



## MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 10:00 - 12:00 hours

### **1. Present:**

#### Sri Lanka - 9MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

#### Switzerland - 2RC President-Designate

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

#### Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

#### Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Mr. Ole Spillner

#### Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mr. Mohammed R. Al-Haidari

#### Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

#### Lao PDR

Mr. Sitsangkhom Sisaketh

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Ms. Southida Chommanichana

Ms. Ladthamon Khamphilavanh

#### Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

#### Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

#### Peru

Mr. César Aréstegui

#### Sweden

Ms. Anna Envall

#### Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Veronica Nkole

#### CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

#### ICRC

Ms. Andrea Raab

#### UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

#### Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

#### Apologies received:

Chile

Mozambique

New Zealand

#### Apologies not received:

Spain

## **2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency**

9MSP President, Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, opened the third Coordination Committee meeting of 2019 and the sixth under the Sri Lankan Presidency, by thanking all the members present.

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Coordination Committee Meeting**

The Committee approved as circulated the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **4. Update of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) Presidency**

### **4.1 Regional workshop in Sri Lanka**

The President reported to the Meeting that the Colombo workshop to be co-hosted with New Zealand would most likely be held in the second week of June and that the dates would be finalized in consultation with the ISU. After conveying his gratitude to New Zealand for sponsoring this workshop, Ambassador Abdul Azeez informed that Sri Lanka was happy to co-host the event and would also be providing the venue for the workshop. Detailed information regarding the workshop would be sent out at a later date.

### **4.2 Universalization Outreach**

The Ambassador highlighted that he had held meetings with Bangladesh and the Maldives as part of his continued outreach efforts in promoting the universalization of the Convention in the South Asia region.

### **4.3 Coordination Committee Mid-Term Review**

The President confirmed that he would be organizing a mid-term review working lunch in May to allow the Thematic Coordinators to take stock of the implementation of their work plans and have informal and frank discussions on the necessary efforts to apply up to the 9MSP. He informed that invitations to the mid-term review lunch would be sent out soon after the Meeting.

### **4.4 ICRC meeting in Lao PDR**

The President acknowledged receipt of an invitation from the ICRC to attend a regional meeting in Vientiane at the end of April 2019. He explained that the invitation had been sent to Colombo for follow up as he might not be able to attend himself due to conflicting agendas.

## **5. Discussion on the financial predictability and sustainability of the Convention**

The ISU Director explained that this agenda item had been proposed by UNODA as it referred to the financial mechanisms related to the organization of the formal meetings of the Convention.

The UNODA representative began by reminding the meeting that at the 8MSP, States Parties had mandated the 9MSP President to prepare a document for consideration at the 9MSP, in consultation

with the Coordination Committee, on possible measures to address financial predictability and sustainability of the Convention. She also highlighted that in fulfilling this task the President was invited to consider discussions held by other disarmament conventions.

UNODA further explained that the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) had recently adopted measures to ensure liquidity that could be considered under the CCM. She further illustrated the complexity of the current financial system while providing examples of new measures adopted by the BWC and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

In explaining the challenges faced, the representative reiterated UNODA's availability to support the President and the Coordination Committee in moving forward on this matter. She also reminded the Meeting that a *Note Verbale* had been sent to all Permanent Missions informing that the UN Financial Services would no longer issue paper invoices. Additionally, she informed the meeting that in the same *Note Verbale*, it was also recalled that the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations dictate that extra budgetary activities must not give rise to additional financial liabilities for the Organization. However, each year on closing the accounts for annual activities of the Conventions, the Organization is required to return the excess of estimates over actual expenditures as credits to those States that have paid their assessed contributions in full. Meanwhile, assessed contributions from other States Parties remain unpaid, leaving the Organization with unfunded liabilities.

Consequently, in order to ensure that the support provided to the Conventions does not contravene the UN financial regulations and rules, and in the absence of financial measures adopted by the Conventions to address this problem going forward, the activities which have taken place during the 2018 financial period and afterwards will not be closed until all contributions due are collected, or new financial measures are adopted to address the problem. As a result, any credits arising from activities related to 2018 and later years will not be calculated and therefore cannot be returned until all States Parties have paid their assessed contributions.

In response to requests for clarification, UNODA clarified that there were options available for a decision by the States parties. She also noted that although financial amounts outstanding under the CCM were smaller than those under other Conventions. Further only 30% of the 2019 estimates had been collected at that time and that lack of funds being available 3 months before the meeting of States Parties would cause the cancellation of the meeting.

The President thanked UNODA for the comprehensive briefing and underlined the importance of having this timely discussion before the CCM moved into a period of liquidity challenges. Ambassador Azeez encouraged the Coordination Committee to look at measures taken by other Conventions to ensure financial predictability and sustainability and adapt as necessary those that would address the CCM's own challenges.

