



6TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday, 21 January 2016

at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, from 15:30 – 16:45 hours

1. PRESENT:

The Netherlands – 6MSP President

H.E. Henk Cor Van der Kwast - Chairman
Mr. Mark Verstedden
Mr. Maarten Broekhof
Ms. Dorien de Keyzer

Croatia – Immediate Past President

Dr. Dijana Pleština
H.E. Vesna Batistić Kos
Mr. Hrvoje Debač
Ms. Zlata Penić-Ivanko

Australia

H.E. Mr. John Quinn
Mr. Hugh Watson

Austria

Col. Peter Steiner

Costa Rica

Mr. Norman Lizano Ortiz

Czech Republic

Ms. Markéta Homolková

Ecuador

H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
Mr. Leon Aviles Salgado

France

Ms. Marie-Gaelle Robles

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mexico

H.E. Juan Raúl Heredia Acosta
Mr. Victor Martinez

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Norway

Ms. Thea Mjelstad

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munitions Coalition

Ms. Amelie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - CCM ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba
Ms. Liliana Romao Mota

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Chile

APOLOGIES NOT RECEIVED

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The first Coordination Committee meeting of 2016 under the Presidency of the Netherlands was opened by the President, Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast. He began the meeting by warmly welcoming all the Coordination Committee Members present and thanking Croatia for the good work it had done during its presidency starting with the success of the First Review Conference in Dubrovnik. He further applauded the outcome of the conference in particular the Dubrovnik Political Declaration.

In response, the immediate past President, Dr. Dijana Pleština conveyed the gratitude of Croatia at the honor bestowed on it to preside over the 1RC and the Convention. She thanked the Committee for the support during the presidency and expressed her delight that the very capable delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands had taken over the presidency. The President also thanked the Director of the Implementation Support Unit, for all the assistance rendered to Croatia during its presidency. She further informed the meeting that she had retired and had handed over the reins to her deputy director, Mr. Hrvoje Debač, with whom she had worked with very well. She assured the Committee that it could expect the same level of cooperation and commitment from him.

The members of the Coordination Committee joined the President in thanking Croatia for having successfully presided over the Convention.

3. Planning and Priorities of the Dutch Presidency

The CCM President began by informing the Meeting that the presidency had issued a statement expressing its concern on the reported use of cluster munitions in Yemen as conveyed in the statement of the United Nations Secretary General dated 8 January 2016. The President informed the Meeting that his statement was available on the Convention's website.

He further gave an overview of some major priorities of the Dutch presidency up to the 6th Meeting of States Parties (6MSP). The priorities were as follows:-

1. The presidency would use the Dubrovnik Action Plan as the basis for the effective and efficient implementation of the CCM;
2. The presidency was going to be a result oriented period with a focus on the concrete implementation of the Convention. This would place a particular emphasis on clearance, universalization and the other key aspects of the Convention;
3. To engage more with implementing NGOs to enhance cooperation and further the successes already achieved in areas such as mapping and target setting;
4. The Netherlands would continue to build on the good work commenced by Croatia on the first CCM Resolution during the UN First Committee in New York. He commended Croatia for

the very successful result obtained in the 2015 vote on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”.

5. In accordance with the decision taken in Dubrovnik on the financing of the ISU, the presidency would be sending a letter to all States to contribute towards the ISU budget. This would ensure that the ISU was fully functional in order to meet its mandate.

Mexico welcomed the result-oriented approach of the presidency and offered its full support in the realization of this objective.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 4 December 2015

As there were no corrections to be made, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of what had transpired during the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2015.

5. Brainstorming session on the effective and efficient implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan up to the 6MSP

The President then invited the Coordination Committee members to share thoughts on how best to implement the Convention during the period up to the 6MSP.

a. Universalization

Concerning universalization of the CCM, Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Ambassador María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés speaking on behalf of the Universalization Coordinators, Ecuador and Zambia, reported that while the Convention had achieved a lot in the period between the 5MSP and 1RC, there was still much to do in raising the number of States Parties by the 6MSP. In this regard, the Coordinators planned to hold bilateral meetings with nine States that were on the verge of ratification or accession. The targeted States would be Angola, DRC, Serbia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Namibia, Thailand, South Sudan and Uganda. It was reported that DRC, Madagascar, Palau and South Sudan only remained with administrative procedures to complete their ratification/accession. It was also proposed that the President of the Convention join in on the bilateral meetings to further boost the effort.

Further plans included the possibility of a series of workshops be held regionally to boost Convention numbers. The Coordinators were eager to liaise with the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures on a possible joint workshop in Africa to combine universalization with national implementation measures since the two were closely connected. They also reported that the CMC would assist in the facilitation of a meeting between the Coordinators, the ISU and the African Union on the margins of the 19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors to consider the joint hosting of a universalization workshop in Africa.

It was also reported that Ecuador would be hosting the annual summit of 33 Caribbean and Latin American States from 27 January 2016; with the Prime Minister and Vice Foreign Minister expected to use the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings to boost accession and ratification in

the region. The targeted 9 States in the region included; Haiti and Jamaica to ratify and Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Santa Lucia, Dominica and Suriname to possibly accede to the CCM as soon as possible. On its part, Zambia would check on which regional meetings (SADC, COMESA, and AU) were taking place where CCM ratification/accession could be discussed or high level bilateral meetings held on the sidelines. This would be a follow up to the role it had undertaken as President of the 4MSP.

