



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 27 September 2016

at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, from 15:30 – 16:30 hours

1. PRESENT:

Germany - 7MSP President

H.E. Michael Biontino
Mr. Toralf Pilz

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson
Ms. Thuy Nguyen

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorovic

Costa Rica

Ms. Diana Murillo

Croatia

Ms. Ines Sprem Scigliano

France

Ms. Marie-Gaëlle Robles

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Italy

Ms. Palma D'Ambrosio
Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Mexico

Mr. Víctor Martínez

Netherlands

Mr. Mark Verstedden

Norway

Ms. Malgorzata Hauge

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munition Coalition

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

ISU CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Apologies not received

Chile

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The first Coordination Committee meeting under the German presidency was opened by the President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP), Ambassador Michael Biontino of the Federal Republic of Germany, with a warm welcome to all the Committee members. The President praised the results achieved so far by previous presidencies and informed the meeting that Germany, in its capacity as President of the 7MSP, would do its utmost to live up to the high standards set by its predecessors.

The President then presented the 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 1st September 2016

The draft Minutes, which had been circulated in advance, were approved without comments as a correct record of what had transpired during the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 1st September 2016.

4. Overview of the priorities of the German Presidency up to the 7MSP

After thanking the Netherlands for its outstanding leadership, the President shared a general overview of Germany's priorities up to the 7MSP. The President stated that the progress accomplished by the Dutch presidency and the decisions agreed on in Dubrovnik provided a solid base to build on. He informed the meeting that he would share preliminary ideas and that he would welcome any input or comments from the Coordinators.

The President underlined the importance of the Dubrovnik Action Plan as an ambitious framework that would continue to guide the work of the Presidency and the Coordination Committee. In this regard, he outlined to the Committee that there were a series of specific tasks that needed to be tackled prior to the 7MSP.

4.1 Universalization

While recognizing that 100 States Parties to the Convention has been a good achievement, the President noted that this was not much when compared to other disarmament Conventions. He highlighted that one of the Presidency's key priorities for the year would be to employ a double-track approach to get as many States on board the Convention. This would entail engaging on one hand States not party that have been difficult to approach in the past as well as continue on the other hand to engage with those that are more likely to join the Convention and Signatory States through all appropriate fora, both in Geneva and in capital cities. The President acknowledged that it was crucial to first convince those States willing to join.

The President emphasized that this approach would concentrate on intermediate actions which would be developed together with the Coordinators on Universalization, France and Zambia. He elaborated that this approach would consist in developing a strategy to approach major possessors and producers of cluster munitions, such as China, India, Russia, and the United States, while continuing to engage with other States not party and signatory States to encourage prompt ratification.

The President concluded by reiterating the importance of maintaining high standards, standing up for the Convention's principles and being proactive.

4.2 Clearance and Stockpile Destruction

The President informed the meeting that the second priority under the German Presidency would be to enhance cluster munitions remnants clearance and destruction of any stockpiles. While acknowledging that a lot of progress had already been made in the implementation of Articles 3 and 4, Germany would explore ways in which it could be of assistance to States which were not on track with their obligations. He recommended that there be a more proactive approach towards addressing issues of inadequate capacity and finances which hinder effective implementation of these obligations. He encouraged the Coordination Committee, in particular the Coordinators in charge of these thematic areas to play an active role in helping States stay on track to complete all clearance and destruction commitments in conformity with their respective deadlines stipulated in the Convention.

The President emphasized the need to explore innovative ways forward, especially for those States that were perhaps not joining the Convention because they felt that they did not have the necessary financial or the technical capacity to fulfill the Convention's obligations. The President mentioned as an example the case of Vietnam.

4.3 ISU Financial Situation

The President reminded the Meeting that, as per the decision made by States Parties during the First Review Conference, the current financial model on financing the CCM ISU would be reviewed at the 7MSP. He stressed that a large number of States still needed to meet their financial obligations and requested the Coordinators to share any ideas they might have on how to deal with the matter. The President mentioned possible approaches including employing transparent strategies concerning those States that had not yet paid their contributions or looking at specific strategies implemented by other Conventions.

