



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday 8th August 2019

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

1. Present:

Sri Lanka - 9MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Chile

Mr. Eduardo Carlé

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Ireland

Mr. Jamie Walsh

Lao PDR

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Ms. Khitchadeth Southida

Mozambique

Mr. Jaime Chissano

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Sweden

Ms. Anna Envall

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Apologies received:

Panama

Peru

Switzerland

Zambia

Apologies not received:

Spain

Implementation Support Unit - Secretariat

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Ms. Elaine Weiss

2. Opening remarks by the President

President of the 9th Meeting of States Parties (9MSP), Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, opened the sixth Coordination Committee Meeting of 2019 and the ninth under the Sri Lankan Presidency with a warm welcome to all present and expressed his appreciation for their presence during a very busy period in the Disarmament calendar. He further emphasized on the need to review the preparation of the Coordination Committee for the forthcoming 9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (9MSP).

The Ambassador extended a special welcome to Mr. Jamie Walsh, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Ireland in Geneva and the new representative of Ireland on the Coordination Committee. He expressed his confidence that Mr. Walsh would continue the good work of his predecessor, Dr. Patricia Cullen, and took the opportunity to reiterate his appreciation of Dr. Cullen's contribution to the work of the Convention.

With the adoption of the provisional Agenda as presented, the President proceeded with the Meeting as outlined.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Coordination Committee Meeting

The Committee adopted the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 as a correct record of what had transpired at that Meeting.

4. Update by the 9MSP Presidency

4.1 9MSP cost-saving measures

The President reported that he had had a telephone discussion with France to discuss the organization of the 9MSP taking into consideration the various cost-saving measures proposed to CCM States parties. A satisfactory agreement had been reached to ensure that the principles of multilingualism would not be affected. He stressed that the task remaining would be to mobilize, as much as is possible, still outstanding finances to cover the translation and interpretation costs of the remaining official Meeting documents.

4.2 Vice-Presidents of the 9MSP

Ambassador Abdul Azeez informed the Meeting that in accordance with established practice, the previous four CCM Presidencies would be proposed for election as Vice-Presidents of the 9MSP. In this regard, notification letters had been prepared and would be dispatched that day. He notified that he would also be meeting with the Vice-Presidents ahead of the 9MSP.

4.3 CCM Universalization

The President reported that he had continued universalization efforts with specific target states. Further to this engagement, the Maldives had requested that a formal letter be sent to its Foreign Minister regarding possible accession to the CCM. He reported that he was pursuing that process with his capital.

5. Update on preparations for the 9MSP

Ambassador Abdul Azeez invited the Director of the ISU to provide the Meeting with an update on preparations for the 9MSP.

The Director reported that all the official Meeting documents had been submitted to UNODA as scheduled and that the link to access these documents had been sent to States Parties and Signatory States earlier that day. She added that all the documents had been translated from English to the other 5 UN languages except for the 2018 ISU Annual Report.

The Director informed that she and the UNODA representative had conducted a preliminary inspection of the meeting rooms allocated to the CCM at the Palais des Nations the previous day in preparation for the 9MSP. The Director recommended that time would have to be strictly managed during the 9MSP in order to keep to the schedule. She proposed that delegations be restricted to 3 minutes each to make their statements. In order to ensure that this measure was well implemented, the ISU had requested UNODA to provide “traffic lights” or any other such mechanism in the room to remind delegates of the time limit. Additionally, delegations would be encouraged to submit their longer statements via email which would then be uploaded onto the CCM website in real time. Additionally, as the informal sessions on Day 2 of the Meeting would not be recorded, the President would need to provide a recap of the deliberations and outcomes of exchanges at the beginning of Day 3.

Regarding the Sponsorship Programme, she reported that 30 States had been invited to request participation support. The group included States Parties with impending deadlines, Signatory States and States not Party. As of that day, 19 delegates from 18 States had responded and travel arrangements had been or were being finalized for them.

The President thanked the ISU Director for her comprehensive update and gave the floor to the UNODA representative to provide additional information.

The UNODA representative reported that due to ongoing renovations that were taking place, the room that had been originally allocated to the 9MSP would not be ready in time and that the Meeting, therefore, would instead take place in Room XX, the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room. Two small consultation rooms behind the plenary room would also be made available, one of which to be used for the Sponsorship Programme. UNODA informed that it had started working on the list of participants of the Meeting.

UNODA recalled that the status of financial contributions as of 31 July 2019 had been published. According to that publication, the cumulative effect of the adopted cost-cutting measures and additional payments provided a balance of USD 24’970, which could be used to translate the 2018 ISU Annual Report, the only remaining document available in English only. Furthermore, the UN Financial Services had informed that in order to facilitate payments of small receivables from States, these amounts could be deposited directly into the CCM account at the UBS branch located at the Palais des Nations. Contributing to the discussion, Austria expressed its support for the approach

where States could contribute directly to the CCM UBS account, as that would simplify the process and reduce bank fees on small payments.

