



*Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua  
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Ginebra*



---

**MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday 12 December 2017**

**in Conference Room 7A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 09:30 – 11:00 hours**

**1. Present:**

Nicaragua - 8MSP Presidency

H.E. Hernán Estrada Roman

Mr. Carlos Morales

Ms. Nohelia Vargas

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Mr. James Hayne

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Croatia

Ms. Ines Sprem Scigliano

France

Ms. Camille Gufflet

Germany

Col. Bruno Paulus

Ms. Lisa Kindbaum

Lao PDR

Mr. Bovonethat Douangchak

Mr. Kalamoungkhoun Souphanouvong

The Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. Manuel Mundaca

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

Italy

Ireland

Mozambique

## **2. Opening Remarks by the President**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Committee Meeting under the Nicaraguan presidency was opened by the President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP), Ambassador Hernán Estrada Roman of Nicaragua, with a warm welcome to all the Committee members. The President then presented the provisional Agenda and asked if there were any additional items to be added for discussion. There being none, he proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

## **3. Approval of the Minutes of 6 November 2017**

The Committee approved, without any corrections, the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Monday 6 November 2017 as a correct record of what had transpired during that meeting.

## **4. Updates from the 8MSP Presidency: Notification of change of Deputy Permanent Representative**

Ambassador Estrada introduced Mr. Carlos Morales, the new Deputy Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, who replaced Mr. Luis Alberto Vargas.

## **5. Presentation of Concept Notes by the Thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 8MSP**

The President invited the Coordinators to present their respective concept notes that were expected to enhance the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan up to the 8MSP. He urged the Coordinators that had not yet done so, to submit their concept notes as soon as possible to allow for full implementation of the work plans.

### **5.1 Victim Assistance (Ireland and Italy)**

The ISU Director delivered a prepared statement on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance who were unable to attend the Coordination Committee meeting as a result of conflicting agendas. The statement outlined the work plan as detailed below:

The Coordinators reported that for the period between the 7MSP and 8MSP, they would pursue five objectives, which could be grouped under four main categories:

- Gathering of information on the status of implementation of Art. 5 obligations, both in relation to DAP time-bound commitments (establishment of a National Focal Point and of a National Action Plan) and in relation to more general lessons learned/challenges/best practices;
- Facilitate the dissemination of good practices, particularly as relates to gender-sensitive and integrated approaches to VA policies and programmes;
- Increase coordination with VA committees/coordinators of other relevant Conventions;
- Pursue joint approaches with International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators of the CCM, particularly to facilitate contact between States needing assistance in VA and potential donors.

They further reported that as at 8 November 2017, 11 States Parties had or had been reported to have obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chad, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Montenegro, and Sierra Leone. Of these States Parties:

- 2 States Parties (Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone) would be contacted for information on the establishment of a National Focal Point;
- 4 States Parties (Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Montenegro, and Sierra Leone) would be contacted for information on the establishment of a National Action Plan;
- 6 States Parties (Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chad, Iraq, Lao PDR, and Lebanon) would be contacted for more general information on their challenges and key priorities with regards to victim assistance.

The targeted countries would be contacted by letter in early 2018. Ireland and Italy would also coordinate with the CCM ISU as well as with other partners – such as the APMBC ISU – to identify the best channels for follow-up in case of no reply.

The VA Coordinators also informed that they had participated in the informal meeting held on 24 November which was organized by Australia and Peru on “*Enhancing International Cooperation and Assistance under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)*”. The meeting, which mainly targeted States Parties with obligations, was very useful in starting to identify assistance needs specifically for Article 5 implementation and some of the main obstacles to obtaining such assistance. It was also a good opportunity to inform participants of the VA Coordinators’ availability to facilitate contact with potential donors.

In early 2018 the Coordinators would start liaising with APMBC and CCW Coordinators to explore the possibility of a joint side event, ideally during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors scheduled for Geneva in February 2018.

