



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 25th September 2019

in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 13:00 to 15:00 hours

1. Present:

Switzerland – 2RC President

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Ms. Aline Berdoz

United Kingdom – 10MSP President-Designate

Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Sri Lanka – Immediate past President (9MSP)

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Afghanistan

Mr. Shoaib Timory

Mr. Abdul Ahad Shirzad

Australia

Mr. Diwaka Prakash

Ms. Thuy Nguyen

Austria

H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Chile

Ms. Carlotta Ziveri

Iraq

Dr. Abbas Kadhom Abbas

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Montenegro

H.E. Mr. Milorad Šćepanović

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Namibia

Mr. Colin Namalambo

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Philippines

Mr. Enrik Revillas

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Nkole

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Apologies received:

Sweden

Implementation Support Unit - Secretariat

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Ms. Favour Abah

2. Opening remarks by the President

Ambassador Félix Baumann, President of the 2nd Review Conference (2RC) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, opened the meeting by thanking the Coordination Committee for attending the welcome lunch he had just hosted at the Maison de la Paix Restaurant. Ambassador Baumann stated that not only was he new to his role as CCM president but also to the city as he had just been appointed the new Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He introduced his colleague, Ms. Aline Berdoz, as the special advisor to the Swiss 2RC Presidency. The President added that he looked forward to working closely with the Committee up to the hosting of the 2RC.

The President tabled the provisional Agenda which was adopted thereafter by the Meeting as presented.

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

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 29th August 2019, without any amendments, as a correct record of what had transpired at that Meeting.

4. Introduction by the Swiss Presidency regarding key milestones towards the 2nd Review Conference

The President reminded the Meeting that a Review Conference was a central aspect in the course of any Convention and that the Swiss Presidency intended to use the forthcoming event to decisively advance the implementation of the CCM. He added that the aim of the Presidency would be to give the Convention a fresh impetus and to enhance its political importance. This was with the aim of underlining its contribution to the achievement of broader objectives in the humanitarian field, the promotion of peace and sustainable development.

Ambassador Baumann highlighted that achieving the objectives of the Convention was a joint effort and that the Presidency intended to put in place an inclusive and transparent process that enabled both States Parties and civil society to contribute substantially to the work of the Review Conference. The President reminded the Meeting that the 2RC would take place from 16 to 20 November 2020 though the exact location would be communicated at a later stage. The Presidency was also working on the 2RC logo, which would be presented to the Coordination Committee as soon as it was ready.

The President stressed that the main task of the Swiss presidency during the year would be to ensure preparedness for the 2RC at which several documents would be considered and eventually adopted. He gave a brief outline of the four main Review Conference documents:

1. The Review Document - that would provide an overview of what had been done since the 1st Review Conference in Dubrovnik and what was still to be done;
2. The Action Plan - which would reflect the anticipated challenges and define the activities for the CCM community for the following five years;
3. The Political Declaration - that would enhance the political importance of the Convention; and

4. The Final Report of the 2nd Review Conference - that would contain important decisions on the machinery, financing and processes of the Convention to ensure the effective functioning and implementation of the CCM.

The President further informed that there were two important milestones before the 2RC, which were the two Preparatory Meetings (PrepCon) that would take place on 8 June 2020 and 4 September 2020. He added that there would be a need to organize work around these two important events to ensure an effective and productive process. He expressed his anticipation to have the Coordination Committee support his team during that busy process.

Ambassador Baumann outlined that the first step would be to have the relevant draft documents including the Review document ready by the 1st PrepCon. He emphasized that the Coordination Committee would be playing a crucial role in elaborating and drafting the document which he envisioned would be the major task for Coordinators during the first three months of 2020. He reaffirmed that he and his team were looking forward to undertaking that task together with the Coordination Committee members and thanked them in advance for their anticipated assistance.

The President conveyed that another priority of the Swiss Presidency would be to improve on universalization of the Convention. He pointed out that the objective of attaining 130 States Parties by the Review Conference was ambitious and the utmost efforts would be employed to convince new States to join the Convention. He acknowledged that these efforts would build upon the efforts of previous Presidencies including Sri Lanka and other Coordination Committee members in promoting the universalization of the CCM. In this regard, the Presidency would engage closely with the CCM Coordinators on Universalization.

The President also reminded that the 2019 CCM Resolution which would be considered at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was an important step in giving the Convention good visibility and encouraging its universalization. He noted that this matter would be discussed in more detail later during the Meeting under the corresponding Agenda item.

