



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 25 April 2017

at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Germany - 7MSP President

H.E. Michael Biontino

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Chile

Mr. Hellmut Lagos

Costa Rica

Ms. Maricela Muñoz

Croatia

Mr. Amir Chamae

France

Ms. Camille Guffet

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Italy

Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Ms. Palma D'Ambrosio

Mexico

Mr. Víctor Martínez

Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjan

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

Norway

ICRC

2. Opening Remarks by the President

President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP), Ambassador Michael Biontino of the Federal Republic of Germany, opened the fourth Coordination Committee meeting of 2017 with a warm welcome to all the Committee members.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 23 March 2017

The Committee approved without corrections the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2017 as a correct record of what had been discussed and agreed to during that meeting.

4. Update from the 7MSP Presidency

Ambassador Biontino provided an update on the implementation of the activities undertaken by the Presidency since the last Meeting.

4.1 Structured Dialogue

The President reported that he had continued to hold positive discussions with States that produce and/or possess cluster munitions. Against this background, he informed the meeting that the idea to hold an event on military-to-military dialogue was taking shape and that the month of August could be a favorable time to hold such an event as it would allow for more consultations to take place especially with those States that had expressed reservations based on national security concerns.

4.2 RACVIAC Seminar

Ambassador Biontino informed the meeting that the workshop on *Enhancing Implementation of Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in South East Europe: the country coalition concept* would be held at RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in Croatia on 12-13 June 2017. He then invited the ISU-CCM Director to provide more details on the event.

The Director gave a preliminary overview of the seminar, stating that the invitees to the Seminar included nineteen (19) RACVIAC members (representatives of South East European states), seven (7) selected States Parties from different regions with CCM obligations, eight (8) cooperating partners who were notably potential donor states and four (4) implementing organizations. She informed the meeting that invitation letters had been sent out the week before and pointed out that some of the invitees included States represented on the coordination committee. She added that the draft agenda would be sent soon and specified that it would run for 2 half-days to allow participants to arrive in the morning of 12 June and travel back in the afternoon of the 13 June. She encouraged CCM Coordinators to attend and actively engage in the seminar either by making presentations or by moderating some of the seminar sessions. The Director ended her overview by stating that more information on the seminar would be shared as it became available.

Croatia added to the Director's overview by reminding the meeting that the deadline for registration was 15 May 2017 at the latest.

The President thanked the Director for providing the overview of the seminar and highlighted that unlike the Bangkok seminar, RACVIAC's geographical proximity to Geneva should easily facilitate attendance by the CCM Coordinators. He underscored that participation from both affected as well as donor states in the region was very important. The President concluded by wholeheartedly

thanking Croatia and RACVIAC for their openness and support in the organisation of the seminar and expressed that it was a gratifying experience to work with both.

4.3 Synergies between Conventions

The Presidency provided an update on the subject of synergies between the CCM and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) ISUs. The Presidency reminded the coordination committee members that a first meeting of the CCM Presidency, APMBC Presidency, CCM Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the ISU-APMBC and ISU-CCM teams had taken place on 24 February 2017. He described that initial meeting as insightful and would provide some clarity on how to pursue the objective of identifying synergies.

4.4 Land Release Workshop

In order to further explore synergies between Conventions, the Presidency explained that it was looking at the possibility of organizing an event focusing on land release in the margins of the APMBC intersessional meetings in June. The Presidency illuminated that the event which would take place on 7 June in the afternoon would be co-sponsored by the presidencies of the two conventions and organized by the GICHD. The President added that Germany would provide some financial support towards the hosting of the event. In providing further information on the seminar, the President asked the Netherlands if it would be willing to chair a session and also share the Lebanon experience based on the Beirut workshop it had organized in November 2016. The President concluded by informing that he would reach out to the other Coordinators as well if the program allowed for their participation.

In its contribution, Italy sought clarification from the Presidency on what the format of the workshop would be. The Presidency clarified that the workshop format was still being worked on but that the event was expected to bring together approximately 80 to 100 participants.

5. **Presentation by the Coordinators on implementation of operational plans based on approved thematic concept notes of their work up to the 7MSP**

5.1 Victim Assistance (Chile and Italy)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Italy reported that it was awaiting a response from the President APMBC 16MSP, Austria, with regard to a panel discussion event that would be held during the APMBC intersessional meetings in June. She added that a side event planned for the CCM 7MSP in September had been confirmed and that there would possibly be another side event in December during the APMBC 16MSP. Both events would focus mainly on the issue of gender and victim assistance.