During the first half 2018, the Guidelines on Gender and Diversity-Responsive Victim Assistance in Mine Action, which were being produced by the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) in collaboration with Handicap International, were expected to be finalized. The Coordinators would then discuss the best means to promote the Guidelines to as wide an audience as possible.

The President thanked the Coordinators for their thorough plan.

## 5.2 Universalization (Panama and France)

France, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, explained that they had finalized their concept note, which was based on that of the previous year. It informed the meeting that the Coordinators would carry out a survey to identify substantive, procedural and technical obstacles to the ratification or accession of the CCM by targeted states and would endeavour to propose solutions and practical measures to ascertain and address these challenges. France added that the thematic Coordinators intended to adopt a regional focus and deploy universalization efforts specifically in Latin America and the Pacific. In addition, the Coordinators conveyed their intentions to partner with the ICRC and CMC, stressing the importance of coordination of activities and the sharing of information with civil

society. It was also stated that an important objective of the Coordinators would include promoting the norms established by the Convention to decrease the use of cluster munitions.

France further explained that their immediate next steps would be to target States at the 16MSP of the Mine Ban Treaty during the following week, with a specific focus on States not Party - such as Kiribati and Vanuatu - that had voted in favor of the CCM resolution adopted at the UNGA in December 2017. It added that the Coordinators would be sending out letters to Ambassadors in early January, and that the schedule of planned activities would be similar to that of the previous year. In concluding its presentation, the meeting was informed that the concept note would be circulated to the Coordination Committee shortly thereafter.

### 5.3 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR and the Netherlands)

The Netherlands, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, began its presentation by thanking the ISU for its assistance in providing guidance in their planning for the following year.

The Netherlands explained that one of the Coordinators' key objectives during their mandate would be to make sure that an increased number of States Parties with Article 4 obligations were on track and thereby avoid extension requests. The Coordinator reminded the meeting that the first Article 4 deadlines were due in 2020 and that there were 11 States that currently had obligations under this Article. While acknowledging that it would be challenging for certain heavily contaminated States to meet their deadlines, the Coordinators stated that they still hoped that most State Parties would not be requesting for an extension to fulfill their clearance obligations.

In further presenting its concept note, the Netherlands highlighted that the Coordinators' second main objective would be to promote the use of effective and efficient clearance methodologies and best land release practices to address cluster munition contamination.

Finally, the Netherlands explained that its third objective would be to increase the exchange of information on good and cost effective clearance practices.

In order to reach their objectives, the Coordinators explained that they would implement a dual approach. When looking at countries with Article 4 obligations, the Netherlands pointed out that the Coordinators anticipated that 2 heavily contaminated States Parties would likely request an extension to their deadline. In this context, the Netherlands explained that they would have to adopt a realistic approach to assist these States Parties in this process. Most importantly, the Coordinator highlighted that since there still was no mechanism for the submission of extension requests under Article 4, the Coordinators looked forward to contributing to its development during their mandate. The Coordinator then explained that the second approach would consist of adopting a tailor-made, country-by-country approach with a primary focus on States Parties with upcoming deadlines. The Coordinator clarified that the countries with obligations were colour-coded in the concept note based on the Coordinators' priorities to follow up with them, rather than on how well the States were fulfilling their obligations thus far. She highlighted that every State had its unique issues with regards to implementation of the Convention. The Netherlands ended the presentation by referring

to the timeline for their activities, which contained goals to be completed by the end of 2017 and in the first quarter of 2018. Additionally, the Coordinators intended to meet with the ISU again after 6 months to evaluate their progress and update their concept note accordingly.

In concluding the presentation, Lao PDR reiterated its commitment to ensuring that progress was made in the implementation of the Convention under its role as Coordinator.

As there were no comments on the concept note presented, the President concluded by congratulating the Coordinators for their ambitious plan and reassured the Meeting that the issue of guidelines for the submission of extensions requests would be discussed under a specific agenda item later during the meeting.