5. Interactive exchange with Committee members on the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) as well as on the activities and priorities in the run up to the 2nd Review Conference

The President invited the Coordinators to share their thoughts on how best to implement the Convention in the period up to the 2RC though he was aware that some of them may not have their ideas fully developed as yet.

5.1 International Cooperation and Assistance (Montenegro & Netherlands)

Ambassador Šćepanović of Montenegro, in its role as one of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, began by congratulating Ambassador Baumann upon his election as 2RC President and expressed its recognition of Switzerland's contribution as a donor State in the area of international cooperation and assistance. Montenegro pledged its support towards the Swiss Presidency on enforcing the Convention.

Montenegro also expressed its appreciation of its Co-Coordinator, Netherlands, for its realistic and balanced approach, and revealed its enthusiasm about their cooperation in productive projects within the thematic area. Montenegro conveyed its high esteem of the assistance and expertise of the ISU Director and highlighted the ISU's steady commitment to the work of the Convention and the reliance of the Coordinators on the ISU's support. Montenegro reiterated its desire to achieve as much as possible while also acknowledging existing obstacles and realistic expectations.

Ambassador Šćepanović also underlined the interdependence of all Coordinators and that CCM universalization was the responsibility of all States Parties. He stressed that all Coordinators must, therefore, advocate for the universalization of the Convention. In that respect, Montenegro assured the Meeting that the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance would be engaging with States not Party contaminated with cluster munitions to relay to them the importance of their accession and the benefits they could obtain through international cooperation and assistance.

He further acknowledged that the Dubrovnik Action Plan was a solid basis for implementing the Convention. On behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Montenegro, reaffirmed their fervent support for the Country Coalitions concept introduced by Germany during its presidency. Montenegro asserted its opinion that States not Party due to military policies could be co-opted to provide international assistance, especially within the country coalitions framework, if they had the capacity to do so. The Coordinators also recognized the importance of better coordination of cooperation and assistance activities in states with obligations, the value of an open approach to potential donors, and the desirability of assistance requests being evidence-based with results that were tangible and measurable.

Montenegro concluded its contribution by informing the Presidency that it welcomed the updates that had been made to the 2019 CCM UNGA Resolution and that it had no objections to its content.

The Netherlands, in its role as Co-Coordinator, welcomed the President to Geneva and the other new members of the Coordination Committee and expressed its excitement to be working with Montenegro up to the 2RC. The Netherlands reported that in the context of the Country Coalitions concept, a closed meeting on the establishment of a Lao PDR country coalition had taken place in the margins of the 9MSP. He further reported that the deliberations had been productive, and the Coordinators would continue to strategize on organizing similar meetings in the future to encourage other States with obligations to form country coalition partnerships. He concluded by informing that the Coordinators has started working on their work plan for the year.

5.2 Universalization (Chile & the Philippines)

The Philippines conveyed its pleasure to be serving on the Coordination Committee especially as it was the newest State Party to the CCM. The Philippines reminded the Meeting that it had collaborated with New Zealand and the ISU in organizing the Asia-Pacific regional workshop that was hosted in Manila, Philippines in June 2019. The Philippines expressed its hopes of sustaining a momentum in the universalization of the Convention along with its Co-Coordinator, Chile.

In his contribution under this thematic discussion, the CMC Director congratulated the newly elected president and affirmed his support to him and the whole Coordination Committee. He further reported

that the CMC would be hosting a working breakfast for States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region in the sidelines of the 74th Session of the UNGA First Committee. The CMC Director informed that the objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for ongoing dialogue on the CCM and promote its universalization amongst the CARICOM members. CMC conveyed its anticipation of working with Chile to promote CCM universalization at the Organization of American States (OAS).

5.3 Victim Assistance (Mexico & Spain)

Mexico began by expressing its full support to the President and on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, noted that the thematic was an important element of the CCM which had been lagging in implementation. As such the work of the Coordinators would be to enhance Article 5 implementation in the coming year. He emphasized the importance of increased promotion of assisting cluster munition victims within a framework that encompasses other Conventions such as the APMBC and CCW Protocol V. Mexico highlighted that the integrated approach to victim assistance was practical and efficient as it provided a broader scope of reaching victims under the guidelines of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Mexico assured that the Coordinators would be diligent in producing a forward-looking document for the Review Conference.

Spain congratulated Ambassador Baumann on his election and expressed its enthusiasm on collaborating with Mexico in continuing the work it had pursued with its previous Co-Coordinator, Ireland, the previous year.