Italy further reported that it was waiting for the 2016 Article 7 transparency report submission deadline to pass in order to start analyzing the submitted annual reports to ascertain if any more requests for assistance to implement VA obligations had been made compared to last year. Italy further reported that it would thereafter continue discussions with the coordinators on international cooperation and assistance on the best way to convey these requests to potential donor states.

The President thanked the Coordinator for the update and concluded by informing the meeting that more time would be dedicated to 7MSP preparations, including side events, at the next coordination committee.

5.2 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Iraq)

Iraq, speaking on behalf of the two thematic Coordinators, reported that the information related to the informal meeting on *Enhancing International Cooperation and Assistance under the CCM* organized on 8 February 2017 had been posted on the CCM Convention website. The Coordinator reiterated that the event had been a closed meeting and therefore the names of participants had been omitted in the final report.

Iraq added that the coordinators were also planning to hold a side event along the margins of the APMBC intersessional meetings in June. In concluding the update on activities undertaken, Australia stated that the coordinators would provide more information on the proposed side event at the next meeting.

5.3 Universalization (France and Zambia)

France, reporting on behalf of the coordinators on universalization, informed the meeting that invitation letters to 14 African signatory States to the *CCM ratification seminar* to be held in Kampala, Uganda, on 29-30 May, had been sent out. The coordinators thanked New Zealand for its financial support towards the organization of the seminar. It was reiterated that the main objective of the seminar would be to assist the signatory States take concrete steps towards ratification of the CCM. France concluded by informing that the coordinators would soon deliver additional demarches to States not yet parties.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction (Croatia and Mexico)

Mexico, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, stated that Coordinators had nothing new to report on since the last meeting.

5.5 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Netherlands and Norway)

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the thematic coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, reported to the meeting that they were still in the process of discussing with their respective capitals on how to go forward with other states following up on the Lebanon event.

5.6 Transparency Measures (Costa Rica)

Costa Rica, Coordinator for Transparency Measures, informed the meeting that a couple of Article 7 overdue annual reports had been submitted as a result of the reminder letters sent out in January 2017. Costa Rica added that it would continue encouraging and urging States Parties to submit their annual or initial reports with an aim to increase the rate of submission of transparency reports provided for under Article 7 and thereby reach the targets stipulated in its Action Plan.

5.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

In its role as coordinator on National Implementation Measures and sponsor of the upcoming ratification seminar in Uganda, New Zealand, expressed its appreciation towards the coordinators on universalization and the ISU-CCM on the organization of the seminar to be held on 29-30 May 2017. New Zealand added that it would contribute to the meeting by making a presentation on national implementation measures. New Zealand added that it had no new updates to provide on the other issues.

The coordinator concluded her update by informing that during a bilateral meeting, Vanuatu announced that it had deposited its instrument of accession. Both the ISU-CCM and UNODA reported not to have been officially notified of this development. In this regard, New Zealand undertook to follow up with Vanuatu to clarify the matter.

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

Switzerland, reporting on behalf of the coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, provided the meeting with updates on the three tasks assigned to them by the presidency, as discussed in the previous coordination committee Meeting.

a. *Review of ISU Financing Procedures*

Pertaining to the first task, it was reported that most States Parties that had provided written declarations or reservations on the ISU financing model adopted in Dubrovnik, had been invited to discuss the matter with the Coordinators. Most had accepted the invitation to do so though Switzerland added that it still needed to meet a few more states before starting to draft the final report. In providing a preliminary summary of the findings, Switzerland explained that most States did not wish to change the existing model beyond proposing technical adjustments on its implementation.

b. *Exploration of Synergies between ISUs*

Reporting on the second task, Switzerland reminded the meeting that Coordinators had sent out letters at the beginning of March inviting State Parties to share their views on the issue of synergies between the ISU-CCM and other ISUs. The Coordinator explained that it had received several contributions and that although the initial deadline of 31 March to provide comments had passed; more contributions were expected to be submitted shortly.

c. *ISU Host Agreement*

Regarding the third task, it was reported that after consultation with the ISU and GICHD, the coordinators noted that the feedback from both parties was positive and that the Agreement between the States Parties to the CCM and the GICHD on the Hosting of the ISU appeared to be functioning well. The Coordinator stated that the ISU in its response had reported that it was receiving satisfactory support by the GICHD while the GICHD expressed its willingness to continue hosting the ISU. In this context, the Coordinators announced that they would soon start working on a draft report.