In the ensuing discussion, several points were raised including that:

- Liability was a major issue even though the amounts regarding the CCM were not so large;
- UNODA's decision to not send out paper invoices to Permanent Missions could lead to a decreased rate of payment by States;

- The measures taken under the BWC, though it gave more stability and created a buffer through the creation of a Working Capital Fund, did not address the structural issues that lead to non-payment and arrears;
- It would be beneficial for the Coordination Committee to prepare a document to analyze the situation under the CCM and to identify issues that needed to be addressed so that the appropriate recommendations could be made;
- The Netherlands informed that it had already made a preliminary analysis comparing the financial models of the various disarmament conventions in Geneva which offered a solid starting point; and
- Switzerland recommended that a group within the Coordination Committee work as a team to draft the analysis document.

The President emphasized that the decisions to be taken at the 9MSP had to be sound so that the Second Review Conference (2RC) chaired by Switzerland could build on them. He concluded the discussion by tasking Switzerland to head a sub-Committee on CCM finances with the assistance of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention (Germany and Zambia), The Netherlands, Ireland and a representative of the Presidency (Sri Lanka), who in consultation with UNODA would draft a proposal to be submitted to the Coordination Committee for consideration at its next Meeting.

## **6. Updates by the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 9MSP**

The President invited Thematic Coordinators to present any updates on the implementation of their work up to the 9MSP.

### **6.1 Universalization (Chile & Panama)**

Panama, on behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, gave a short update on the informal meeting on CCM universalization which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 during the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN22). Panama further explained that the Coordinators were contemplating organizing a similar event in the margins of the APMBBC Intersessionals at the end of May. To this end, she said that she would reach out to the ISU, CMC and the ICRC to arrange an event. She added that the Coordinators would hold bilateral meetings with target States and follow up with the 8 States that had attended the February closed meeting. Panama concluded the update by reporting that it would review its Concept Note to ensure that all the pending tasks leading up to the 9MSP would be completed.

### **6.2 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR & Sweden)**

Sweden, on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, reported that the Analysis Group would meet on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to finalize the draft Analysis Reports on the Article 4 Extension Requests submitted by Germany and Lao PDR.

Ambassador Azeez extended his warm welcome to Ms. Anna Envall, who had recently replaced Mr. Daniel Nord as the representative of Sweden on the Coordination Committee.

Lao PDR joined the President in welcoming the new representative of Sweden and thanked Sweden for its cooperation in drafting the Analysis Reports which would be discussed on Thursday. Lao PDR reported that with regards to its Extension Request, its capital had been encouraging closer collaboration with the Analysis Group and the ISU.

### 6.3 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

Netherlands, on behalf of the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators, began by expressing its appreciation to the ISU for organizing a successful lunch time event on the Country Coalitions Concept on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He reported to the Meeting that during the event two States Parties had shared their positive experiences of having established Country Coalitions and that he hoped this would inspire other States to do the same. Netherlands further explained that the Bulgarian representative who attended the event had shown great interest in the concept. The Netherlands further reported that the Coordinators would continue working with both Articles 3 and 4 Analysis Groups on the extension requests submitted by Germany, Lao PDR and Bulgaria.

In contributing to the update, Peru reported that several States Parties with upcoming treaty deadlines had attended the working lunch on the Country Coalitions Concept and that the Coordinators had expressed their availability to support those States should they require international cooperation and assistance.

### 6.4 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Austria & Mozambique)

Austria, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, informed that its co-coordinator Mozambique had met with Peru and South Africa, States Parties with respective deadlines of 2021 and 2023, and that both States had advised that they were on track to fulfil their Article 3 obligations. Austria reminded the Meeting that the Coordinators were still trying to establish contact with Guinea-Bissau and had approached its representatives in New York to remind the State party of its Article 3 obligations.

Austria further reported that, along with Netherlands, it had had the opportunity to meet with a representative from the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria in Geneva the previous week to follow up on information pertaining to Bulgaria's extension request. She added that the ISU had also met with the Bulgarian officials in a separate meeting. It was, however, too short a notice to hold an Analysis Group meeting with Bulgaria in that instance. During the meeting, the Bulgarian representative informed that the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) had requested additional information and documentation from the Bulgarian authorities thereby delaying the bidding process and selection of a contractor. Furthermore, the representative indicated that the bids from contracts had been received and closed on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 as scheduled. However, it was still too early to tell which contractor would be selected. Austria concluded by informing that it had just received Bulgaria's responses to the Analysis Group's questions and that the Coordinators would be analyzing them soon.

