



*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 28 September 2017

in Conference Room 7.2, Tower 5, Maison de la Paix, from 09:30 – 10:30 hours

1. Present:

Nicaragua - 8MSP President

H.E. Hernán Estrada Roman
Mr. Luis-Alberto Vargas

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Croatia

Mr. Tomislav Leko

France

Ms. Camille Guffet

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Italy

Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

Lao PDR

Mr. Bovonethat Douangchak
Mr. Kalamoungkhoun Souphanouvong

Mozambique

Mr. Jaime Valente Chissano

The Netherlands

Mr. Sietse Blom

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

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

Apologies not received

Peru

2. Opening Remarks by the 8MSP President

The first Coordination Committee Meeting under the Nicaraguan presidency was opened by the President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP), Ambassador Hernán Estrada Roman of the Republic of Nicaragua, with a warm welcome to all the Committee members. In welcoming the new composition of the 2017-2018 Coordination Committee, the President requested the members to briefly introduce themselves. The President then presented the provisional Agenda and enquired of the Committee if it had any additional items for discussion. There being none, he proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 28 August 2017

The Committee approved without corrections the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Monday 28 August 2017 as a correct record of what had transpired during that meeting.

4. Overview of the priorities of the Nicaraguan Presidency up to the 8MSP

Ambassador Estrada began by praising the good work undertaken thus far by previous presidencies and informed the meeting that Nicaragua, in its capacity as President of the 8MSP, would do its utmost to live up to the high standards set by its predecessors.

In this regard, the Ambassador Estrada stated that the work already accomplished by the German presidency would provide a solid base on which to build the Nicaraguan Presidency. Ambassador Estrada further underlined the importance of the Dubrovnik Action Plan as the ambitious framework that would continue to guide the work of the Presidency and the Coordination Committee.

While highlighting Nicaragua's commitment to advance the agenda of the Convention, the President provided an outline of the Presidency's key priorities up to the 8MSP and welcomed any input or comments from the Coordinators.

4.1 Universalization

The President highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong focus on universalization and to target signatory States as a matter of priority. He further explained that Nicaragua would support universalization efforts particularly in two regions; Africa and the Caribbean.

4.2 Stockpile Destruction

The President highlighted the fact that as the first CCM Article 3 deadlines were only a year away (Croatia and Spain in 2018 with Bulgaria, Guinea Bissau and Botswana in 2019) there was need to work towards maintaining the good record attained thus far of complying with this obligation ahead of deadlines. In this regard, the President encouraged the Coordinators on stockpile destruction to assist as necessary these States with impending obligations as a matter of priority in order to ensure full compliance ahead of the stipulated deadlines.

4.3 Transparency Measures

The President emphasized the importance of transparency reporting as one of the most important and effective tools in measuring success in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, he assured Zambia, the new Coordinator on Transparency Measures, that it could count on the

Presidency's full support in encouraging States Parties with outstanding reporting obligations to submit their overdue initial or annual transparency reports.

Ambassador Estrada concluded the overview of the 8MSP Presidency's priorities by reiterating his unconditional support to all the thematic Coordinators in achieving the objectives set out by States Parties in the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP).

5. Interactive Exchange with Committee Members on the Implementation of the DAP up to the 8MSP

The President introduced the interactive exchange session by informing the Coordinators that the Presidency would be for the most part in a listening mode while available to support Coordinators in every way possible. The President then recalled that the thematic Coordinators had existing concept notes that had been elaborated to guide their respective thematic work from the 6MSP to the 7MSP. In this regard, Ambassador Estrada asked them to update these concept notes as relevant to further outline their priorities, strategies and activities up to the 8MSP. He concluded by requesting the Coordinators to present their 2017-2018 concept notes at the next Coordination Committee Meeting to be held in November.

He then invited the ISU-CCM Director to present to the meeting a summary of the implementation status of the Convention.

The Director started her presentation by informing the Committee that the ISU-CCM had put together a summary of CCM implementation status based on statements delivered by States during the 7MSP. She then distributed copies of the summary and expressed her hope that the thematic Coordinators would find the document useful in updating their updated concept notes.

In presenting the summary, the Director highlighted the following points:

5.1 (a) Universalization

With regards to universalization, the Director reported that six States had announced at the 7MSP their intention to ratify or accede to the CCM; namely the Philippines, Haiti, Liberia, the Gambia, South Sudan and Sri Lanka. She noted that these would ideally be among the States to be targeted by the thematic Coordinators in their work up to the 8MSP.

