



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday 16th May 2019

in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 10:00 - 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Sri Lanka - 9MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Switzerland - 2RC President-Designate

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

Lao PDR

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

Ms. Fleur Diepstraten

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. César Aréstegui

Spain

Mr. Rafael De Górgolas Hernández-Mora

Sweden

Ms. Anna Envall

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received:

Mozambique

Zambia

Apologies not received:

Chile

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

9MSP President, Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, opened the fourth Coordination Committee Meeting of 2019 and the seventh under the Sri Lankan Presidency, by thanking all the members present. He informed the Meeting that due to time constraints, the mid-term review working lunch had had to be postponed to the following month.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2nd April 2019 Coordination Committee Meeting

The Committee approved as circulated the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019.

4. Update from the 9th Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) Presidency

4.1 Asia Regional Workshop

The President communicated that there would be a change in the venue of the Asia regional workshop on the universalization of the CCM following the recent terrorist attacks in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, he expressed his hopes of Sri Lanka hosting a future CCM meeting.

4.2 Universalization Outreach

The Ambassador highlighted that he had continued to promote the universalization of the Convention in his interactions with high-level delegations, specifically targeting signatory States and States not Party in the South Asia region. He added that he would provide a more comprehensive update at the following Meeting.

5. Presentation by Sub-Committee on CCM Finances of draft document on possible measures to address financial predictability and sustainability for the CCM

Switzerland reminded the Meeting that it had been tasked by the President at the previous Coordination Committee meeting to coordinate the work of a sub-committee on CCM finances with the support of a few Coordination Committee members on the drafting of a proposal to be submitted to the full Committee for consideration. Switzerland also indicated that it had involved UNODA in this exercise as it was also an important stakeholder. The chair of the Sub-Committee, Switzerland, reported that it had commenced drafting a document on possible measures to address the financial predictability and sustainability of the CCM. The document comprised of the background of the issue, the current financial situation and challenges of the CCM, and measures adopted under other disarmament conventions. Switzerland notified that the Sub-Committee had met the previous Thursday to look at the first draft and that its members would receive an updated document by the end of the week for any additional comments. Switzerland specified that once the main text was consolidated, the next task would be for the President and the Coordination Committee to identify possible measures that could be taken forward at the 9MSP. The Meeting was also reminded that the document had to be finalized by late June for subsequent submission to UNODA for translation into the UN official languages. The CCM President indicated that once consolidated, the document would be submitted to the Coordination Committee before taking it forward.

Ireland, on behalf of Coordination Committee members, extended its deepest sympathies and expressed its solidarity with the Sri Lankan people following the terrorist attacks in the country. As a Sub-Committee member, Ireland also conveyed its appreciation to Switzerland for drafting the document and chairing the Sub-Committee and to UNODA for explaining the complexities of the financial arrangement of the formal meetings of the CCM. In addition, the UNODA representative thanked the President for sending out letters reminding CCM States Parties to pay their assessed contributions for the 9MSP without further delay and encouraging States with outstanding contributions from previous years to pay them as a matter of urgency. She informed that as of 30 April 2019, the UN had only received 63.7% of the estimated costs and indicated that a decision on whether the 9MSP will proceed as planned will be taken 3 months prior to the meeting; that is, in early June.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez wholeheartedly thanked Ireland and the Coordination Committee for the words of sympathy and support following the terrorist attacks. The President also echoed the sentiments of UNODA on the seriousness of the matter of CCM MSPs financing and offered to provide further assistance to UNODA if required. He also expressed his utmost gratitude to the Sub-Committee and UNODA for their work.

6. Updates from the thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 9MSP

The President invited the thematic Coordinators to present updates on the implementation of their work leading up to the 9MSP.

6.1 Universalization (Chile & Panama)

Panama, on behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, stated that the Coordinators would be meeting soon to reevaluate the objectives set in their Concept Note and maximize their output leading up to the 9MSP.

6.2 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR & Sweden)

Sweden, reporting on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, informed that the Coordinators had been carrying out their work as planned. With regards to the extension requests of Germany and Lao PDR, it was highlighted that the Analysis Group had recommended for the requests by both States to be granted.

6.3 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

Peru, on behalf of the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators, updated the Meeting that the Coordinators had been working with both the Article 3 and Article 4 Analysis Groups on 3 extension requests, 2 of which had been finalized and 1 was due to provide pertinent information in the following weeks.

Additionally, Peru informed that the Coordinators were in the process of discussing and taking steps to reach out to States Parties with Articles 3 and 4 deadlines in 2021 to ascertain if they would require international cooperation and assistance to fulfil their obligations.