Contributing to the update, Netherlands stated that the information the Analysis Group required from Bulgaria relied heavily on the specifications that would be provided by the contractor that was still to be selected. The Analysis Group would therefore need that information to proceed with the

next steps of the extension request process. The President enquired if Bulgaria had submitted a timeline of their project during the extension period. The Netherlands responded by explaining that Bulgaria would only be able to do so once the contractor was selected.

#### 6.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq reported that, with the support of the ISU, a second reminder had been sent to States Parties on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 regarding the submission of their 2018 annual transparency reports. The number of 2018 annual reports received as at that day was only 12. However, he stated that it was worth noting that for many States Parties the process of preparing and submitting Article 7 reports was lengthy and involved several government agencies. This was certainly the case of Iraq whose report was ready but was going through the approval process. He remained positive that nonetheless, many of such States would have submitted their reports by the deadline. In any case, Iraq would issue another reminder in early May to States Parties that had not yet submitted their 2018 annual reports by that time.

Iraq informed that it had approached many States Parties that had overdue initial transparency reports in the margins of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council. The typical feedback it had received from those States was the absence of concrete indication as to any progress having been made in that regard.

#### 6.6 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

Ireland affirmed that it fully supported forward planning regarding financial predictability for the Convention and expressed its readiness to assist on this important issue. It added that pre-emptive, solid planning was preferable and more effective than last-minute crisis management where the quality of Convention meetings could be compromised. Ireland conveyed its longing to ensure that such detrimental outcomes could be prevented from happening under the CCM.

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Ireland highlighted that victim assistance was the least tangible or quantifiable of the thematic areas, therefore making it more challenging and open-ended. It reiterated that victim assistance issues would still exist even after the elimination of cluster munitions. Ireland reported that the Coordinators had been having regular, informal meetings to discern how to put their workplan into effect and that Ireland would be meeting with the ISU that afternoon to further discuss the matter.

Continuing with its update, Ireland informed that the Coordinators recognized that more work needed to be done with some States parties in identifying key priorities in respect of finance and other resources, as well as unique challenges, for improved victim assistance engagement to occur at the national level. Ireland added that ongoing work with States parties had led the Coordinators to assert that victim assistance work needed to be streamlined under the umbrella of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), so as to not overburden States Parties with bureaucracy. Ireland provided the example of having only one national focal point for all disability programmes as possibly the best option for States parties.

Ireland reported that the cross-Conventional victim assistance retreat held in January was still yielding positive results, though more needed to be done. She pointed out the need for universalization of Victim Assistance messaging which had been done at other meetings during the year such as the NDM-UN22 in February, the Human Rights Council Session in February and March, the APMBC Pledging Conference in February, and the CRPD Session in March and April. Ireland indicated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, would be another opportunity for the Coordinators to leverage this issue.

Additionally, Ireland stated that the Coordinators would like to enhance their cooperation with the VA committees of other Conventions and with the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance. To this end, Ireland informed that the biggest victim assistance event of the year, *Fostering Partnerships*, would be taking place in Amman, Jordan, from 10 to 12 September 2019. Ireland pointed out that this event would present an opportunity for all who attend it to interact with victims and survivors.

Ireland further highlighted that victim ownership and peer support should be promoted, as that would leverage more national funding and improve the self-esteem of victims faced with a life-changing injury. Ireland pointed out that the issue of gender, of which Ireland is a consistent champion in multilateral fora, should also be raised with regards to victim assistance and in all the work of the Convention.

In concluding the update, the representative of Ireland, Dr. Patricia Cullen, announced that she would be retiring in June and would be succeeded by Mr. Jamie Walshe. She expressed her confidence in his capability to ensure a smooth transition and represent Ireland as Coordinator on Victim Assistance.

Ambassador Azeez thanked Dr. Cullen wholeheartedly for her comprehensive update and for the important reminders regarding the key areas to focus on regarding victim assistance. He conveyed his deepest appreciation to Dr. Cullen for her contribution and commitment to the work of the Convention and for Ireland's willingness to assist the Coordination Committee to work on addressing the financial predictability and sustainability for the CCM.

## **7. Update by the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM**

### **7.1 Update on the financing of the ISU**

The ISU Director reported that since the last Meeting, 10 more States parties had made their 2019 contributions, bringing the total number of contributing States to 22 and the amount contributed to just over CHF 166'000. This was equivalent to 35% of the annual budget, an increase from 26% during the last update. The Director drew attention to the fact that only 5 of the 22 States Parties that had contributed were represented in the Coordination Committee.

Switzerland queried on how the percentage of contributions received thus far in 2019 compared to the previous years at the end of the first quarter. In response, the Director informed that it was slightly lower than in the previous years due to the fact that the ISU had sent out the 2019 invoices to States parties later than usual. This was only done in January 2019 because the UN Scale of

Assessments for the period 2019 to 2021 was only published on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018. She was pleased, however, to note that many of the contributions were from small contributors.