6. Update on the search for 8MSP President

The President informed the meeting that it had still not identified a successor to take up the presidency of the 8MSP though it continued to follow up on the country it had already approached and hoped to have concrete feedback before the summer break. The Presidency emphasized that it still aspired for regional rotation as well as alternation between donor and affected States.

7. 7MSP Documentation forecast

The President invited the ISU Director to inform the Committee on the upcoming preparations leading to the timely submission of the annual progress report for the period of 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. The Director reminded the meeting she had sent them the previous year's progress report for reference as well as the template for the 2017 report on 24 April 2017. She highlighted

that the changes she had made to the circulated template were done to improve the layout of the document and for easier understanding by readers. The Director requested the Coordinators to go through the relevant thematic questions/challenges posed in the report presented to the 6MSP to guide discussions during that meeting and to advise the ISU whether these would be retained or modified. She added it would be appreciated if Coordinators provided their report input to the ISU by 23 June 2017 to enable the ISU have sufficient time to consolidate the individual reports and submit the final report to UNODA by the agreed deadline. She stated that the draft consolidated report would be circulated to all the Coordinators for their final feedback before submission and reiterated that the information that should go into the report could only be sourced from public information such as Article 7 reports and official statements of States Parties. The Director concluded by advising the Coordinators that, as the previous year, the ISU-CCM would provide them with summaries per thematic area of findings based on received 2016 annual and initial transparency reports.

The President thanked the Director for her presentation and reminded the Coordinators that they had 2 months to draft their respective sections and review the questions/challenges for discussion at the 7MSP.

8. Update on ISU-CCM finances

The ISU-CCM Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, only 1 additional State Party had made a contribution, bringing the total of States Parties that had paid their 2017 annual contribution to 29. The Director further elaborated that as of that date, the 29 States Parties had contributed a total of CHF 157'781.59 and that this amount was slightly less than a quarter of the 2017 ISU budget.

In reacting to the Director's update, the President suggested that perhaps another letter should be sent out to States Parties to remind them of their obligations to contribute towards the financing of the ISU. The President added that there was a similar challenge regarding assessed contributions towards UN conference services though currently there were sufficient funds to hold the 7MSP.

Contributing to the discussion, UNODA clarified that updated summaries on the status of contributions as at 31 March 2017 were available online. UNODA added that while CCM had the financial means to hold its 2017 meeting (7MSP) based on the cost estimates approved by States Parties at the 6MSP, States should pay their due contributions as soon as possible. Additionally, States that were in arrears should settle these outstanding payments. UNODA also clarified that should additional documents (other than those reflected in the approved cost estimate for the 7MSP) require processing and translation then further costs would be incurred.

The President thanked both the Director and UNODA for the updates and reiterated that letters should be sent out soon to States Parties with arrears. He stated that while it was not entirely yet clear how to solve this issue, he insisted on engaging with all States Parties with arrears, whether small or large contributors. He added that transparency was required in this matter and that it should not be about 'naming and shaming' but about clarity as to who had paid versus who had not and that further dialogue was needed. He went on to acknowledge that there was a structural problem in terms of dealing with arrears and whether to consider writing them off as an option. He, however, emphasized that there would likely be a political effect which would determine the solution adopted on how to proceed with this challenge. He concluded by informing that discussions were ongoing regarding how to deal with the matter and that the Committee would be informed when more clarity on this matter had been reached.

9. **Any other business**

ISU-CCM Staff recruitment

The ISU-CCM Director introduced the newly recruited Implementation Support Assistant to the meeting, who had officially joined the ISU on Monday 3 April. Ms. Elaine May Weiss, an Australian national, introduced herself to the Committee with a brief overview of her background and informed that she had most recently worked on human rights issues. She further declared that it was an honor to be given the opportunity to work again in the field of international law.

10. **Date of the Next CC Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held on **Tuesday, 16 May 2017 from 14:00h to 15:30h** in the conference room of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

It was also decided that the next meeting would focus on 7MSP preparations and more specifically on the provisional agenda and annotated programme of work.

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