on the website. The ISU Director replied that information would be made available soon. The ISU Director reminded the meeting that the Presidency would cover the cost of items such as giveaway bags and a reception, even when planning an MSP in Geneva, but that would depend on what the Presidency would like to include in the MSP.

The UNODA representative added that the Division on Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) could provide a cost estimate of organizing an MSP outside of Geneva though these could vary significantly as many variables would come into play. She further pointed out that the Presidency would need to bear the cost of travel and other expenses of the interpreters on top of other considerations. Bosnia-Herzegovina suggested that it would be better to keep the information simple on the website indicating that the Presidency would bear no costs when holding an MSP on UN premises and hosting an MSP in its capital would incur certain expenditure.

The Presidency thanked the ISU for the updates and thanked all who had participated in the lively and constructive discussion. In concluding discussion on this matter, the Presidency tasked all the Coordinators to work as a group to identify and engage with potential 9MSP Presidency candidates.

8.3 African Union and the CCM

The Director requested the Implementation Support Specialist to report on the meeting with the Permanent Delegation of the African Union.

The Implementation Support Specialist acknowledged Mozambique's advocacy work in reaching out to the African Union (AU) and providing the ISU with the contact details to a focal point from the Permanent Delegation of the African Union in Geneva. He informed the meeting that the AU had reactivated a group to work on disarmament and the ISU had provided resources on the CCM to be distributed to the group. The AU representative had informed the ISU that it would like to invite the Coordination Committee members to its next meeting. The ISU had requested the AU to focus on encouraging African Signatory States to ratify the Convention.

9. Any other business

9.1 Cluster munitions used in Eastern Ghouta, Syria

CMC circulated a report published by the Human Rights Watch on 18 March 2018 on the use of internationally banned weapons in Syria, which include cluster munitions. CMC advised that it would keep the Coordination Committee updated on additional findings related to this issue.

9.2 Discussion on including the GICHD in Coordination Committee Meetings

One of the Coordination Committee members requested an update on the matter of the inclusion of the GICHD on the CCM Coordination Committee and queried if it would be a decision taken up during the 8MSP. In the ensuing discussion, another member of the Committee reminded the meeting that the GICHD had been requested to submit in writing what specific value it would add by being on the Committee. It was further elaborated that it was of the opinion that the GICHD should make its case on wanting to be part of the Coordination Committee as it was no different from other Mine Action operators that do not sit on the Committee. It was added that while cooperation with the GICHD was valuable, it could take place without the GICHD being a permanent member of Coordination Committee Meetings but rather participate upon special invitation. Another Committee member offered that the GICHD's role in hosting the ISU could be an argument for including the GICHD in the Coordination Committee. The matter was not concluded as there continued to be varying opinions on the matter.

9.3 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CCM on 30 May 2018

The ISU Director reported that the ISU had been putting up weekly social media posts leading up to the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention which was done in Dublin, Ireland on 30 May 2008. She then requested for the Implementation Support Specialist to provide information on an upcoming event.

The Implementation Support Specialist informed the meeting that a screening of a documentary called *'The Remnants'* on the legacy of war and cluster munitions in Laos, and which had been selected at the *Vision du Réel* film festival in Nyon would be premiering on 17 April 2018. The directors of the film had extended their invitation to the Coordination Committee members to attend the screening and participate in the discussion that would follow.

10. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 8 May 2018 from 10:00 hours.

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