#### 5.4 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Mozambique and Croatia)

Croatia, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators, commenced its presentation by thanking the ISU for its support and assistance in the development of its concept note. It reminded the meeting that as at 20 November 2017, 10 States Parties had obligations under CCM Article 3, with the first deadlines coming up in 2018 for Croatia and Spain and in 2019 for Botswana, Bulgaria and Guinea-Bissau. It reported that the Coordinators' objectives included helping these States to comply with their obligations within their deadlines, increasing levels of reporting on matters pertaining to Article 3 implementation, increasing exchange of information on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction methods, and adopting at the 8MSP, a voluntary template for the declaration of compliance with Article 3.

Croatia further informed the meeting that the Coordinators were going to focus on Guinea-Bissau, which still had not provided information on its progress despite its deadline coming up in 2019. Furthermore, they would also focus their attention on another 3 States Parties (Bulgaria, Croatia and Spain) to help them fulfil their 2018/2019 deadlines. Croatia added that other strategies to be employed included facilitating partnerships and increasing exchanges of promising practices among States Parties, and activities such as sending letters from the their Ambassadors, holding bilateral meetings, and reaching out to some countries by phone. It was reported that the Coordinators' expected outputs were having 3 States Parties with deadlines in 2019 provide concrete evidence by the 8MSP that they would be on track to comply with their obligations, that States that had finished their stockpile destruction would exchange relevant information on good and cost-effective practices, that nine out of fifteen States Parties that had retained submunitions in accordance with Article 3.8 would have reported on the planned use of these, and that the 8MSP would adopt a template for the declaration of compliance with Article 3. Croatia concluded by stating that the Coordinators had specific timelines to complete these activities and that their estimated budget would be similar to that of the previous year.

The President thanked Croatia for its presentation and stated that he liked their strategies and assured that the Coordinators would have the support of the Presidency as necessary and should inform him whenever they needed his support. In response, Croatia affirmed that it would update the ISU and Presidency on its plans and activities.

### 5.5 International Cooperation and Assistance (Peru and Australia)

Australia, speaking on behalf of the thematic Coordinators, informed that their focus would be to try to increase partnerships amongst States Parties. This would be done through a series of 3 meetings during the course of the year: the first with affected States, the second with donor States, and the third with the two groups together. It communicated that the first meeting had already taken place and that they would also be working together with the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, on Clearance and on Victim Assistance in order to obtain their information and guidance, and to assist them in their responsibilities also.

Australia reported that the first informal meeting with affected States Parties that had taken place on 24 November 2017 had been an effective one and that the Coordinators had produced a summary on the meeting, which would be finalized and uploaded to the CCM website once ready. It notified the meeting of the upcoming informal meeting to be held with donor States in Vienna on 20 December in the margins of the 16MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), and that some of Committee members present would have received an invitation already and those who had not yet could let the Coordinators know so that the invitation was extended.

Australia continued with its presentation by explaining that the Coordinators would share the outcomes of the meeting with affected States with donor states in order to facilitate future partnerships such as that of a country coalition. The meeting was informed that the third meeting would not take place as previously announced in February 2018 in the margins of the UN Programme Directors Meeting but most likely in the margins of the APMBC Intersessionals in June 2018.

It was further articulated that the Coordinators hoped to see a rise in the number of States receiving assistance and also the number of States that would be partnering to assist States comply with their pressing obligations. Concluding its presentation, Australia explained that the Coordinators, with the help of the ISU, had found the Article 7 reports to be key in identifying affected States in need of assistance and donor States capable of providing this assistance. The Coordinators would continue to encourage States Parties to use these reports effectively to convey information about their needs and capacities. It also mentioned that they would be in consultation with the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance of the APMBC.

The President conveyed his thanks to the Coordinators and reiterated that their work was transversal as it directly contributed to the implementation of the other Articles of the Convention.