5.4 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Afghanistan & Sweden)

Afghanistan, on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, offered its heartfelt congratulations to the Swiss Presidency. Afghanistan further expressed its excitement to work closely with both its Co-Coordinator, Sweden, and the ISU. The Coordinator noted that this was an important portfolio for Afghanistan as a State Party that had a clearance obligation to comply with. Therefore, it was eager to contribute to the work of this thematic area that stemmed from its own experience as an affected State. Afghanistan added that it looked forward to working well with other States in fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 of the Convention.

5.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Australia & Austria)

Austria, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, thanked the Swiss Presidency for its generosity in hosting the lunch earlier that day. Austria reported that the Coordinators were pleased to note that the Action Plan was on the 2RC agenda and that they would examine the DAP to work on its revision. Austria stated that it was delighted to be working with Australia, and that they were working on their concept note which would be circulated to the Coordination Committee when it was finalized. Austria pointed out that a significant development of the thematic area was that the Convention's first ever deadline extension request was submitted and approved at the just ended 9MSP.

Australia, similarly, expressed excitement to be working with Austria and pleasure in carrying on its tradition of serving on the CCM Coordination Committee; after having taken a one-year break for reflection. Australia had, in previous years, performed its duties as Coordinator on Victim Assistance

and Coordinator on International Cooperation and Assistance, and were enthusiastic about the new role as Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction. The intervention was concluded with sincere thanks extended to the ISU for its previous support and envisioned assistance going forward.

5.6 Transparency Measures (Iraq)

Iraq, Coordinator on Transparency Measures, commenced its contribution by congratulating Ambassador Baumann on his election as 2RC President and conveying its anticipation of the Review Conference. Iraq reminded that it was one of the most affected countries and that it was pleased to be a recipient of international cooperation and assistance to help overcome the challenges it faced in the clearance of cluster munition remnants and assistance to victims. As Coordinator on Transparency Measures, Iraq reaffirmed its commitment to do its best in reminding States Parties to submit their initial and annual transparency reports. Its plan for the year would be to continue to follow-up with especially the 9 States Parties still with overdue initial reports as well as to write to the new States Parties to encourage them to submit their initial reports in a timely manner.

5.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand, Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, reported that it would be co-hosting a lunchtime event on 16th October 2019 in the margins of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee. The event would focus on the past, present and future of the CCM given that the Convention would in 2020 be marking 10 years since its entry into force. The main speakers at the event would include the 2RC, 9MSP and 10MSP Presidencies. New Zealand extended a warm invitation to all Coordinators to participate in the meeting and provide brief updates on their respective thematic work. New Zealand concluded by informing that that more information on the event would be circulated to the Coordinators closer to the date.

5.8 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Namibia and Zambia)

Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation, assured the President that though they did not have a specific thematic to work on, the Coordinators were ready to undertake any assignment the presidency tasked them with. In addition, Zambia reported that it was continuing to engage with Zimbabwe to convince it to change its voting pattern on the CCM Resolution at the UNGA. Zambia informed that it would be meeting with the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe the following day and hoped to have a positive report at the next meeting.

Co-Coordinator, Namibia, also congratulated the 2RC President on his election at the just ended 9MSP and conveyed its pleasure to be joining Zambia to serve as a Coordinator on General Status and Operation of the Convention. Namibia also availed itself to work in collaboration with the presidency.

Before the President closed discussion on this Agenda item, the ICRC representative offered her warmest congratulations to Ambassador Baumann on his election as 2RC President and pledged the ICRC's full support to the work of the Convention. She stated that the Review Conference would present opportunities for the CCM to address priorities such as universalization and reminded the Meeting of the ambitious goal of 130 States Parties by the Review Conference. In that regard, the ICRC

would persist in promoting the universalization of the Convention by organizing regional and national seminars in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific as well as cooperate with the African Union.

The ICRC representative communicated that the Review Conference would also allow for realistic goal setting for the next five years after the 2RC and that those goals were crucial in achieving a cluster munition-free world. The ICRC complimented the CCM as a success story in the field of disarmament. The ICRC representative highlighted that efforts should be redoubled to ensure the continuance of the Convention's implementation through mobilization of the needed resources. She confirmed the ICRC's continued support to States Parties in implementing the Convention's core obligations through its Weapon Contamination and Physical Rehabilitation programmes.

Ambassador Baumann conveyed his wholehearted thanks to the ICRC for its usual support towards the work of the Convention.

The President concluded discussions by extending words of gratitude to all the Coordination Committee members for their expressions of support and for their active interaction under the Agenda item.