4.4 Reporting

The President further elaborated on yet another key priority area under the Convention, namely transparency measures. He shared his concern with the prevailing low rate of timely reporting and emphasized that there was an urgent need to tackle this issue in the months to come.

4.5 National Implementation Measures

The President also mentioned as a matter of priority the need to enhance efforts with regards to national implementation measures.

4.6 Victim Assistance

The President referred to victim assistance as yet another priority area to focus on during the year ahead.

In concluding his presentation of the overview, Ambassador Biontino reiterated that these were preliminary thoughts and that the Presidency would welcome any ideas, feedback or comments. He further insisted that although this was the first round of discussions, he would expect the Coordination Committee to set clear targets and objectives under each thematic area during its next meeting to be held in early November. Finally, the President mentioned that a date for the next Coordination Committee meeting would be shared soon, taking into consideration the already full humanitarian disarmament agenda of the coming weeks.

5. Interactive exchange with Committee members on the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan up to the 7MSP

The President then invited the Coordinators to briefly introduce themselves and thereafter share their ideas and/or plans up to the 7MSP in regard to their respective thematic mandates.

5.1 Universalization (France and Zambia)

Speaking on behalf of the universalization coordinators, Zambia congratulated Ambassador Biontino on his appointment as President of the 7MSP. He then explained that this being the first Coordination Committee meeting after the 6MSP, the Coordinators had not yet had the chance to meet and discuss their strategy for the coming year. However, Zambia explained that together with the incoming Coordinator, France, it would build on what had been achieved so far and engage with as many States as possible. France added that the approach set out by the President to enhance universalization efforts was welcomed.

The President thanked both Coordinators and suggested that they develop a concept paper which would outline a strategy on how to push the States that could be more easily convinced to join as well as how to engage those that could not be pushed easily. He asked that they make themselves available in the following weeks to work on the two-pronged approach together with the presidency and later present the strategy to the Coordination Committee at its next meeting.

5.2 Victim Assistance (Chile and Italy)

Italy expressed its pleasure at being part of the Coordination Committee for the first time. The Coordinator explained that Italy was, however, not new to the thematic area as it had already been involved in the work led by Australia and Chile in the May 2016 workshop on *An integrated approach to Victim Assistance*. Italy concluded by saying that it would provide a detailed work plan during the next meeting.

5.3 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Netherlands and Norway)

On behalf of the Coordinators on clearance and risk reduction education, Norway explained to the meeting that throughout the previous 12 months, the Coordinators on clearance had been talking to clearance operators to best ascertain how to move forward the efforts on implementing Article 4 of the Convention. These discussions had led to the idea of organizing a workshop to identify the particular difficulties faced by one specific State in meeting its Convention obligations and deadline. This approach would take into consideration the country's particular context and specificities. Norway further explained that this workshop would also be a way of compensating for the absence of the Intersessional programme. Norway further shared that the Coordinators had already reached out to one State that had responded positively. To conclude, Norway reported that it was developing a concept paper on how to proceed with the State that they had reached out to.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction (Mexico and Croatia)

Mexico speaking on behalf of the Coordinators reported that they would continue to engage States Parties with obligations to destroy their cluster munitions stockpiles. Mexico further reported that the Coordinators would strive to promote the exchange of expertise and lessons learnt between States that had complied already with their obligations and those

with pending obligations. In this regard, the Coordinators would build on the work undertaken in the past year with a particular focus on States that were facing challenges in meeting their obligations. Incoming coordinator, Croatia, informed the meeting that it looked forward to contributing to the implementation of this key thematic area.

In contributing to the discussion, the President reiterated the importance of stockpile destruction and clearance for the German Presidency. The President suggested meeting with the Coordinators of Clearance and Risk Reduction Education working group and those of the Stockpile Destruction working group to work on a more proactive approach either regionally or in a country-specific context.