### 5.3 Transparency Measures (Zambia)

Coordinator for Transparency Measures, Zambia, highlighted its objectives for the year that were stated in its concept note and informed the meeting that some of the activities were already being carried out. In this context, the Coordinator mentioned to the meeting that target States which required assistance in report submission had already been identified, and that it intended to continue having bilateral meetings with these States in Geneva and in the margins of other meetings. The Coordinator reported that it had been challenging to get in touch with some of the targeted

States during the recent disarmament meetings. Zambia also highlighted that it would be sending reminders to States to submit their overdue 2016 annual report or initial transparency report. It was further reported that the bilateral meetings that had already been held with targeted States had resulted in the submission of reports, the latest of which was from the State of Palestine; thereby reducing the number of States Parties that had not submitted their initial transparency report as of 31 October 2017 to 15 from 21 in September 2017. In closing, Zambia reminded the meeting of the invaluable role civil society played in promoting awareness on the submission of Article 7 reports.

The President expressed his appreciation of Zambia's work and presentation, and reminded other Coordinators to support Zambia in its outreach to States while also focusing on improving the quality of the reports.

#### 5.4 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand, Coordinator for National Implementation Measures, reported to the meeting that its activities would revolve around regional meetings in the coming year, such as the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties to be held in February 2018 in Auckland with the support of Australia. The conference has an aim to increase adherence to the Convention in the region and improve reporting. The Coordinator added that the recent exchanges it had been carrying out with Cameroon had led to an agreement to co-organize an African regional workshop in June 2018. New Zealand further informed that it would be requiring the support of the ISU and cooperation of the Coordinators on Universalization and Transparency Measures to successfully achieve the aims of the regional conferences.

New Zealand observed that it had found that sending letters had not been an effective strategy in enhancing implementation of national implementation measures, but would be happy to provide a paragraph on the subject to other Coordinators that intended to send out letters to States Parties. In concluding the presentation, New Zealand illustrated that its expected outputs for the year included an increase in reporting by States on the status of their national implementation legislation; a rise in the active consideration of the issue of investment in cluster munitions; and an improved awareness of the mechanisms through which CCM obligations could be disseminated to relevant domestic stakeholders.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to all the Coordinators for presenting their concept notes and for all the work they had already undertaken thus far.

#### 6. Preliminary discussion on developing guidelines for CCM Article 3 and Article 4 extension requests

Ambassador Estrada reminded the Committee that the first treaty deadlines would soon be coming up for Articles 3 and 4, and that since there were no guidelines or recommended procedures for affected States Parties to follow on how to prepare and submit such requests, there was need to develop such guidelines. The President recognized that it was necessary to elaborate methodologies, and decide as appropriate, key elements of an extension request process for States Parties which might need to seek extensions - despite their best of efforts to meet their deadlines.

He requested for the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention (Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina) to undertake this responsibility so that the proposed guidelines would be presented at the 8MSP for approval. The Ambassador opened up the discussion to the meeting, by first inviting the ISU Director for her input.

The Director thanked the President and offered to the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention the availability of the ISU to work with them on the assigned task. Bosnia-Herzegovina, in contributing to the discussion, expressed its eagerness to meet up promptly to work on the matter because the deadlines were coming up in the very near future. The Director conveyed her expectation that States Parties with Article 3 deadlines in 2018 would meet them, and stated that some States with Article 3 deadlines in 2019 might be requesting an extension as would some States with Article 4 deadlines in 2020.

The Netherlands enquired on the particulars of extension requests with regards to the two Articles; and the Director clarified that States Parties with Article 3 obligations were able to request for an extension of up to a period of 4 years at a time, and those with Article 4 obligations up to 5 years at a time. The Netherlands thanked the Director for the information and communicated that it would be pleased to work with the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention on this undertaking. The Director concluded her intervention by emphasizing that it would be preferred that extension requests were avoided and that States Parties fulfilled their obligations within the treaty stipulated timeframes.

The President wholeheartedly thanked all who had contributed to the discussion.

**7. Update on implementation of the financial procedures on the financing of the ISU-CCM as resolved at the 7MSP**

The Ambassador invited the ISU Director to provide an update on the financial situation of the Implementation Support Unit.