6.4 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Austria & Mozambique)

Austria, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and retention, informed that the Coordinators' efforts in establishing contact with Guinea-Bissau at multiple levels had not yielded any positive outcomes. Austria explained that Guinea-Bissau had missed its stockpile destruction deadline of 1 May 2019 and suggested that the President write a letter to the State Party to seek clarification on the status of stockpile destruction, highlighting the seriousness of non-compliance with obligations under the Convention. Austria explained that Article 3 Coordinators were ready to provide the President a draft of such a letter. Ambassador Abdul Azeez echoed Austria's concerns and indicated that he was ready to send a letter to Guinea-Bissau requesting all relevant information that would assist in clarifying the matter while highlighting the country's non-compliance with its Article 3 obligations.

In the ensuing discussion on the general lack of information on Guinea-Bissau and its implementation of various provisions of the Convention, the following points were highlighted:

- The Coordination Committee was reminded that Guinea-Bissau had not submitted its initial Article 7 transparency report due on 28 October 2011 and that references to its possession of cluster munition stockpiles and victims were derived from official statements made by its delegates at Convention meetings held in 2013 and 2014;
- The ISU and subsequent Coordinators on Article 7 had sent numerous letters and emails to Guinea-Bissau reminding it of its obligation to report without results;
- The ISU had also made several requests through the Guinea-Bissau representations in Bissau, Geneva, Paris and New York to no avail;
- The Coordinators on Victim Assistance suggested that the letter could also include queries on Guinea-Bissau's victim assistance efforts, specifically on whether it had designated a national focal point for the implementation of Article 5;
- Guinea-Bissau had actively participated in CCM and APMBC meetings until the former Director of its Mine Action Centre left the position; the incumbent Director had not responded to any correspondence;
- Coordinators had made a plea to States Parties to assist in establishing contact with Guinea-Bissau during a plenary session of the 8MSP;
- It was suggested that States Parties with diplomatic missions in Guinea-Bissau, including the European Union, be engaged to reach out to its governmental authorities for information on its implementation of the CCM; and
- It was agreed that the letter to be sent to Guinea-Bissau from the CCM President would outline the background of Guinea-Bissau's engagement with the Convention, include a request for clarification on oral statements made during past meetings that had led other States Parties to believe that Guinea-Bissau had outstanding obligations under various articles of the Convention and note that instances of non-compliance could be considered at a Meeting of States Parties.

The President thanked the Coordination Committee for the constructive dialogue on ongoing outreach to Guinea-Bissau. He encouraged the Coordinators to continue to pursue all channels to establish communication with Guinea-Bissau.

Continuing with the update, Austria reported that Bulgaria had resubmitted its extension request and responded to the questions raised by the Analysis Group. Austria explained that the information missing in the request was primarily dependent on the identification of a contractor. Furthermore, Austria informed that while Bulgaria had notified that it had developed a resource mobilization plan to secure additional finances in case of insufficiency of funds, it had not shared this detailed plan. Austria also announced that the revised extension request had been uploaded onto the Convention website on 25 April 2019 and that Bulgaria had committed to providing additional information to be considered by the Analysis Group by 7 June 2019. Austria concluded by clarifying that any additional information provided thereafter would have to be reported orally by Bulgaria at the 9MSP.

6.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq reported that 13 States Parties still had overdue initial Article 7 transparency reports, with Guinea-Bissau being one of those States. Iraq added that Guinea-Bissau had been submitting its annual reports to APMBC only until 2011. As of the previous day, 42 States Parties had submitted their 2018 annual transparency reports while 47 States had overdue 2018 annual reports. Of the 103 States Parties that should have submitted an initial or annual Article 7 transparency report by 30 April 2019, 61 still needed to do so. Additionally, the 3 newest States Parties (Namibia, the Gambia and the Philippines) had upcoming reporting deadlines of 31 July 2019, 28 November 2019 and 28 December 2019, respectively, which was 180 days after the entry into force of the Convention for the States Parties. Iraq informed that it had met with the ISU the previous day to draft a fresh reminder to States Parties that had not submitted their 2018 annual transparency reports and that those reminders would be sent out by the end of the following day. Reminder letters would also be sent to the 3 new States Parties the following week informing of the due date of their initial transparency reports. Iraq reported that letters had been sent to all the 13 States Parties with overdue initial transparency reports, but it had not received any responses so far. Iraq stated it would appreciate cooperating with the Coordination Committee to follow up States with pending Article 7 obligations. In response, Ambassador Abdul Azeez asked Iraq to share the list of States Parties with overdue initial transparency reports, so he could reach out to the Ambassadors of these countries on the matter. Iraq concluded by thanking the ISU for its support.

6.6 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

Ireland, on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, reported that the Coordinators' progress had been slow but steady and extended their gratitude to the ISU for its guidance and assistance in moving them forward on this challenging thematic. Ireland highlighted that a key objective met in April 2019 was the promotion of the *Victim assistance responsive to gender and other diversity aspects: Operational guidance* document by the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) that was uploaded onto the CCM website.