6. Discussion on the draft 2019 UNGA First Committee Resolution on the Implementation of the CCM

Ambassador Baumann introduced the draft UN General Assembly First Committee Resolution on the implementation of the CCM. He pointed out that the 2019 Resolution did not differ much from the 2018 version and that apart from technical updates, the following were suggested for addition:

1. A preambular paragraph, PP18, which notes the progress made on the implementation of the Convention such as the reduced number of victims while acknowledging the remaining challenges up to the 2RC;
2. An operative paragraph, OP7, on the importance of taking good care of the victims with language borrowed from the APMBC resolution; and
3. Another operative paragraph, OP9, on requesting the UN Secretary-General to convene the 2RC. The language in this paragraph was still subject to change as the President reported that he was working with UNODA on it to ensure the support of the UNSG.

The President noted that until 2018, the Resolution had not been open to sponsorship and outlined a few options on how to possibly move forward with the 2019 Resolution:

- (i) An open sponsorship - which could lead to an unhealthy race to increase the number of sponsors each year;
- (ii) A sponsorship that was only open to the Coordination Committee members - a more stable option with a constant number of sponsors; or
- (iii) A sponsorship comprising of only the presidency troika - past, present and future president – following the practice of the APLC.

The President thereafter opened the floor for comments on the draft Resolution and its sponsorship and informed that comments could also be submitted in written form.

In its contribution, Australia indicated that it had no specific comments on the Resolution but would prefer the open sponsorship option in order that more countries could sponsor it to demonstrate the momentum gained by the CCM over time.

In its contribution, the United Kingdom stated that the PP18 was not specific enough and suggested that further clarity on the progress and challenges would be beneficial. The UK also recommended that the OP7, that was based on wording of the APLC resolution, be amended to be more CCM-specific. Additionally, the UK called for another operative paragraph, OP10, to be added on financial issues to ensure that the Convention would have enough funds for the hosting of the 2RC in 2020. The UK added it did not hold a strong view on the Resolution sponsorship and concluded by offering to also submit its comments in writing.

In its contribution, the Netherlands disclosed that it had no specific comments on the text and supported the recommendations of the UK on the Resolution. However, regarding the Resolution sponsorship, the Netherlands cautioned against the option of limiting sponsorship to the presidency troika as this could cause a problem in situations where the President-Designate was not yet known as had been the case in the past.

In its contribution, Mexico had no issue with the text but would consider the UK's proposals. It further expressed its wish to see similar sponsorship numbers with other humanitarian disarmament Conventions so that the same States would be sponsoring across Conventions. Nonetheless, Mexico considered that seeking sponsorship of only Coordination Committee members was a more stable option.

In its contribution, Austria indicated that it had no strong views on the Resolution. It, however, shared the view of the Netherlands regarding limiting the sponsorship to the presidency troika. It suggested that perhaps going back to 3 or 5 previous presidencies would be another more stable option.

The UNODA representative congratulated Ambassador Baumann on his elections and assured him of her organisation's steadfast support. She also thanked the President for having consulted UNODA on the Resolution.

Ambassador Baumann conveyed his warmest appreciation to all who had contributed to the discussion and to all that would submit their comments in writing as well.

7. Update by the CCM Implementation Support Unit

7.1 Article 4 extension request

The ISU Director informed the Meeting that Lebanon had submitted the first draft of its Article 4 compliance deadline extension request and that the ISU had already provided Lebanon with some

initial comments on the document. The Director anticipated a response from Lebanon by the end of the following week.

7.2 Update on the financing of the ISU

The Director reported that since the last Meeting, two additional States Parties had made their 2019 contributions, bringing the total number of contributing States in 2019 to 40 and the amount contributed to just over the annual budget. Furthermore, the ISU was awaiting additional pledges towards the 2019 budget that had not been received from 4 States Parties. The Director reminded the Meeting that the 9MSP approved the transfer of approximately CHF 170'000 from the ISU Trust Fund to the Working Capital Reserve (WCR). This was in addition to the contribution of one State Party of CHF 4'600 to the Reserve bringing the total funds held in the restricted account to CHF 556'837.

7.3 ISU Staff change

The ISU Director notified the Committee that Mr. Matthieu Laruelle had left his position as Implementation Support Specialist to join the GICHD and that the recruitment process of his replacement had been completed. The position had been offered to and accepted by Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi of Iraq, who would be commence in the position on Tuesday 1st October 2019. Mr. Al-Juhaishi would be bringing to the ISU several years of experience as a former Iraqi diplomat working in the field of disarmament while in Geneva.

8 Any other business

As there were no matters to discuss under this agenda item, the President thanked the members present for their active participation and closed the Meeting.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 20 November 2019. Details pertaining to that Meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to that date.

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