

MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 10 November 2015

at the Maison de la Paix

from 08:30 – 10:00 hours

1. PRESENT:

Croatia - President

Dr. Dijana Pleština - Chairperson
Ambassador Vesna Batistić Kos
Lt. Col. Marijan Jozić
Mr. Hrvoje Debač
Ms. Zlata Penić-Ivanko

The Netherlands, President- Designate

Mr. Mark Versteden

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Austria

Mr. Thomas Zehetner

Chile

Mr. Fernando Guzman

Costa Rica

Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez
Mr. Norman Lizano Ortiz

Czech Republic

Ms. Markéta Homolková

Ecuador

Mr. Léon Aviles

France

Ms. Marie-Gaëlle Robles
Ms. Camille Pintout

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mexico

Mr. Víctor M. Martínez Orta Camacho

Norway

Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
Ms Małgorzata Hauge

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masmejean
Mr. François Garraux

Zambia

Ambassador Encyla Sinjela
Mr. Samson Lungo

CMC

Ms. Amelie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - CCM ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba
Ms. Liliana Romao Mota

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

New Zealand

APOLOGIES NOT RECEIVED

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The first Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Convention on Cluster Munitions after the First Review Conference was opened by its President, Dr. Dijana Pleština. She warmly welcomed all those present to the first Coordination Committee under Croatia's presidency and took cognizance of the fact that the period after Dubrovnik had been busy for most delegations which had to be in New York for the United Nations First Committee sessions for most of the month of October. This resulted in minimal activities being undertaken by the various thematic Coordinators. Nonetheless, as some work had been done, she would give them the opportunity to provide updates to the Committee.

The President then introduced the Agenda for the meeting.

3. Update by the President

The President gave an overview of some major developments regarding the Convention since the First Review Conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 7 – 11 September 2015. She announced that one of the major developments since the 1RC had been the addition of two new States to the Convention – Somalia and Mauritius – on 30 September and 1st October 2015 respectively. This brought the number of States Parties that had joined the Convention to 118; 98 as States Parties and 20 as Signatories.

The President also reported that on 20 October 2015, Croatia had submitted to the 1st Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly a resolution on the "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions". The Resolution was co-sponsored by 29 States including some that had objected to particular language in the Dubrovnik Political Declaration. When the Resolution was put to the vote on 4 November 2015, a total of 130 States voted in support; 40 abstained and only 2 voted against it (Russian Federation and Zimbabwe). She was confident that the overwhelming positive response to the resolution would translate into more countries joining the Convention. In response, the representative of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) reported that they would continue to engage States in New York ahead of the upcoming General Assembly vote in early December targeting in particular signatory States that had abstained in the earlier vote.

The President also expressed concern on continued reports about documented and alleged use of cluster munitions in Syria and Yemen. She emphasized the need for the norm against the weapons to be further strengthened.

She also made mention of the work that Croatia had been undertaking within its territory to safeguard the wave of migrants and refugees crossing through the country on their way to other European countries in search of a safe haven. Croatia was being used as a transit route and there was concern that some of these may go close to mine suspected areas. In this regard, the Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC), National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Croatian Red Cross and Office for Mine Action had put in place mitigation measures

(mine danger signs, mine risk leaflets, media appeals etc.) and she was happy to report that there had been no reports of any mine accidents.

4. **Updates from Coordinators of the thematic Working Groups**

The President invited the Coordinators of the different thematic Working Groups to provide any updates on any work that may have been undertaken or was being planned for during the period up to the 6th Meeting of States Parties. As Ecuador had requested to leave the meeting early to attend to another obligation, the Presidency adjusted the order of reporting to allow the Coordinators on Universalization to speak first and then returned to the order according to the Agenda.

a. **Universalization**

The Coordinators on Universalization, Zambia and Ecuador, reported that they had started on their work of following up the States that had been written to prior to the First Review Conference. In this regard, with the assistance of the ISU, the Coordinators had invited 10 States to a meeting to follow up on the process of ratification/accession of those States. The Coordinators met with representatives of Indonesia, Madagascar and Uganda who provided updates. Madagascar reported that its ratification was imminent, Uganda that the ratification process was on track pending Parliament's approval while in the case of Indonesia, the internal process continued with national consultation among the pertinent institutions. The Coordinators informed further that, with the valuable support of the ISU, they would continue to follow-up on the ratification/accession process with other target countries.

It was proposed that in the future, together with the Presidency, the Coordinators should produce joint press releases after every ratification or accession as an encouragement to others. It was further proposed that letters also be issued in cases of alleged or confirmed use of cluster munitions to express concern and to maintain momentum of the norm against the weapons.

Ecuador reported that after attending the Conference on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris from 30 November, the Foreign Minister of Ecuador would travel to Geneva for other engagements. It was expected that he would use the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with States that are on the verge of ratification/accession to encourage them to conclude the processes as soon as possible.

b. **Update of the President-Designate**

The Netherlands reported that the possible dates of the 6th Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) and venue were still being discussed with the ISU and the UNODA and that once these elements were established the information would be shared with the Coordination Committee.

The President-Designate further reported that he was still undertaking consultation with both the ISU and the GICHD to finalize the modalities of the implementation of the ISU Financing Decision adopted during the 1RC. The intention was to start implementing the Decision as soon as possible.