Ireland informed that the Coordinators had decided to suspend the development of a database of States Parties' requests for assistance under Article 5 for donor States and organizations, which was to be created in consultation with Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance. The Coordinators had agreed that this project would be too labour intensive in the long run, given the limited human resource available at the ISU and its already heavy workload. Instead, Ireland pointed out that the ISU had successfully produced the country profiles database that would be able to adequately supply the relevant information to potential donors.

Ireland reiterated that advances in victim assistance typically took longer to come into realization and its actions were therefore difficult to measure. Ireland maintained that an increased and multiyear funding for victim assistance programmes still needed to become a priority for States. Regarding the involvement of victims in national policy and decision-making processes, the Coordinators had decided to add to the list of questions in the 9MSP Progress Report to inquire of States that had not reported involving victims why this was the case, with the goal to increase the focus on this issue. The President emphasized that inclusivity of victims is an important benchmark in victim assistance efforts and reminded the thematic Coordinators to consider the questions that would be included in their respective sections of the Progress Report.

6.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand reported that in light of the recent tragic events in Sri Lanka, the CCM Asia regional workshop would regrettably not be held there. New Zealand notified that the Philippines had only informed the previous day that it had agreed to host the workshop in its capital, Manila. Due to the sudden change of venue, organization of this workshop would have to be done swiftly. New Zealand echoed the President in its hopes that Colombo would be a venue for a future CCM event. Ambassador Abdul Azeez expressed his appreciation to the Philippines for graciously offering to host the workshop despite the short notice. He advised that Sri Lanka would be able to participate and assist in organizing the workshop that would be taking place on 18-19 June 2019 in Manila.

7. Presentation and consideration of draft 9MSP documentation

7.1 Draft 9MSP Provisional Agenda

The President enquired if the Coordination Committee had any comments with regards to the *Draft 9MSP Provisional Agenda*. In response, the Netherlands mentioned that it had questions on 2 items of the Provisional Agenda. The Netherlands noted that according to item 6 of the Provisional Agenda, the President would be introducing the draft documents, and asked whether it would include the draft "Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions". It queried if the President would require the Analysis Group to present the modality of the draft Methodology to the Meeting and what the speaking protocol would be like. The Netherlands added that it did not require an immediate response but wanted to open this topic for discussion. Similarly, the Netherlands asked if the Analysis Group would have a role during the presentation of the extension requests, for example, in expressing the expectations and desired outcomes the Analysis Group had of the requesting States. The President thanked the Netherlands for highlighting these issues and explained that he would revert shortly to the Coordination Committee.

In relation to item 7 of the Provisional Agenda, the Netherlands expressed their curiosity as to the reason this item was included in the 9MSP Provisional Agenda when it was not on the similar document of the 8MSP.

7.2 Draft 2020 ISU Work Plan and Budget

The ISU Director presented the draft *2020 ISU Work Plan and Budget* and informed the Meeting that the budget was based on the 5-year budget that States Parties had approved in 2015 and the workplan expanded on the activities to be undertaken during the following year. Germany sought clarification on the reason “social charges” was described as being 20% of the “salaries”, when a simple calculation of it did not yield exactly 20% but a figure close to it. The ISU Director assured Germany that she would look into the matter and provide an explanation.

7.3 9MSP documentation submission timeframe

The ISU Director informed that the *9MSP Provisional Agenda* and the *2020 ISU Work Plan and Budget* would be submitted to UNODA the following week. The *Article 3 and Article 4 Extension Request Reports and Draft Decisions* would be due on 13 June. The *ISU Annual Report* and the *9MSP Provisional Annotated Programme of Work* would be circulated to the Coordination Committee for comments before their respective due dates of 17 and 20 June. The Director reminded that the due date of the draft *CCM Financial Measures* was 28 June and it had to be transmitted to the ISU by 25 June.

The ISU Director notified that the deadline for the ISU to submit the *9MSP Progress Report* to UNODA was 1 July and that the ISU would require information from all the thematic Coordinators before that date to consolidate the final document. She reported that the draft template of the Progress Report summaries had been prepared and circulated to the Coordinators on 14 May and the information therein was based on the 2018 annual reports that had been received thus far. She reminded the thematic Coordinators to submit their respective reports to the ISU by 15 June and assured them that they would receive updated Progress Report summaries prior to that. The Director informed that the report template with the list of questions extracted from the *8MSP Progress Report* had also been sent to the thematic Coordinators the previous day and the Coordinators could decide whether they would revise the questions or not.