5.5 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Iraq)

Iraq speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators started by thanking the President for convening the meeting and congratulated the President on his appointment. He also welcomed new Coordinators who had recently joined the Coordination Committee.

Iraq reported that the Coordinators had held their first meeting the day before to map out their plan for the coming year. He further recalled that in last April, Iraq and Austria, in performing their mandate on matters pertaining to International Cooperation and Assistance, had sent 17 letters to traditional donor States and organizations requesting them to provide information on their priorities so as to enhance partnerships between States Parties in need of assistance and those States in a position to provide the required assistance. As the Coordinators did not receive any responses, they planned to reactivate this initiative and seek how best they could to engage States Parties on this issue. The Coordinators also reported that they intended to meet with the ISU to map out the priorities for the year in this context. Iraq concluded by saying that he looked very much forward to working with other colleagues of the Committee in order to facilitate the implementation of the Convention's core obligations.

On the thematic area of Victim Assistance, Iraq and Australia assured that they would continue to work with the Coordinators on Victim Assistance to finalize a *Guidance on an integrated approach to Victim Assistance* that would be launched at the margin of the 15th MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) to be held in Chile from 28 of November and 2 of December 2016.

In closing the discussion, the President highlighted the importance of linking obligations under Article 3 and 4 with the provisions of Article 6.

5.6 Transparency Reporting (Costa Rica)

Costa Rica informed the Meeting that it did not have anything to report at that time. The President thanked Costa Rica and stressed once more the pivotal role that transparency reporting played in evaluating the implementation of the Convention and suggested that perhaps the Cluster Munition Coalition could assist in addressing this issue.

5.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand started by congratulating the President on his new appointment and thanking the Netherlands for the work accomplished during its Presidency. The Coordinator informed the meeting that its main focus for the new year would be on implementing the ideas that

emerged from a May 2016 workshop for a cross-regional grouping of States on national implementation measures hosted by New Zealand in Geneva.

New Zealand then provided a short description of four of the activities it hoped to undertake in the coming year. The first one, would be a proposal to define a list of target States with the support of the Presidency, the ISU, CMC and the ICRC. Based on the overwhelming response to the Addis Ababa regional workshop on universalization held in August 2016, there could also be a possibility to organize another sub regional event. The Coordinator informed the meeting that one African State had come forward offering to host this second workshop. The Coordinator then described a third area of activity as working in coordination with CMC and the ICRC on promoting the Convention with the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee. The Coordinator stated that other activities, with the assistance of the ICRC, would focus on armed forces, their military doctrine, practices and trainings. To conclude her presentation, the Coordinator informed the meeting that a more detailed plan would be presented during the next meeting.

5.8 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomed Germany taking up the Presidency of the CCM from the Netherlands. The Coordinator also welcomed the priorities shared by the President at the beginning of the meeting and saw great value in these.

Switzerland then explained to the meeting that the Coordinators on this thematic area had not yet had the chance to meet and stated that Coordinators under General Status and Operation of the Convention did not have specifically assigned tasks. In this regard, the Coordinator explained that up to the 6MSP, they had worked on the Geneva Progress Report and the Sponsorship programme. With this in mind, Switzerland concluded by informing the President that the Coordinators were at the disposal of the Presidency to undertake any tasks that were deemed useful in the implementation of the Convention.

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina congratulated Germany on its presidency and informed the meeting that he had just recently taken over the portfolio and as such would be open to any ideas and guidance from the Committee.

6. Implementation of the CCM ISU Financial Decision

The President then gave the floor to the CCM ISU Director to provide an update on the financial situation of the Implementation Support Unit.

The ISU Director started by reminding the Meeting that States Parties had taken a Decision on the financing of the CCM ISU at the First Review Conference. In implementing this decision, she informed the meeting that at the time of the 6MSP only 21 States had made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund. Since the 6MSP, only one additional State Party had paid its contribution bringing the total to 22 out of 98 States Parties to contribute towards the CCM ISU Trust Fund. Therefore, a total amount of CHF 301'096.51 had been contributed between 1 January 2016 and 27 September 2016, representing 63% of the total approved 2016 ISU budget of CHF 471'762. The Director further elaborated that this total amount was distributed according to the 3 categories of the financing decision as follows: - States Parties had contributed CHF 69'508 towards 7a; CHF 96'433 towards 7b; and CHF 130,980 towards 7c. In conclusion, the Director informed the Meeting that only two States had contributed towards the Working Capital Reserve in the amount of CHF 4'174.

