



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Tuesday, 25 September 2018
from 12:30 – 14:30 hours

1. Present

Sri Lanka – 9MSP Presidency

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez
Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya
Ms. Piumali Dissanayake

Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Germany

Mr. Torlf Pils

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al Juhaishi

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen
Ms. Nicola Brassil

Lao PDR

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

The Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould
Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Nicaragua

Mr. Carlos Morales
Ms. Nohelia Vargas Idiàquez

Panama

H.E. Ms. Aida Clement G.
Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. Manuel Mundaca

Spain

H.E. Mr. Julio Herráiz
Mr. Rafael De Górgolas Hernández-Mora

Sweden

Mr. Daniel Nord

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

ICRC

Ms. Kathleen Lawand

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

ISU CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Ms. Gladys Kibui

Apologies

Mozambique
Zambia

2. Welcome Remarks

The first Coordination Committee meeting under the Sri Lankan Presidency of the 9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (9MSP) was opened by its President, Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez. He began the meeting by warmly welcoming all the Coordination Committee Members present to the working lunch and hoped they would start their one year journey together with a taste of Sri Lankan hospitality and that they would enjoy an authentic meal from his country. The President also congratulated Nicaragua on the successful outcome of the 8th Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) held earlier in the month. He stated that he looked forward to working closely with all the Coordinators and would value their guidance and support.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

As there were no corrections to be made, the Minutes were adopted as a correct record of what had transpired during the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 30 August 2018.

4. Overview of the Sri Lankan Presidency up to the 9MSP

The 9MSP President began by informing that Sri Lanka's presidency would build on the work and successes of previous presidencies. He informed that the presidency would use the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) as the basis for the effective implementation of the CCM. In particular, the President highlighted that the 9MSP presidency would focus on three main areas as follows:-

1. *CCM Universalization*: With a particular focus on the South East Asia region given that there are only 4 States Parties from Asia. In this regard, the Presidency would host a series of working lunches targeted at Signatory States and States not Party. The President indicated that the thematic coordinators were welcome to join these bilateral discussions to elaborate on CCM obligations as relevant. These would be structured as quarterly events to evaluate how best to take the efforts forward.
2. *Risk Reduction Education*: Focus on youth and risk reduction education based on DAP Actions 1.2 and 1.3. The President highlighted that it had learnt from other processes the importance of incorporating survivors in all implementation efforts.
3. *Reporting*: The presidency recognized the importance of this key CCM obligation and would work together the Coordinators to promote improvement in the submission rate of reports particularly of initial transparency reports especially as its own report would be due in March 2019.

The President, however, emphasized that all action points reflected in the DAP were equally important and would therefore continue to be part of its work as well. He stressed that the work over the coming year would be collaborative effort with the Coordination Committee as they were all part of the same team. As such he would count on the guidance, encouragement and advice of the Committee in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

The Presidency informed that it would also build on the previous CCM UN First Committee Resolutions in New York regarding the 2018 Resolution on the "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions".

In the ensuing discussion, the Committee members began by thanking the President for his hospitality exhibited by the generous lunch invitation. They all pledged their full support to him and his team on the realization of the outlined objectives. The 8MSP presidency, Nicaragua, thanked the President for his kind words regarding its presidency and assured him of having a good group of Coordinators that would assist him and was sure that his presidency would be a successful one.

In response to the overview the presidency's priorities, it was acknowledged that the universalization of the Convention was a key priority at that juncture especially with the 2nd Review Conference due in two years. It was highlighted that while promoting universalization it was ideal that national implementation measures were best addressed early on when States were joining the Convention. The Committee also stated that building the norms of the Convention was important and that there still remained a lot to do in this area. It was noted that with the first Article 4 extension requests being submitted this year, it would be important to make certain that the process was directed by the newly established Guidelines to ensure that a good set of first examples was established.

In its intervention, Germany, which during its 7MSP presidency had initiated the Country Coalitions and military-to military dialogue, indicated its availability to continue to work on these methodologies and on any other tasks in collaboration with the presidency. In supporting the military-to-military approach, the ICRC said it believed that it was worthwhile to continue to engage States not Party using this strategy. Germany also supported the President's intention to host a side event in New York and was happy to hear that it would be held earlier at the beginning of the First Committee session rather than towards the end of the session as it has done when delegations were very busy with voting thus adversely affecting their participation in the event.

The CMC informed that it would also be working on universalization with a focus on the Caribbean sub-region while attending the UNGA73 First Committee meeting in New York. This sub-region was being targeted because those countries did not have big obstacles to joining the Convention. Just as the joining of Belize made the Central American region a cluster munitions (CM) free area, one strategy on universalization could be to work with sub-regions to become CM-free areas. It would work with the South Pacific states represented in New York. In his response, the President pledged to work with the CMC on the outlined approach.

