



**MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison the la Paix, from 10:00 – 11:00 hours**

**1. Present:**

Sri Lanka - 9MSP Presidency

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Lao PDR

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

CMC

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Melanie Gerber

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received:

Chile

Ireland

Mozambique

Nicaragua

Panama

Peru

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Zambia

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

9MSP President, Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, opened the second Coordination Committee meeting of 2019 and the fifth under the Sri Lankan Presidency by thanking Committee members for their presence at that very busy time of year, particularly with the High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the Human Rights Council taking place that week. He reminded the meeting that 2019 also marked the CD's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a key landmark in global disarmament. In this context, he urged the Coordination Committee to keep the momentum going and carry on the work towards the full implementation of the CCM.

Continuing with his opening remarks, the President extended a warm welcome to Ms Charlotte Skarten, the new representative of New Zealand, to her first Coordination Committee Meeting and in her role as CCM Coordinator on National Implementation Measures. He further noted that New Zealand's Concept Note had been circulated to the Committee ahead of the Meeting and for which he was thankful.

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Coordination Committee Meeting**

The Committee approved as circulated the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

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

### **4.1 Universalization outreach**

The President informed the Meeting that he had continued in his efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention through bilateral meetings in the margins of the Human Rights Council high level sessions and the Fourth Annual Pledging Conference of the APMBC.

### **4.2 Coordination Committee mid-term review**

The Ambassador proposed to host a mid-term review of the work undertaken by the Coordination Committee sometime in late April or early May. He suggested that this could take the form of a working lunch to take stock of achievements made so far in the implementation of the thematic Coordinators' Concept Notes and identify the remaining objectives up to the 9MSP.

## **5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 9MSP**

The President invited Thematic Coordinators to present updates based on the implementation of their Concept Notes.

### **5.1 Universalization (Chile & Panama)**

In the absence of Chile and Panama, the Coordinators on Universalization, the ISU Director gave an update on the informal meeting on CCM universalization organized by the Coordinators, which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the margins of the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National

Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN22). The Director highlighted that presentations were given by the ISU, CMC and ICRC.

Contributing to the update, the ICRC reported that representatives from 8 States had attended the meeting and had engaged in lively discussions after the presentations. She added that most of the States had demonstrated interest in the mechanisms related to accession/ratification, reporting and national implementation of the Convention. The ICRC representative indicated that she had circulated all 3 presentations made during the event to relevant ICRC delegations to facilitate follow up in targeted countries. In this regard, she mentioned that her colleagues in Nigeria are ready to reach out to government officials in capital.

In its contribution, CMC explained that it had found the universalization meeting held during the NDM-UN22 to be timely and a good means to ensure a continued information flow in light of the regular turn-over of government representatives. Additionally, the CMC representative announced that CMC would be offering small grants to its campaigners to further support universalization efforts. CMC indicated that it would share its list of grant recipients with the Coordination Committee in the following meeting.

## 5.2 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR & Sweden)

Lao PDR reported, on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, that the Analysis Group had met to go over the extension requests of Germany and Lao PDR and that initial observations had been made to both countries.

In its national capacity, Lao PDR informed the Meeting that it had submitted its reviewed extension request the previous day and that all relevant documents had been made available by the ISU on the Convention's website. While reminding the Meeting that clearance and survey represented a daunting task due to the extent of UXO contamination, the Lao PDR representative welcomed any further recommendations from the Coordination Committee on its submitted extension request.

Adding to the update, the ISU Director confirmed that the extension requests of both Germany and Lao PDR had been uploaded onto the Convention's website and that the Article 4 Analysis Group would be providing a report with recommendations to the 9MSP President in due course as outlined in the Guidelines adopted at the 8MSP.

## 5.3 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

The Netherlands, on behalf of the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators, began the update by expressing its appreciation to the Lao PDR representative for facilitating a meeting between the Analysis Group and the Lao delegates participating in the NDM-UN22 to discuss the Lao extension request. The Netherlands clarified that, as indicated in the Guidelines for extension requests, Lao PDR had been excused from analysing its own request to avoid a conflict of interest. The Netherlands added that both the Article 3 and Article 4 Analysis Groups had met and restated that they would soon start the process of drafting their respective reports to the President.

Continuing with the update, the Netherlands reported that the Coordinators would continue to reach out to States Parties with imminent deadlines under Article 3 and Article 4 to see if they required assistance to fulfil their obligations.

The Netherlands also expressed the Coordinators' availability to meet with the President and the ISU to talk through the process of revision and adoption of the *Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the CCM* at the 9MSP. The representative proposed to look at best practice under the APMBC.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked the Coordinator for the reminder and welcomed the initiative. The President then enquired if the thematic Coordinators had plans to host an event on the Country Coalition Concept. In response to the President's query, the Netherlands invited the ISU to inform the Meeting on an event that it was arranging on the subject.

The ISU Director reported that with a generous financial contribution from Canada, the ISU would be organizing an informal lunchtime roundtable on the Country Coalitions Concept before end of March. The Director explained that the purpose of the event would be to bring together States Parties with CCM Article 3 and 4 obligations that had indicated that they were not on track or would need to request a deadline extension and encourage them to consider establishing a Country Coalition to enhance CCM implementation. The Director further informed that States Parties that had recorded successes in the implementation of their Article 3 and 4 obligations through the establishment of some form of a Country Coalition would also be invited to participate in the event to share their experiences.