The President thanked the ISU Director for the presentation and stressed that it was unacceptable for the CCM ISU to be underfinanced by 1/3 of its annual budget. In continuing the discussion, the President reiterated that dealing with this issue was a priority. He also stressed that, as agreed during the First Review Conference, the current financial model would have to be reviewed at the 7MSP. In this context, the President asked Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention to assist the presidency in identifying creative ways to address the effective implementation of the decision. The President suggested that perhaps one of the ways to increase contributions by States Parties would be to enhance transparency of those who had paid. He concluded by encouraging Coordinators to also look at models implemented under other Conventions.

The President reminded the Meeting that based on UMOJA, future meetings would only take place when funding was made available beforehand. In contributing to the discussion, the UNODA representative thanked the President for mentioning UMOJA. She reminded the meeting that UNOG had made a presentation on the enforcement of this new UN administrative tool during the 6MSP. She further raised two fundamental issues that could affect future meetings. Firstly, she mentioned that there were a series of States with arrears in the payment of their contributions, and secondly that funds needed to be in the bank prior to organizing any future meetings. UNODA also clarified that these issues were not related to the CCM ISU funding but rather to the payment of conference services such as for interpreters and other costs. UNODA concluded by saying that it stood ready to provide any additional information if necessary.

The President thanked UNODA for the clarification and highlighted that even though it was understood that the two systems were different, the funding issue was the same.

In contributing to the discussion, the Netherlands proposed that the Presidency looked again into the possibility of having one bill sent to States and negotiating with the UN to waive the 13% administrative fee applied by the UN for such transactions. The President took note of the suggestion and stated he would address the issue while in New York attending the First Committee.

7. Any Other business

7.1 Priorities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) congratulated the President on his new role and thanked the Netherlands for a successful Meeting of States Parties in September. ICRC praised the fact that the Convention had had a series of active presidencies and that the Dubrovnik Action Plan set a series of ambitious goals such as reaching 130 States Parties by 2020. The ICRC stressed, however, that there was still a lot to do and efforts should be stepped up to progress on the implementation of the Convention. He concluded by saying that ICRC stood ready to contribute to these efforts.

7.2 2016 UN First Committee CCM Resolution

The Netherlands informed the Meeting that a new resolution on implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions would be presented at the First Committee. The Netherlands explained that this new draft resolution contained an extra paragraph related to the 6MSP Political Declaration and the 2030 completion deadline. The Netherlands concluded by saying that they would continue the consultation process in New York.

7.3 Priorities of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC)

The Cluster Muniton Coalition noted that its four priorities for the coming year remained the universalization of the Convention, the strengthening of the stigma against the weapon, the completion of clearance within deadlines, and improvements in the quality of life of survivors of cluster munition explosions.

7.4 Dates and venue of the 7th Meeting of States Parties (7MSP)

The President informed the Meeting that the presidency was seriously considering Berlin as the venue of the 7MSP to take place from 4 to 6 September 2017. However, the President informed that he would announce the dates and place once confirmed and that this would most likely be in November.

8. Date of the Next CC Meeting

Given the full humanitarian disarmament agenda, the President informed the meeting that the Director of the ISU would find a suitable date for the next Coordination Committee and inform members accordingly.

In his final remarks, the President reminded the Coordinators to come prepared to the next Coordination Committee meeting and to elaborate on their thematic concept papers which would include a timeline and concrete actions. He also requested that these should be submitted to the Presidency prior to the next meeting. He finally mentioned that he would directly contact Coordinators in charge of stockpile destruction, clearance and international cooperation and assistance to start working on a common strategy together with them.
