



MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 10th May 2021

from 15:00 to 15:45 hours

1. Present:

Switzerland – 2RC President

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Mr. Alessandro Palmoso

Mr. Lukas Eberli

United Kingdom – 10MSP President-Designate

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Afghanistan

Mr. Abdul Ahad Shirzad

Australia

Mr. Diwaka Prakash

Austria

Mr. Adolf Brückler

Ms. Gamze Subasi

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Ms. Suha Al-Gharrawi

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Mr. Diederik Bos

Philippines

Mr. Jonelle John Domingo

New Zealand

H.E. Ms. Lucy Duncan

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

Sweden

Mr. John Brante

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Nkole

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

Ms. Diana Prado

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Ms. Erika Kawahara

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

2. Opening remarks by the President

Ambassador Félix Baumann, 2RC President, warmly welcomed the Coordination Committee members to the third meeting of the year under the Swiss Presidency.

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

The Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021, were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings during that Meeting. The President thanked the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the concise and accurate drafting of the Minutes.

4. Discussion on the modalities of hosting Part 2 of the 2nd Review Conference following the recent updates of the Swiss Federal authorities

The 2RC President began his update by pointing out that he had only partial information on future gathering restrictions in Switzerland and therefore could not definitively offer indications on when the 2RC would be concluded. He reminded that prior to the previous Coordination Committee Meeting, he had sent a letter to CCM States Parties to inform them that it would not be possible to hold the 2RC Part 2 on 29 to 30 March 2021 and that a tentative booking of a conference room on 2 to 3 June 2021 had been made for a hybrid meeting with in-person participation of approximately 120 to 150 people with interpretation in all the six UN languages.

The President assured that his team would continue to assess the evolution of the pandemic in Switzerland. He reminded that as of 19 April 2021, restaurants had resumed services with outdoor seating areas and public events with a maximum of 50 persons indoors and 100 outdoors had been allowed. However, other events, such as UN meetings, remained limited to a maximum of 15 participants. He pointed out that the Swiss Government had announced that there would not be any additional easing of measures before 26 May 2021 and that public consultations on the potential measures were currently under way. These consultations focused on the guidelines for large public events in summer, such as concerts and other test events foreseen in the month of June. He also noted that there had not been any official indications on future restrictions related to mid-size indoor meetings or conferences such as the Review Conference.

Ambassador Baumann acknowledged that regardless of the decisions to be announced on 26 May 2021, it would be too late to adequately prepare for the second part of the 2RC to commence on 2 June 2021. He further reported that consequently, the room booked for those dates had been released and that the presidency was working with UNODA to explore other possible dates. He informed that there were two possible options on the holding of the final part of the meeting:

Option 1:

Conclude the 2RC before the summer break of the disarmament community, which would depend on the availability of conference rooms at the Palais des Nations and the schedule of other disarmament meetings. The President also presented the possibility of holding half-day sessions in which the conference room was shared with another meeting. Ultimately, the dates would have to be approved by the CCM States Parties through a silence procedure and depend on the immediate condition that the host country restrictions allowed for in-person meetings of up to

120 or 150 participants. With this option, the meeting would ideally take place either in late June or early July.

Option 2:

Convene the meeting on the dates allocated for the 10MSP in September 2021.

The President concluded that these were the two realistic options available and hoped that Option 1 would be feasible and that he would come back to the Committee as soon as possible on the most viable option. Ambassador Baumann reiterated that the 2RC and 10MSP presidencies continued to be in close contact to ensure a smooth and coordinated transition between the two presidencies. He then invited Ambassador Liddle, 10MSP President-Designate, to provide an update on the options previously shared on the holding of the 10MSP and how these would impact on the cycle of the CCM meetings.

Ambassador Liddle thanked the President for his update and expressed his regret on the further postponement of the 2RC Part 2. He, however, echoed Ambassador Baumann by stressing the need to respect the coronavirus restrictions of the host country and to have sufficient time to organize the conference, and expressed his hope that it could be held before the summer holidays to conclude the review cycle. Ambassador Liddle also thanked the Swiss presidency, the ISU and UNODA for their efforts to conclude the 2RC and for working closely with the United Kingdom to ensure a smooth handover of the Convention's presidency. He assured the President that the dates reserved for the week of 20 September 2021 for the 10MSP were entirely at his disposal if the 2RC Part 2 could not take place in June or July.

The President-Designate reminded that during the previous meeting he had presented options on holding the 10MSP and noted that even if the 2RC was concluded at the end of June, there would not be sufficient time to prepare for a 10MSP in September and therefore it had to be postponed. He announced his proposal to postpone the 10MSP for an entire year to September 2022 given the prevailing uncertainties, which would adversely affect the effective work of the Convention. Referring to an option he presented in the previous Coordination Committee Meeting to organize the 10MSP in March or April 2022, he indicated that this would be unsatisfactory as it would lead to two short presidencies after the 2RC. Therefore, the best available option, in his opinion, would be to hold the 10MSP on the dates allocated for the 11MSP, 30 August to 2 September 2022, as it would return the Convention to its established yearly cycle. He added that the decision was ultimately in the hands of CCM States Parties and that the 10MSP presidency-designate was flexible and open to other suggestions.

Ambassador Baumann thanked Ambassador Liddle for his proposal and for his flexibility and cooperation in ensuring a smooth transition.

5. Update from the Presidency on the substantial documents and remaining substantial issues in the preparation of Part 2 of the 2nd Review Conference

Ambassador Bauman reported to have no significant updates to make on the 2RC documents since the previous Coordination Committee Meeting and that the presidency remained in consultation with relevant delegations with an aim to finalize the documents before the Part 2 of

the 2RC. He added that once the dates of the meeting were confirmed, it would provide the presidency with a time frame within which to resolve the few remaining open issues.