The CMC informed the Meeting that Universalization of the Convention and its norms continued to be its focus for the year and that it had the same list of target countries as the Coordinators on Universalization. It also suggested that the Solomon Islands should be added to the list as they had given a positive indication of joining the Convention prior to the 1RC. The CMC further urged the Coordination Committee members to intensify stigmatization of the use of cluster munitions. It expressed concern that already in 2016 there had been use of the banned weapon in Yemen.

In its contribution, the ICRC stated that universalization of the CCM was one of its priority activities for 2016. As such, it intended to continue its engagement with States not yet party to the CCM, including those where ratification was likely to take longer, in order to help advance the process. In particular, ICRC hoped to organize several events to help further consideration of the CCM in South East Asia, where Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam are not yet parties.

In summing up the discussion, the President expressed his eagerness to join in the bilateral meetings proposed by the Coordinators and also welcomed the proposal of organizing regional workshops to push the universalization agenda.

b. Stockpile Destruction and Retention

The Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, France and Mexico, informed the Committee that there was nothing new to report since the last meeting as they would be meeting the following week to strategize on how to continue with their work in the implementation of the Convention.

c. Victim Assistance

Permanent Representative of Australia, Ambassador John Quinn, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Australia and Chile, informed the meeting that they were continuing to work on guidelines to integrate victim assistance into national plans. The workshop planned to support this effort had been postponed and was now slated for April or May 2016, in the margins of another scheduled meeting that would have a good representation of experts from capitals. Their participation would be valuable for the final product to be a relevant guide for them on the ground. The meeting was also informed that the Coordinators on Victim Assistance would continue to collaborate with the Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance on the hosting of the workshop and development of the guidelines.

The Coordinators on Victim Assistance reported also that letters to follow up on the DAP objectives had already been prepared and would be sent out to States Parties.

d. Clearance and Risk Reduction

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction, Norway informed the Committee that there was nothing new to report since the last Coordination Committee meeting.

e. Cooperation and Assistance

Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance, Austria and Iraq, reported that they would continue to work with the Coordinators on Victim Assistance on a joint workshop on victim assistance guidelines. They were also planning meetings with the ICRC and CMC on how to better achieve their objectives. Furthermore, alongside the UN National Directors Meeting scheduled for February 2016, they would hold separate meetings targeting affected and donor States. The outcome of the meetings would thereafter be incorporated into the proposed Working Paper on Victim Assistance.

f. Reporting

Coordinator on Reporting, Costa Rica, reported that it was continuing to work with States that still had to submit their overdue Article 7 Reports. He informed the Meeting that these efforts were continuing to yield positive results. In this regard, since the last meeting, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Zambia had submitted reports and were up to date with their transparency reporting obligation.

g. National Implementation Measures

Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (NIM), New Zealand, reported that the ISU had made exceptional progress in the collection of data on State Parties current status on Article 9 implementation in accordance with the first phase of the implementation of the DAP. The objective of this primary activity was to compile a comprehensive collation of NIM-related information provided by States Parties in their Article 9 and Article 7 reports which would then allow for targeted follow up with States Parties that might need further assistance to comply with the Convention obligation.

In order not to overwhelm States Parties with numerous letters from different Coordinators following up on their respective thematic objectives, New Zealand proposed that there should be coordination so that States did not receive multiple letters relating to different CCM obligations.

The Coordinator also reported that preparations were underway for New Zealand's project to support the development of national legislation in certain African States, which looked likely to take place in early May. New Zealand also noted the proposal of the Coordinators on Universalisation to hold a workshop in Africa in May 2016, perhaps aligned with another already scheduled meeting in the region, and expressed its willingness to work with the Coordinators on the possibility of the workshop also covering NIM-related issues.

h. General Status and Operation of the Convention

The Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Czech Republic and Switzerland, informed the Meeting that they had nothing new to report since the last meeting but that they intended to work closely with the Presidency in executing their mandate under the Convention.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Update on ISU Staff Recruitment

The President invited the CCM ISU Director to provide the meeting with an update on the process of recruitment of staff for the ISU. The Director reported that she was still receiving applications as the deadline for submissions was 31 January 2016. She hoped that by the next meeting a suitable candidate would have been identified and hired. The Director also gave an overview of the financial situation of the ISU which at that time had sufficient funds to cover salaries for 2 staff and other implementation activities for the entire current year.

6.2. Next CCM Presidency

The CCM President announced that he had already started to consider possible candidates to take on the role of 7MSP President. He pointed out that taking into consideration equitable regional representation; the next presidency would ideally be from the Asia region.

6.3 Visibility of Work by Coordinators

The President encouraged all the Coordinators to highlight the good work they were doing by submitting reports of any activities undertaken by them to the ISU which would upload these onto the Convention website. This would exhibit to a wider global audience the concrete implementation efforts being made by the Committee.

7. Dates of the Next CC Meetings

It was agreed that the next two meetings of the Coordination Committee would be held at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, 4th Floor Conference Room, at 10:00 hours on the following dates:-

Thursday, 3 March 2016 and

Thursday, 28 April 2016