(b) Stockpile Destruction and Retention

The Director pointed out that a number of States Parties, which included Botswana, Bulgaria, Cuba, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland, had reported progress in stockpile destruction or had reaffirmed commitment to complete destruction before their respective treaty deadlines. She added that it would be worthwhile for the Coordinators on Article 3 to follow up with the States Parties that had not provided clear information on the status of implementation of obligations given the impending deadlines.

Additionally, the Director drew particular attention to the issue of retention of cluster munitions for the permitted purposes as stipulated by Article 3.6 of the Convention. She suggested that the Coordinators could consider following up as necessary the States Parties that had not provided updated information on the use of these retained munitions. She further explained that this follow up could include, for instance, States Parties that had previously reported retention for the permitted purpose of training but had then failed to provide regular information on details of the training conducted using such retained cluster munitions.

(c) Clearance

On the topic of clearance of cluster munition remnants, the Director reminded the Meeting that the earliest deadlines for States Parties with regards to this obligation were in 2020 and 2021. Nonetheless, there was still need to start working closely with the States Parties that had such deadlines to ensure that they were on track to be in compliance. Close collaboration would also facilitate the easy identification of the necessary assistance required by these States in fulfilling their obligations. She concluded by commending Mozambique for having declared completion of cluster munition clearance and having fulfilled this requirement 5 years ahead of its deadline.

(d) Victim Assistance

Regarding the theme of victim assistance, the Director specified that during the 7MSP many States had raised concern over the increase in the current number of cluster munition casualties as reported by the 2017 Cluster Munition Monitor. She also mentioned that 1 country had reported on the adoption of a comprehensive law on assistance for landmine victims.

Ambassador Estrada expressed his warm thanks to the ISU-CCM Director for the summary and thereafter invited the Coordinators that had updates already to share with the meeting to do so.

5.2 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education

The Netherlands reported that it looked forward to working closely with the incoming Coordinator Lao PDR as well as with the Nicaraguan Presidency in the coming year to fulfill its responsibilities as Co-coordinator on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education. Speaking on behalf of both Coordinators, the Netherlands reported that preparations for the regional technical workshop in the Balkans that would be held in Sarajevo from 8-10 November 2017 were well underway and that the previous Co-coordinator, Norway, would continue its involvement in the project alongside the Netherlands and Lao PDR. The Netherlands added that the workshop would be relatively modest in size and that the outcomes and lessons learnt would be shared after the workshop.

The President thanked the Netherlands and Lao PDR for their update.

5.3 National Implementation Measures

New Zealand, Coordinator for CCM National Implementation Measures, congratulated Nicaragua for its election as President of the 8MSP. New Zealand informed the meeting that it would be collaborating with Australia in organizing a Regional Conference for the Pacific in Auckland scheduled for February 2018 that would focus on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), but would also cover the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the CCM. New Zealand pointed out that the Pacific region was the most under represented region in both the ATT and CCM Conventions and that Australia and New Zealand would do their best to increase focus and consultation on both treaties in the region. New Zealand also communicated that it would continue to follow up with Vanuatu in the coming months with regards to its previously-expressed desired commitment to joining the CCM.

New Zealand welcomed the engagement of Saint Kitts and Nevis at the 7MSP and highlighted its experience in having enacted specific domestic legislation to implement the CCM within a year of its ratification of the Convention. New Zealand pointed out that the Saint Kitts and Nevis legislation was similar to the Pacific Model, which highlighted useful synergies between the universalization approaches taken in the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

New Zealand also reported that it would be organizing a closed lunchtime side event on 17 October 2017, with the support of Coordinator on Transparency Measures, Zambia and the ISU-CCM, in the margins of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 72) First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. It was further elaborated that the aim of the event would be to encourage States Parties to submit their initial transparency reports and provide information on national implementation measures. New Zealand advised that the invitations had been sent out and that invitees were predominantly States that did not have permanent missions in Geneva.

New Zealand ended its update by informing the meeting that Cameroon had approached the Coordinator on several occasions to propose the co-organization of a sub-regional workshop on national implementation measures to be held in Cameroon for both French and English-speaking States in the region. New Zealand said that it was looking into whether it could support this project and would provide more information to the Meeting at the next Coordination Committee.

Ambassador Estrada thanked New Zealand wholeheartedly for the updates and conveyed his regrets for not being able to attend the lunchtime side event on 17 October in New York.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction

Mozambique, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, congratulated Nicaragua for having been elected to preside over the 8MSP and expressed its gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve on the Coordination Committee. The President responded by communicating his pleasure in having Mozambique as part of the Committee.