6. Update by thematic coordinators on any activities since the last Committee meeting

6.1 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

Ambassador Duncan, New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Disarmament Ambassador, introduced herself to the Coordination Committee and informed that she had begun her current role in December 2020 and that it was her second term in Geneva. She indicated that she looked forward to working with the Committee and thanked Ambassadors Baumann and Liddle for their updates. She conveyed her anticipation that mutually acceptable language would be agreed on by the CCM community to send a clear message that the ongoing use of cluster munitions was unacceptable. She further expressed her honour to represent New Zealand, which had served on the Coordination Committee as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures for 10 years.

Ambassador Duncan highlighted that while the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted on the work of the Convention including the organization of its formal meetings, New Zealand had continued to work with States Parties to ensure that appropriate national implementation measures were in place. Furthermore, New Zealand was looking to produce a short video on the thematic area that would be published on the CCM website in an effort to help States Parties implement the Convention's provisions domestically. New Zealand was also planning to host a virtual regional workshop on transparency and national implementation measures and would be working with the ISU and the Coordinator on Transparency Measures to organize the event.

The President extended his warm welcome to Ambassador Duncan and thanked her for her personal participation in the Coordination Committee Meeting. He expressed his appreciation for New Zealand's initiatives and for its firm commitment to promote national implementation measures of the Convention.

7. Update by the Implementation Support Unit

7.1 Financing of the ISU

The ISU Director reported that 30 States had so far contributed to the ISU 2021 budget, amounting to approximately CHF 160'000 or 31% of the annual budget. She added that as was the case in previous years, larger contributions were expected to be received later in the year.

7.2 Bilateral meetings on the implementation of Article 3 and Article 4

The Director reported that the ISU had continued to meet virtually with States Parties with Article 3 or 4 obligations. She then gave an update on the States Parties that the ISU had been in contact with since the last meeting of the Coordination Committee:

States with CCM Article 3 obligations:

Slovakia: In a meeting with Slovakia, the ISU had been informed that the State Party was on track to meet its deadline of 1 January 2024. Slovakia had previously reported on facing challenges in the destruction of a particular type of cluster munition and had subsequently requested and secured assistance from the United States to destroy these weapons. Slovakia informed the ISU that it expected to comply with Article 3 by the end of 2022 at the latest.

Peru: From its 2020 annual transparency report, it would appear that Peru was not on track with the implementation of its extended deadline period work plan. The ISU was set to meet with Peru the following week in order to obtain further information and clarification on its implementation status.

South Africa: Although South Africa had a deadline of 1 November 2023, it had not submitted a transparency report since 2016 and therefore there was not much information available on the progress made on its implementation of Article 3 obligations. The ISU intended to meet with capital-based officials who are responsible for reporting annually to follow up on the matter.

State with CCM Article 4 obligations:

Mauritania: Had previously declared compliance with Article 4 in 2013 but confirmed in a meeting with the ISU to have discovered new cluster munition contaminated areas and that it consequently would not be able to complete clearance operations by its deadline of 1 August 2022. Mauritania had since submitted an initial draft extension request to which the ISU had provided initial feedback and expected to receive an amended draft by the end of the week.

The ISU Director also raised the issue that as there might not be a Meeting of States Parties before Mauritania's Article 4 deadline to consider its extension request, the CCM presidency would need to make a decision on how to handle the request once the submission is officially made.

The President thanked the ISU Director for her update and indicated that the presidency had taken note of the issue related to the consideration of Mauritania's extension request and would deliberate on how to address that. He conveyed his appreciation to the ISU team for all its work.

8. Any other business:

8.1 Composition of the next Coordination Committee

Ambassador Baumann reported that the presidency had continued to engage with various States Parties to fill the forthcoming thematic coordinator vacancies at the conclusion of the Review Conference. In this regard, Guyana had expressed its desire to join the Coordination Committee for the first time with a preference to serve in the role of Coordinator on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education. He informed that the presidency was in discussion with another State on taking on the role of Coordinator on General Status and Operation of the Convention. The President conveyed his hope to receive some new information on this matter in the near future

so he could announce the full composition of the Coordination Committee for the period 2021-2022.

8.2 Extension requests considered at the 2RC

The President informed that the extension request of Lebanon under Article 4 had been successfully granted following a silence procedure and that the only extension request pending approval was that of Chile under Article 4. He added that the presidency had been in contact with Chile to consult on moving the process forward in a similar manner.

8.2 CMC universalization activities

A CMC representative noted that despite the limitations that the pandemic had imposed on universalization, the CMC had continued its engagement with Permanent Missions in Geneva in and through its campaigners in Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Kazakhstan, and Jamaica, as well as developing a project with some Pacific countries. She hoped that some positive outcomes would come from these engagements. She further reported that the CMC had continued to meet with some of the States that were also part of the Committee to continue to bolster these efforts.

President Baumann thanked the CMC for the update and for its relentless efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention despite the challenging times. He stated that the presidency had also proceeded with universalization efforts such as sending letters to all States not Party and encouraging countries to join the Convention through bilateral meetings.

8.2 New Advisor to the 2RC President

The President introduced Mr. Lukas Eberli, who had replaced Ms. Aline Berdoz as Advisor to the CCM 2RC President. Mr. Eberli indicated that he had recently joined the disarmament team in Geneva after having previously worked on matters related to cybersecurity. He expressed his enthusiasm and pleasure to work with the CCM community.

9. Next Coordination Committee Meeting

Ambassador Baumann informed that he would call for the next Coordination Committee Meeting as soon as there was information from the Federal Government on restrictions related to holding conferences and from UNODA on the availability of conference rooms, at the latest in early June. He concluded with thanks to the Committee members for their flexibility and engagement on the Convention and looked forward to seeing them soon.

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