UNODA representative also reaffirmed that her organization would continue to work with the presidency and to support it as necessary including in terms of the proposed side event to be held in the margins of the UNGA73.

In discussing the draft 2018 CCM Resolution the Committee members committed to supporting the presidency in gathering votes with a particular emphasis on States that had previously abstained to encourage them to convert to a YES vote. Regarding the new elements introduced by Sri Lanka, it was agreed that it would be prudent to weigh the response of other states and make the necessary adjustments as necessary to ensure the number of votes increased rather than decreased from the previous years. Additionally, it was thought to be useful to look at what the response of similar disarmament resolutions was on the inclusion of the UN Secretary General's Disarmament Agenda and consider adopting similar language.

In closing the Agenda item, Ambassador Azeez thanked the Committee for its positive response to the Sri Lanka presidency plan of work and looked forward to their close collaboration. The President also thanked the ISU and UNODA without whose steadfast support the presidency would not be able to get much done.

5. Interactive exchange with Coordination Committee on the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) up to the 9MSP and tasking of the Coordinators on thematic work plans

The President invited the Coordination Committee members to share thoughts on how best to implement the Convention during the period up to the 9MSP.

5.1. Universalization (Panama & Chile)

The Coordinators informed that they would continue to focus on the remaining 16 Signatory States in the year ahead and would also engage with some States not Party. Chile added that it would work with the CMC to see what they could do together in the margins of the 2018 UNGA First Committee session in New York to engage the Caribbean region to accelerate its joining of the Convention.

The ICRC also reported on efforts it had made in universalizing the Convention and informed that there were going on at that time IHL meetings being held in Jakarta including on the CCM. She added that the outcomes of the meetings would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting. She also informed that the ICRC President had written to all CCM Signatory States in the spring encouraging them to ratify the Convention and that there were plans to follow up on those letters. The President thanked the ICRC for its efforts.

Sweden underscored that universalization of the CCM was the responsibility of all States Parties. It also noted that different states were not party to the Convention for a variety of reasons and it was important to address them appropriately. In supporting Sweden, the President acknowledged the need to categorize States and to approach them accordingly. To this end, the presidency would also host a side event in New York with a focus on States without representation in Geneva.

5.2. Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

Ireland speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported that the VA Coordinators would continue to follow up on the States Parties that still needed to report on either the designation of a focal point/the development of a national VA plan or on both. She further informed that they were working on a plan for the coming year which included collaborating closely with the VA Committees of similar Conventions. Following the successful VA retreat across Conventions hosted by Belgium under the APMBC earlier in the year, the proposal was to consider convening another VA retreat hosted by Ireland. In noting the interconnectivity of themes in the achievement of the Convention's objectivities, the Coordinator highlighted that Universalization efforts were linked to the work of the other thematic coordinators. She concluded by stating that they would meet with the ISU to discuss their proposed work plan.

Spain added that there were incentives provided through Victim Assistance efforts which could encourage States to join the Convention. In this regard, the Coordinator would engage colleagues in Madrid to assist with CCM universalization efforts.

In supporting the strategies of the Victim Assistance Coordinators, Chile agreed with them that it was important that all the Coordinators worked together as well as with the committees of other similar Conventions and not "in silos" to achieve the objectives of the CCM.

5.3. Clearance and Risk Reduction (Sweden & Lao PDR)

Sweden, behalf of the Clearance Coordinators, informed the Meeting that the first task of the Coordinators would be to ensure that a methodology for handling Article 4 extension requests was in place as soon as possible given that the first requests were going to be submitted before the end of the year. In this regard, the Coordinators would meet the APMBC ISU together with the CCM ISU to establish best practices identified by the APMBC which had been analyzing extension requests for a long time already. The Coordinator also informed that they looked forward to working together with the Presidency on Risk Reduction Education.

5.4. Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

Peru, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported to the Meeting that they were still working on the work plan which would build on the work done in the past year. This would also include drawing on the experiences of other Conventions. Netherlands added that it would be bringing its experience from working on a similar Committee under the APMBC to take forward the work of the CCM Coordinators with a particular focus on enhancing the initiatives started under the Country Coalitions concept established by the German Presidency.

5.5. Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq informed that during the coming year the work of the Coordinator would focus on following up the 13 States Parties still with outstanding Initial Transparency Reports. Additionally, in consultation with the ISU, would send out reminders to States Parties early in 2019 to submit their 2018 annual reports in good time.