6. Update on ISU-CCM finances

Ambassador Estrada notified the meeting that, thus far, 89% of the total 2017 ISU budget had been met in terms of contributions from States Parties and that these were however, from only 42 out of 100 States. He emphasized that there was a lot of potential to increase the amount of contributions and reiterated that as agreed at the 7MSP, personalized letters reminding States to contribute would be sent by the end of October. He added that the letters and 2018 invoices would be made as clear as possible so that these requests could be easily conveyed to respective capitals for clearance. He then invited the ISU-CCM Director to provide more details on the current status of ISU-CCM finances.

The Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, two additional State Parties had made a financial contribution; bringing the total funds contributed to CHF 404'948.26 out of the approved 2017 budget of CHF 455'511. She mentioned that this total did not include the amount of about CHF 32'000 that Italy had announced it would contribute to the ISU Trust Fund during the previous Coordination Committee Meeting. She further elaborated that the budget would likely be met once Italy and France made their contributions. France responded by saying that it would continue to contribute to the ISU Trust Fund as it had done over the years. The Director highlighted that Sweden had also announced that it intended to make a voluntary contribution to the ISU during the 7MSP.

In reacting to the Director's update, the President expressed his gratitude to States Parties that had contributed to the current annual budget and restated his concern that it could be risky for the Convention in the future if the trend of non-contributions persisted. He then inquired of the ISU-CCM Director on the amount available in the working capital reserve. The Director reported that only 1 State had contributed to the working capital reserve in 2017 the amount of CHF 14'000 in addition to the amount of approximately CHF 355'000 that had been carried forward over a period of 3 years. This would bring the total working capital reserve close to the recommended amount of CHF 400'000 agreed to by States Parties during the 7MSP.

The Ambassador suggested that the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Germany, look into approaches to attain the financial targets of the Convention.

In adding to the discussion, Italy wondered if 7a and 7b contributions would be differentiated in the letters that would be sent out, as States like Italy had different funding sources for the respective categories. Germany reminded the meeting that letters had been sent out by the German Presidency in January and June of 2017 and raised the question of whether the letters that would be sent out in October would merely be kind reminders that referred to the letters that were already sent.

In responding to the two queries, the ISU-CCM Director clarified that two separate letters would be sent out to States Parties by the end of October: the first would be a reminder on outstanding 2017 contributions while the second would be to advise on the 2018 budget contributions due. She added that 18 States had already made their contributions towards the 2018 budget and that the due date of March 2018 would be recommended as a deadline for the 2018 contributions in order to ensure that the ISU would be able to meet its workplan objectives and function without interruption.

The President concluded discussion on the Agenda item with a word of thanks to all who had contributed to the discussion on this subject.

7. Any other business

7.1 8MSP dates and venue

The President informed the Meeting that he was still consulting with his capital on the possible dates and venue of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (8MSP). He stated that he would make the announcement after the UNGA 72 First Committee session in November when the matter would likely have been concluded.

7.2 2017 UN First Committee CCM Resolution

Germany reminded the meeting that it would present a new resolution on implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the First Committee during UNGA 72. Germany explained that this new resolution would make reference to the country coalition concept, the structured dialogue and the military-to-military dialogue that were initiated by the German Presidency of the 7MSP.

Germany added that it would be organizing a side event in the margins of the UNGA 72 on 26 October 2017 to gain additional support for the resolution, and that it would be a lunch panel held at German House near the UN premises in New York City. Germany further conveyed its hope that the Nicaraguan Presidency would be able to attend the event and notified that Australia and the CMC would most likely be present. The President responded affirming that he expected to make it for the side event organized by Germany.

In contributing to the discussion, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) pointed out that Cyprus and Uganda, two signatory States, had abstained from voting on the resolution in 2016. CMC asked Coordinators to include these two States in their outreach efforts to gain increased support for the resolution.

7.3 Post 7MSP Updates on the CCM Website and Social Media Platforms

The ISU-CCM Director reported that 95% of all the statements made during the 7MSP had been uploaded onto the CCM website. She further informed that the 7MSP tweets and Facebook posts had been widely retweeted and liked: she highlighted that the profile had had 1,634 visits in the 3 days representing a 268% increase in usual visits; and had registered an additional 19 followers during the same period. She illustrated that the 2 tweets that had earned the most impressions were the EU expression of concern over increased number of cluster munition victims followed by South Sudan's announcement of its intention to accede to the Convention.

8. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on **Monday, 6 November 2017** and that the third Meeting would be held either on **5 or 7 December 2017**. It was resolved that the date would be confirmed at the following meeting.

The President closed the meeting by declaring that he was satisfied that the first meeting under Nicaragua had been successful and reiterated that he looked forward to closely working with the Committee members in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

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