8. Update from the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

8.1 Update on the financing of the ISU

The ISU Director reported that since the last Meeting, 7 additional States Parties had made their 2019 contributions, bringing the total number of contributing States to 28 with the amount contributed at almost CHF 252'000 against a budget of CHF 475'362. This was equivalent to 54% of the budget. Furthermore, 2 States had indicated that they would be sending their contributions of approximately CHF 106'000 which would bring the contributions to 75% of the annual budget. The Director informed that a reminder had been sent out to States Parties that were yet to make a contribution a few weeks prior and some States had already responded positively to the reminder.

8.2 Article 3 and Article 4 Extension Requests

The Director reported that Peru had informally advised the ISU that it would be seeking an extension of its 1 March 2021 Article 3 deadline and would be submitting an official notification in the near future. Similarly, Chile had sent a Note Verbale informing that it would be submitting a request to extend its Article 4 deadline of 1 June 2021. Therefore, there would be at least 3 States Parties (including Lebanon) with deadlines in 2021 that would not be able fulfill their obligations within the treaty specified timeframes.

8.3 ICRC Workshop

The ISU Director reported that the ISU had participated in the ICRC Workshop in Vientiane, Lao PDR, at the end of March where 7 States had been in attendance; including 5 States not Party. The ISU had held bilateral meetings with representatives Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam and had proposed the possibility of simultaneous accession by the 3 neighbouring countries. The delegates had indicated that they were open to the idea though could not make the decision and advised that rather their superiors should be approached. They also all expressed interest in participating in the Asia Regional Workshop scheduled for June. The ISU Director suggested to the President and universalization Coordinators that official letters be sent to high-level officials in the capitals of these States to follow up on the matter.

8.4 9MSP Sponsorship Programme

The ISU Director notified that the ISU required the approval of the Coordination Committee on the proposed list of States to be sponsored to participate in the 9MSP. The Director informed that the CCM Sponsorship Programme currently had CHF 78'000 to cover delegate expenses. The funds comprised CHF 60'000 from Canada (annual pledge of CHF 40'000 plus CHF 20'000 carried over from the previous year due to funds being received late), CHF 10'000 from Switzerland and approximately CHF 8'000 carried over from 2018. The ISU was also expecting to receive the usual amount of approximately CHF 12'000 from Australia for the Programme, which it had not yet included in its calculations. The Director informed that the draft list of States had been circulated to the Coordination Committee for consideration so that invitations could be sent out as soon as possible to allow for timely nominations and visa facilitation; processes that tended to be time consuming. Moreover, early organization would also be financially advantageous with respect to hotel room rates and flight costs. The Director advised that Zimbabwe had been added to the sponsorship list because it had requested sponsorship. Additionally, the Coordinator from Zambia had informed the ISU via email that morning that it had met with representatives from Zimbabwe whom had informed that given the recent change of government officials in capital there was a good chance that Zimbabwe would amend its consistent NO vote on the CCM Resolution at the UN General Assembly in the future.

The President thanked the ISU Director for the presentation regarding the Sponsorship Programme and asked the ISU to go ahead with the list as presented as there were no objections from the Committee.

8. Any other business

8.1 Military-to-military dialogue

Germany reported that the recent military-to-military démarches that were implemented at a high level had not led to a meeting taking place as it was too short a notice. Nevertheless, Germany reported that it noticed that Zimbabwe appeared to have responded more positively than previously.

8.2 Updates from CMC and ICRC

The ICRC representative reported that the ICRC had organized a 2-day regional seminar on the universalization and implementation of the CCM, APMBC and Protocol 5 of the CCW from 29 to 30 April 2019 in Vientiane, Laos. She conveyed her sincere appreciation to Lao PDR for co-hosting the event as well as to the government of Norway for its generous support. The ICRC representative acknowledged that the ISU Director and the Ambassadors of Ireland and Norway to Vietnam and Lao PDR were among those who participated in the event. She also appreciated the support received from members of the Coordination Committee including the President and Germany in preparation for the event. She reiterated that 7 countries from South East Asia were in attendance, including 5 States not Party. ICRC had held bilateral meetings with all 7 States during the seminar and intended to follow up on engagements made.

The CMC representative informed that CMC had been conducting outreach to state representatives in Washington DC, with a specific focus on CARICOM and OAS member States. She reported that the CMC Director was still in Washington DC and that a more comprehensive update would be provided at the following Coordination Committee Meeting. The CMC representative reminded the Meeting that as the APMBC intersessionals were taking place the following week it would be an opportunity to follow up with attending States, which would include many CCM signatories. In closing, CMC congratulated the Philippines for co-hosting the Asia Regional Seminar as the CCM's newest State Party and conveyed its gratitude to New Zealand for funding and co-hosting the event.

The President thanked ICRC and CMC for their updates and highlighted that Sri Lanka would be holding a side event in the margins on the APMBC intersessionals on 23 May, 13:00 - 15:00 hours.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be a working lunch in June and that the actual date would be communicated by the ISU closer to the day.

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