5.6. National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

The Coordinator reported that in the period up to the 9MSP it was going to explore the possibility of creating a specific CCM legislation database which would host the various types of legislation enacted by States Parties. This would allow other States working on their national legislation to have an assortment of examples to use as a point of cross-reference in their own efforts. Additionally, New Zealand informed that, as had been done in the past, it was open to opportunities to co-sponsor a regional workshop, perhaps with a focus on the South East Asia region since the presidency was thinking of doing the same.

New Zealand expressed its happiness that several States had taken the floor to speak out on divestment during the 8MSP which remains one of the ways to further strengthen the norms of the Convention. New Zealand aimed to take work forward on divestment during the current inter-sessional period and was currently considering how best to do this.

The President thanked the Coordinator for the good ideas especially on the creation of a CCM legislation database.

6. Update by the Implementation Support Unit

6.1 ISU Chad Mission

The Meeting was informed that the ISU Implementation Support Specialist had undertaken a 4-day joint mission to Chad that week with a member of the APMBC ISU to assist as necessary that

country in its implementation of CCM Article 4 and in the preparation of its extension request of APMBC Article 5. The mission was being conducted as an example of synergies between the two ISUs as mandated by the States Parties of both Conventions.

6.2 CCM Country Pages

The Director notified the Meeting that the ISU was in the process of creating country pages on the CCM website. She informed that the pages would be briefs on each State Party highlighting its implementation of the CCM with a particular focus on Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. She undertook to have sample pages ready for the next meeting and to which she would welcome feedback from the Coordinators.

In response to a query on whether states would be able to update their own pages, the Director clarified that the website platform was only accessible by the ISU so it would not be possible. However, countries were welcome to provide updated information for the ISU to include on their page. Furthermore, she emphasised the importance to maintain uniformity in presentation of the pages therefore the ISU would update the pages itself. This in the early stages would be a relatively easy task as the numbers of States with heavy obligations were still low. In addition, the website platform would probably need to be upgraded as the number of States Parties grew.

6.3 ISU at UNGA 73

The Director informed that the ISU was going to be in New York during the week of 8 – 12 October 2018 to participate in a number of CCM related side events as well to support the promotion of the 2018 UNGA Resolution on the Implementation of the CCM. The ISU would also use the opportunity to follow up with CCM implementation matters particularly with States Parties that did not have a diplomatic presence in Geneva. Some of the events the ISU would participate in included the side event to be hosted by Coordinators New Zealand and Iraq on national implementation measures and transparency measures. The ISU would also participate in a CCM briefing session targeting Caribbean states organised by the CMC.

6.4 Financing of the ISU

The ISU Director reported to the meeting that since the last meeting only one State Party had made a voluntary financial contribution (7c) to the ISU Trust Fund of CHF 866.00. She informed that so far only 53 out of the 102 States Parties had until then made contributions to the 2018 annual budget amounting to just over CHF 373'490.70 against a budget of CHF 465'440 which represents just over 80% of the total budget.

The Director also reminded that the United Kingdom during the just ended 8MSP had pledged to contribute £20'000 (approx. CHF 25'000) and that she expected to receive this amount over the following days. She noted that this contribution would significantly reduce the outstanding contributions balance of CHF 91'949.30.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Media coverage of Israeli cluster munitions stocks

New Zealand informed the Meeting of information online indicating that the Israel Air Force had issued a bid for commercial companies to destroy the type of cluster bombs that were used by its the military during the Second Lebanon War which had resulted in high failure rates. New Zealand had approached the Israeli Permanent Mission for further information on this positive move and would share the response with the Coordination Committee.

7.2 Condemnation of Cluster Munition Use

New Zealand recalled its statement at the 8MSP about looking for ways to strengthen the norm against cluster munitions. In particular, it was keen to work with delegations to improve the language used on the condemnation of cluster munitions use – the language in the Final Reports on the 7MSP and 8MSP could be strengthened. New Zealand hoped that as States began preparations for the 2nd Review Conference there would discussion to strengthen condemnation language once again. She also wondered whether there was a possibility to revisit the proposal considered before for the Coordination Committee to issue joint condemnation statements on use of cluster munitions.

When asked for additional information on confirming incidences of cluster munitions use, the CMC informed that it was unable to get corroboration on some instances because of challenges faced in accessing the areas in question.

7.3 CCM Signature 10th Anniversary

The CMC reminded the Meeting that the 10th Anniversary of the Convention’s Signature would be on 3rd December 2018 and wanted to know if any of the Coordinators were planning on celebrating the milestone as it would be happy to collaborate with them on such plans.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held in the second week of November when all Coordinators travelling to New York for the UNGA First Committee would have returned. The actual date of the Meeting would be communicated closer to the day.