The President committed to engaging bilaterally with observer States in the sidelines of the 9MSP to raise their awareness on the requirement for them to pay for participation in formal Meetings of the Convention. He reported that some Observer States had previously commented that they were unaware of this obligation or had not expected to be invoiced a high amount for participating in the MSP.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez further reported that he had been contacted by a media organization that had significant readership, especially in developing countries, that was interested in being sponsored to cover news on the 9MSP. The President saw this as an avenue to increase the publicity of the Convention and promote universalization to targeted countries. He added that the organization dealt with humanitarian issues including disarmament. He queried the Coordination Committee for its opinion on the journalist benefitting from the CCM Sponsorship Programme.

In response, the ISU Director advised that States Parties contributing to the Sponsorship Programme would need to be consulted before it could cover costs of media representatives as most donors had specific instructions on potential beneficiaries. Echoing the Director, Germany conveyed that while it was in favour of adapting to new ways of promoting the Convention, he reminded that it would be better to request individual donor states to cover such costs than to ask the ISU to consider such requests which were not in line with the existing guidelines of the Sponsorship Programme. Germany cautioned that there could be many potential media candidates and dealing with them could be a substantial burden for the ISU. Germany added that had there been sufficient time, it could have considered mobilization of funds for such an initiative.

6. Updates by thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 9MSP

6.1 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Austria & Mozambique)

Mozambique, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, informed that the Coordinators had finalized consultations with Bulgaria and that the first extension request under Article 3 was ready for consideration at the 9MSP. The representative of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) enquired on the appropriate time for CMC to present its intervention with respect to extension requests. The ISU Director clarified that the extension request would be presented by the Analysis Group on Day 1 of the 9MSP, during which the requesting State could respond to any enquiries for further clarification while the informal exchange on Day 2 would provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion that would contribute to the final decision that would be made on Day 3.

Mozambique further informed that Peru had notified the Coordinators that it was in the process of preparing its extension request. The Coordinators also intended to begin engagement with South Africa to ascertain the status of its implementation of Article 3. While South Africa's deadline was only in 2023, the Coordinators recognized the benefits of beginning the process early and would, therefore, be meeting with the delegation from capital at the 9MSP to establish whether it was on track or not. In concluding the update, Mozambique conveyed their hope that South Africa would

submit its still outstanding 2018 annual transparency report. In contributing to the update, Austria expressed the Coordinators' appreciation to the President for having sent a letter to Guinea-Bissau requesting information to clarify its non-compliance with Article 3 obligations but had still not received a response.

In contributing to the ensuing discussion, the President stressed that there was a need to pursue an informal approach in engaging with Guinea-Bissau on this matter, for example, by involving a European Union representative in the region. He informed that he would meet with the Coordinators to decide on the next steps. Mozambique reminded that engagement with the Guinea-Bissau Mission in New York had been positive and identified that the challenge was acquiring information from its capital. In its contribution, the ICRC representative asked how the Coordination Committee would approach the issue of Guinea-Bissau's possible noncompliance with Article 3. She highlighted that it was timely to consider this in light of the first Article 3 extension request being submitted for consideration at the 9MSP.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez reminded that the case of Guinea-Bissau was a unique one as it still had not submitted its initial transparency report. He acknowledged that there was a need to expend efforts into helping Guinea-Bissau comprehend the issues and move towards fulfilling its immediate CCM obligations and stressed that the overarching goal was to get the State party to participate in Meetings and reengage with the CCM community. Contributing to the discussion, the CMC representative reported that CMC was confident that Guinea-Bissau possessed cluster munition stockpiles despite not having submitted its initial transparency report. She pointed out that there was a need to alert the State of the gravity of not fulfilling its Article 3 obligations. Responding to the CMC, the President stated that he had taken note of the concerns raised and advised that the issue of noncompliance would have to be discussed further at the Second Review Conference (2RC) and the experience from engagement with Guinea-Bissau could be discussed further. He emphasized that it was important to be prudent and delicate when employing strategies to restore Guinea-Bissau's engagement with the CCM community.

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

Sweden, reporting on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, reminded the Meeting that its co-Coordinator, Lao PDR, would be stepping down at the 9MSP to be replaced by Montenegro. However, the ISU Director clarified that as Afghanistan had sent a Note Verbale to communicate its decision on assuming the position of Coordinator on Clearance before Montenegro had done so, it would be joining Sweden. Instead, Montenegro had accepted to instead join the Netherlands as the incoming Coordinator on International Cooperation and Assistance.

6.3 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

The new representative of Ireland thanked the Meeting for the warm welcome extended to him. He further stated that the CCM was one of the portfolios that he had worked on at the start of his career with the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2008 and that he was pleased to be involved in its work again. On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Ireland reported that the multi-year concept note submitted by his predecessor was a good basis for continuing work on this important thematic.