The President acknowledged the good work done by Netherlands in New York to garner a lot of support for the CCM Resolution.

c. General Status and Operation of the Convention

Switzerland, together with Co-Coordinator Czech Republic, reported to the Meeting that they were reviewing their role under this thematic area as previous Coordinators for general status and operation of the convention had assumed varying functions under the Convention. Furthermore, they reported that they would see value in meeting with both the Presidency and the President-Designate in order to clarify their role. In this regard, going forward, they would be working closely with the presidencies.

d. Victim Assistance

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance (Australia and Chile), Australia reported that the Coordinators together with the ISU had identified from the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) some time-bound activities that would be focus of the work in the coming year. The two actions would be for States that had not yet identified victim assistance focal points to do so by the end of 2016 and for States that had not developed national policy plans to do so by 2018. In this regard, the Coordinators with the assistance of the ISU had identified the States to be prioritized for follow-up.

The Coordinators further reported that in collaboration with Handicap International they were considering developing a working paper on an integrated approach to VA which might be unveiled at the 6MSP. In this regard, together with the Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance, the hosting of at least two workshops in 2016 was being considered to deliberate on the working paper ahead of the 6MSP.

e. Clearance and Risk Reduction

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction (Norway and Bosnia and Herzegovina), Norway, reported that as global funds were limited there was need to better target the available funds towards actual work on the ground with particular focus on survey and mapping to reduce on the tendency of affected States to report on grossly inflated contaminated areas. The coordinators further reported that they planned to take advantage of the presence of several operators attending the 14th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines to commence preparations for a possible consultative workshop in the spring of 2016.

In response to the President's enquiry into the availability of statistics on the current comparative cost estimates on the manufacture versus removal of cluster munitions/mines in the field, it was highlighted that such statistics were no longer being encouraged as they have to be based on a lot of factors including the nature of the contaminated terrain which could vary

widely even in the same country. As such it was very challenging to arrive at a practical figure and therefore not recommended.

f. Stockpile Destruction and Retention

France, on behalf of its co-Coordinator Mexico, reported that overall the obligation on stockpile destruction was being implemented well. The Coordinators reminded the meeting of the various actions in the DAP that their plan of work would be based on though no actual work had yet been undertaken.

g. Cooperation and Assistance

Austria and Iraq, the Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance, reported that they had also held meetings with the ISU to plan on their work in the year ahead. Additionally, they had also held meetings with the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction as well as on Victim Assistance to explore the possibility of facilitating the hosting of joint activities to enhance the implementation of the Convention. In particular, they were considering, together with the Coordinators on Victim Assistance and Handicap International, the possibility of issuing a working paper on an integrated approach to victim assistance in the context of mines and ERWs and the possible organization of a workshop on this topic in the first half of 2016. Furthermore, the Coordinators expressed their enthusiasm to work closely with both the President and President-Designate in the execution of their mandates.

h. Reporting

Costa Rica, in its role as Coordinator on Reporting, reported to the meeting that with the assistance of the ISU it had written and sent out personalized letters reminding States Parties of the need to submit either overdue initial Transparency Reports or late 2014 Annual Reports by 31st January 2016. The letters were sent to approximately 60 countries. In the letters, reference was made to the obligations under Article 7 of the CCM as well as to the relevant sections in the Dubrovnik Action Plan to reinforce the need for reporting. The Coordinator hoped that 2016 would record better reporting rates.

The President indicated that she was prepared to assist in any way to ensure that the current reporting rates improved.

5. Update on the recruitment of CCM ISU staff

The President invited the Director of the Implementation Support Unit to provide the meeting with an update on the progress being made in the recruitment of the other ISU staff. The Director commenced her presentation with a brief overview of the current financial situation of the ISU to provide guidance to the discussion.

She reported that the job vacancies had been prepared in accordance with the decisions taken by States Parties at previous meetings and that the positions were ready for announcement as soon as the approval of the meeting was given. She further reported that based on the expected carryover of funds from 2015 there would be sufficient finances to cover two full time positions – those of the Director and the Implementation Support Specialist (ISS). She proposed that the recruitment of the Implementation Support Assistant be deferred to the middle of 2016 to ensure that there would be sufficient funds to cover the position for the rest of the year.

In the discussion that ensued, one State expressed its view that the ISU salaries were much higher than average compared to others engaged in similar work and that a revision was therefore necessary. In response, other States highlighted that it was important to ensure that the level of remuneration of staff should be commensurate to the quality of service required of the ISU. They further emphasized the need for the ISU staff to be remunerated at a level that ensured that they could maintain an acceptable standard of living given that Geneva was a very expensive location. The meeting was also reminded that the current salary scale was part of the existing hosting Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD.

Some Committee members further stressed the need for the ISU to commence working at full capacity to ensure that the mandate it was charged with by the States Parties was carried out. It was further highlighted that the ISU Director could not continue to work on her own if she was to provide the States Parties with the expected implementation support.

In discussing the competencies required of the ISU staff, the President requested that the Committee members forward their comments to the Director to incorporate into the vacancy announcements before the following meeting.

The Meeting agreed that the recruitment of the 1.5 staff be put on hold pending the outcome of the discussion between the President Designate and the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on the rationalization of ISU salaries based on expected synergies between the two ISUs.

In summarizing the discussion, the President proposed that a decision on the need for an interim member of staff to be employed to assist the Director until the permanent staff was recruited should be taken at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

6. Any Other Business

The President seized the opportunity to thank all the Coordinators for their support before and in Dubrovnik. She once again extended special thanks to Costa Rica, both to Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez and Mr. Norman Lizano Ortiz, for their excellent work in bringing States Parties to the First Review Conference of the CCM in Dubrovnik. The President also thanked the Director of the Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba, with whom she had had a close working relationship from the beginning.

There being no other business, the President closed the Meeting and wished the Committee well until the next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was proposed and agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held on Friday, 4 December 2015 from 08:30h to 09:4500h, at the Maison de la Paix, 6th Floor Conference Room (Chemin Eugène Rigot, Building 2C/Petale 3).