The Director recalled that at the 7MSP, it was agreed that invoices for the following year should be sent out shortly after each Meeting of States Parties to provide sufficient time for States Parties to send in their contributions. She notified that in line with this directive, individualized 2018 invoices had been sent to all the States Parties that had not yet contributed towards the 2018 budget. She informed that already 3 States had responded and sent their contributions to the ISU Trust Fund for the following year based on these invoices.

She also reported that given the approximately CHF 23'000 shortfall in the ISU's Working Capital Reserve (WCR) as reported during the last meeting, a small number of large contributor States Parties had been identified and had letters sent to them requesting for contributions towards the WCR to bring it up to the recommended level of CHF 400'000. She reported that at the time of the meeting, none of the States had responded positively to the request.

The Director further reported that since the last update, 2 States Parties had made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund for 2017. Additionally, 1 State Party had made a voluntary contribution, bringing the total budget received to 95% or CHF 433'798 out of CHF 455'511; with a shortfall of CHF 21'713. She added that as at that date, the ISU had only spent approximately CHF 378'000 in 2017, which was about CHF 77'400 less than budgeted for the year. As such; there were sufficient funds to undertake all planned activities for the year. Therefore, any unspent funds would be carried over to



2018, which would enable the ISU to begin operations while awaiting that year's contributions to be received.

## **8. Update from the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM**

The Director informed the Meeting of other activities undertaken by the ISU in line with its mandate. She reported that in response to requests made by some States Parties during its mission to New York, the ISU was working on having the Guide to Cluster Munitions (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) translated into French. The Director reported that she had been hesitant previously to give the green light to this project as this would be a costly project. However, given some savings made during the year she was now able to proceed with the work. She added that, also in response to requests made in New York, the translation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) booklet into French and Spanish had been finalized. These had already been made available on the CCM website in pdf format while the printed copies would be available by the end of the year. She disclosed that the plan was to print 300 copies of the French and 200 of the Spanish versions and possibly 100 of the Arabic; though the Arabic version would translated and printed at a later date due to the complexity of the work involved.

The Director further informed the meeting that the ISU had also prepared 3 brochures that would be produced at no additional cost to the ISU as they were being printed on a regular photocopier. These informative and easy-to-read brochures on the Convention in brief, the role and responsibilities of the Coordination Committee, as well as on the mandate of the ISU could be distributed at events organized by the Coordinators to increase the visibility of the CCM. The brochure on the Coordination Committee would incorporate a group photo of the Committee, which would be taken at a later date as a few of the Coordinators were absent on that day. The Director suggested that the Coordinators could start utilizing these brochures in the coming week at the 16MSP of the APMBC.

The President thanked the ISU-CCM Director for the update and expressed his great appreciation for the tireless work undertaken by the ISU.

## **9. Any other business**

### **9.1 8MSP dates and venue**

The President reported that he was still consulting with his capital regarding the dates and location of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. He assured that he would continue to negotiate with capital to finalize the details swiftly, and that he would most likely be announcing them at the next Coordination Committee Meeting.

### **9.2 Discussion on the delay of banning older types of cluster munitions by the US military**

The Ambassador invited the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) to provide additional information on issue of the suspension of the ban on older types of cluster munitions by the US military. The CMC began by thanking the Coordinators for presenting their work plans for the year. It noted that the United States had recently cancelled a policy under which it intended to stop using certain types of

cluster munitions from 2019 onwards, instead preferring to keep open the possibility of using any type of cluster munitions. The CMC said that the news was first reported by Reuters and then drew additional media attention such as in the Washington Post and elsewhere, in addition to reactions from NGOs.

The Netherlands enquired if the US was currently using those cluster munitions. In response, the CMC clarified that the US was not currently using cluster munitions, but the decision meant that they would have the option to do so if they wanted to. In its contribution to the discussion, New Zealand reported that it had been in touch with the United States of America’s Mission in Geneva to seek additional information about the policy change.

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

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on **Thursday, 25 January 2017 from 10:00 to 11:30 hours.**

+++++