6.4 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

The Netherlands, on behalf of the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators, reiterated the commitment of the thematic Coordinators to promote the Country Coalition Concept. The Netherlands reported that the Coordinators had met with capital based Lao PDR representatives in the margins of the Meeting of Experts on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and that they had indicated that back in their capital there were questions on how a Country Coalition operated. To provide additional information, the Coordinators would organize a closed meeting in the sidelines of the 9MSP to address some of the questions Lao PDR may have on the establishment and operation of a Country Coalition.

The Netherlands ended the update by stating that the cooperation between the Netherlands and Peru as co-Coordinators had been outstanding and that it looked forward to continuing in the same manner with Montenegro in the coming year.

6.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq reported that since its last update to the Committee, Benin had submitted its initial transparency report, leaving 12 States Parties with overdue initial reports which included Namibia that had just missed its deadline. Contributing to the discussion, the ISU Director communicated that Namibia's disarmament focal person at the Permanent Mission of Namibia in Geneva had informed the ISU that he had been following up on the matter with his capital which had informed that the Namibian delegation would be making a positive announcement at the 9MSP.

6.6 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand reported that one of the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific regional workshop was that, as reported by the ISU Director, several States not Party that had participated in the workshop would be attending the 9MSP as observer States. She also informed that the ISU had finalized the report on the regional workshop and that it had since been uploaded onto the CCM website.

7. Update of the Implementation Support Unit

7.1 Update on the financing of the ISU

The ISU Director reported that since the last Meeting, 5 additional States Parties had made their 2019 contributions, bringing the total number of contributing States to 39 out of the 103 that were invoiced. This brought to approximately 95% the amounts collected so far and with the pledges made by 2 countries, the contributions would likely exceed the year's budget. Given this possible surplus in contributions, the Director informed that she intended to request for the approval of the 9MSP to transfer an amount of about CHF170'000 carried over from 2017 to the Working Capital Reserve (WCR) to bring the buffer amount to approximately CHF552'000. She explained that she however, not request that the smaller carry over from 2018 be allocated to the WCR so that the ISU would have some funds available to continue operations at the beginning of 2020.

7.2 Members of 2019-2020 Coordination Committee

The Director reported on the full list of incoming Coordinators with Namibia taking the place of Germany and Coordinator on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. Mexico would be joining Spain as Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Afghanistan and Sweden as Coordinators on Clearance with Montenegro and the Netherlands as Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance. Therefore, only two vacancies remained to be filled: Coordinators on Universalization and Stockpile Destruction. Responding to the update, Mozambique offered to approach another African State to consider succeeding Mozambique as Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction.

In the ensuing discussion, the Director clarified that according to the Guidelines on the positions on Coordination Committee, Coordinators were mandated to work on a particular thematic for 2 years and to thereafter stand aside to allow other States parties not already on the Committee to join the thematic Working Groups. This arrangement not only encouraged diversity in the composition of the Committee but also facilitated the infusion of fresh perspectives and dynamics into the Committee. Nonetheless, in exceptional circumstances when there were no volunteering States outside of the Committee to take up vacancies, it was accepted that a state whose term had come to an end could join another thematic working group.

8. Any other business

8.1 Launch of the 2019 Cluster Munition Monitor

The CMC representative informed that the latest edition of the Cluster Munition Monitor would be launched virtually on 29th August 2019 and the information in the edition would be based on the last reporting period. The publication would be made available for download on the day of the launch and a briefing on key findings would be held in the margins of the 9MSP during lunchtime on 2 September 2019. She reminded that this particular side event had been organized every year in the margins of the MSP or Review Conference since the CCM entered into force.

8.2 Process for the selection of the Presidency of the CCM

Ambassador Abdul Azeez reminded that he had invited the Coordination Committee to reflect on the process for the selection of the CCM Presidency during the previous meeting. He highlighted that according to the document submitted by Germany on the *Establishment of a Process for the Selection of the Presidency of the CCM*, it had been the responsibility of the incumbent President to find the future Presidency. In response, Germany reminded that even though the document was submitted at the 8MSP, the options presented in the document remained the status quo. The President wondered if another option would be to select the next presidency from within the Coordination Committee as these were States already fully engaged in the work of the Convention.

Germany commended the President for raising the subject, stating that it was timely to do so even though the urgency of this issue had dissipated due to the Convention's favourable position of already having a President-Designate. Germany proposed that perhaps there was need to narrow down the available options and urged States Parties to resume this discussion at the 9MSP with the aim of taking a concrete decision at the 2RC. The President expressed his agreement, adding that the

following year would be an opportune time for the CCM community to reflect on long-term matters related to the Convention.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the last Coordination Committee Meeting before the 9MSP would be held on Thursday, 29th August 2019 to review meeting arrangements.

Details pertaining to that Meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the proposed day.

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