The Director then raised the issue of bank fees with regards to States parties with small amount of contributions to make which in some cases amounted to more than the assessed amount. In the ensuing discussion the following concerns and possible solutions were considered:-

- Alternative payment methods, such as giving cash payments or States making multi-year contributions at once, had occurred in some instances to overcome the burden of bank transfer fees imposed on transactions;
- A minimum assessed amount of annual contributions, for example CHF 100, could be considered as other disarmament instruments have done to mitigate the cost of following up on very small contribution amounts;
- The amount of effort applied and the cost applied incurred by the ISU to follow up with some States was greatly disproportional to the amount of some contributions; and
- Delegates attending the MSPs or Review Conferences could be encouraged to bring small contributions in cash and a collection counter set up specifically for that purpose.
- Switzerland reminded the Meeting that elements such as small contributions could be discussed further when the financial model of the ISU was reviewed at the Second Review Conference as decided at the 7MSP.

## 7.2 Country Coalitions Roundtable

The Director expressed her gratitude to Sri Lanka for ably facilitating the Country Coalitions roundtable meeting that was held on 13 March 2019. She also acknowledged the generous contribution of Canada that had made the event possible and thanked all the Coordinators who participated. The Director reported that States parties with imminent Article 3 or Article 4 deadlines were invited to the meeting to consider the possibility of establishing country coalitions. She further reported that 2 States parties with successful partnerships, Lebanon and Montenegro, had made presentations on their versions of the Coalition at the event. She added that Montenegro was on track to fulfilling its Article 4 obligations, while Lebanon had expressed its intention to submit a deadline extension request.

## 7.3 Article 4 Extension Request

The Director informed that she had undertaken a mission to Lebanon the previous week to provide technical support to the State party as it prepared to commence its Article 4 deadline extension request process. During the mission, the Director paid a field visit to 2 operational sites to better understand some of the challenges faced by the State Party in its implementation of Article 4 of the Convention. She stated that she was confident that Lebanon would submit a good quality Request and that it would only need to submit a single extension request in order to achieve compliance within the 5 year-period asked for.

#### 7.4 First Quarter Report

The ISU Director informed the Meeting that the first Quarterly report of the year had been circulated to all States parties the previous day via email and had also been made available on the Convention website.

### 8. **Any other business**

#### 8.1 Military-to-Military dialogue

Germany reported that the military-to-military dialogue envisaged for 11 April 2019 had to be cancelled due to the slow response from the three countries invited to the event. This had left little time for adequate logistical preparations. It was further explained that a minimum number of confirmations had been required for the event to take place. Germany stated that one of its main objectives for hosting the Dialogue was to encourage Zimbabwe to change its voting pattern regarding the CCM Resolution at the UN General Assembly. Germany would, however, continue its outreach efforts. Germany also encouraged all other Coordination Committee members to engage with Zimbabwe on this issue.

In contributing to the discussion, Zambia informed the Meeting that it had attempted to bring up the matter with Zimbabwe during two meetings held regarding the CCM. Zambia reported that Zimbabwe had responded positively to its engagement and that it would continue to follow up with the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe in Geneva.

In contributing further to the discussion, Germany reported that it had previously corresponded with the Ambassador of Zimbabwe in Geneva and that the response had also been positive. Ambassador Azeez notified that he, too, would add his efforts to engaging with the Ambassador of Zimbabwe.

#### 8.2 Updates by CMC and ICRC

The CMC representative, Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer, announced that she had replaced Ms. Amélie Chayer as the CMC representative at the CCM Coordination Committee Meetings. She stated that she looked forward to working with the lively and action-oriented CCM community. She also congratulated Germany for its military-to-military dialogue initiative, despite the cancellation of the April event and conveyed her appreciation to Zambia for its recent outreach to Zimbabwe. She encouraged the Committee to continue to reach out as this could get States to change their negative votes, citing the case of Russia during the UN General Assembly vote on the 2018 CCM Resolution where such outreach had yielded positive results.

Ms. Andrea Raab, the ICRC representative, informed that she was sitting in for Ms. Wen Zhou, who was away on mission. Regarding the ICRC regional workshop in Vientiane in late April, she enquired if the President was going to attend the event himself. In response, Ambassador Azeez informed her that Sri Lanka looked forward to the engagement and would be in a position to confirm to ICRC the details of the Sri Lankan representative to participate in the meeting should he be unable to participate personally.

### 8.3 Convening of the 9MSP

The UNODA representative announced that the Secretary-General of the UN had convened the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) on the CCM by *Note Verbale*, which had been circulated to all States in New York and would be circulated to all States in Geneva as well.

### 9. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be a working lunch held on Wednesday, 15 May 2019. Details of the venue would be circulated at a later date.

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