#### 5.4 Storage and Stockpile Destruction (Austria & Mozambique)

Austria, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, informed the meeting that since the last meeting the focus of the work of the Coordinators was on the first Article 3 extension request of the Convention submitted by Bulgaria. After examining Bulgaria's Article 3 deadline extension request, the Analysis Group had invited Bulgaria to provide clarification on certain aspects of its plans through specific questions conveyed. Austria explained that since the last meeting the Coordinators had corresponded bilaterally with Bulgaria on several occasions and that, as there was no Bulgarian delegation from capital to the NDM-UN22, the main point of contact had been with the Bulgarian Permanent Mission in Geneva. She further conveyed that the Article 3 Analysis Group had consulted with the ISU, CMC, ICRC and GICHD, and come to the conclusion that most shortcomings identified in the request depended on the identification of a contractor. Austria expressed its hope that it would be able to make progress on this key issue during the following week. The Coordinator concluded its update by saying that it would continue to follow up with other States Parties with upcoming Article 3 obligations.

The President enquired if the Coordinators had had any positive outcome from attempts to engage with Guinea-Bissau. The ISU Director notified that following her communications with a UN representative based in Guinea-Bissau she had been advised that the country would be holding its legislative elections in March 2019 and it would therefore be more constructive to reach out to relevant national authorities after the elections.

## 5.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq opened its update by congratulating Sri Lanka for submitting its initial transparency report just ahead of the deadline. He was happy to note that this was after a reminder letter had been sent to Sri Lanka a week earlier. Iraq reported that a second letter would be sent the following day to all other CCM States Parties to remind them to submit their 2018 annual transparency report by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Iraq informed that during a bilateral meeting with a State Party with an overdue initial transparency report, that State's representative had advised that it had only recently received the reminder letter that was sent in September 2018. In a bilateral meeting with another State Party with an overdue initial transparency report, that State disclosed that it would begin the process of preparing its report after having received another reminder letter. Iraq reported that during these bilateral meetings, it had reiterated that the ISU was available to provide guidance on how to complete the report template. Iraq concluded its update by stating that it looked forward to working with other Coordination Committee members to increase reporting rates of initial and annual transparency reports in the run up to the 9MSP.

## 5.6 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

In the absence of Ireland and Spain, the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, the CMC representative announced that with regard to the Human Rights Council sessions that were taking place, it would make interventions the following week during the session on the rights of persons with disabilities focusing on the wealth of experiences available in peer to peer support.

## 5.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand, Coordinator for National Implementation Measures, reported to the Meeting that its Concept Note had been concluded and circulated the previous week, and that it was similar to its previous concept notes. New Zealand informed that it would be following up with the attendees of the side event it had hosted in New York in the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security in October 2018.

New Zealand further notified that the ISU had published on the Convention's website, a table highlighting the national legislation of States Parties with specific implementation law for the CCM, including the prohibition of investments in cluster munitions. The Coordinator added that New Zealand intended to sponsor a regional workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to gather South Asian States as it was still an under-represented region in the Convention's overall membership. New Zealand clarified that it had put in a bid for funding which had not yet been approved by capital. While hopeful that the funds would be approved, the representative explained that it hoped other partners would co-support the event.

In addition to New Zealand's update, the ICRC representative informed that, as was announced in a previous Coordination Committee meeting, the ICRC had organized a workshop in Colombo on the drafting of Sri Lanka's CCM domestic law. The workshop had taken place on 31<sup>st</sup> January rather than

in December 2018 as was originally planned. Twenty-three participants from various government agencies had been in attendance and the draft produced during the workshop would be submitted to the Ministry of Defence for review. The ICRC representative explained that its delegation in Colombo would continue to work with the Sri Lankan authorities regarding the domestic implementation of the Convention in the country.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked the ICRC for its support and for having organized a productive workshop in Sri Lanka. He highlighted that, as was reported in Sri Lanka's initial transparency report, the Sri Lankan government was in the process of studying its existing law to determine if it would need to enact additional legislation to implement the CCM domestically. The President reiterated Sri Lanka's unwavering support towards the work of the Convention.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to New Zealand for its intention to sponsor a regional workshop in Colombo. While reminding the Coordination Committee of the complex regional environment, he stated that Sri Lanka would be honoured to host this workshop to promote CCM-related objectives and would also welcome any other disarmament-related initiatives in Sri Lanka that promoted engagement in the South Asian region and beyond.

In concluding discussions on the thematic reports, the Ambassador conveyed his appreciation to all Coordination Committee members for their updates and constant efforts.

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

### **6.1 Update on the financing of the ISU**

The ISU Director reminded the Meeting that the ISU had sent reminders to all 103 States Parties that are assessed at the beginning of the year. She reported that, however, only 12 States Parties had so far contributed approximately CHF 124'000 to the 2019 ISU annual budget, which was equivalent to 26% of the budget. The Director said that a reminder letter would be drafted for the President to send to States Parties that had not yet made their contributions. Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked the ISU Director for the update and assured the Meeting that Sri Lanka itself would be making its contribution to the 2019 budget immediately.

### **6.2 2021 Article 3 and Article 4 deadlines**

The Director informed that the ISU had been in touch with States Parties with impending Article 3 and Article 4 deadlines. She notified the Meeting that 2 out of the 4 States contacted and that had treaty deadlines in 2021 had communicated their intention to submit extension requests; one under Article 3 and the other under Article 4. The ISU would follow up on the official notification from these States, so that the analysis process could begin on time.

## **7. Any other business**

### **7.1 Update from CMC**

The CMC representative, Ms Amélie Chayer, announced that after more than 10 years at CMC, she had decided to leave at the end of March and pursue other interests. She expressed confidence that

her colleague, Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer, would ensure a smooth transition with respect to CMC representation at the Coordination Committee meetings. Ms Chayer added that she had thoroughly enjoyed working with the dynamic CCM community and conveyed her best wishes to the Coordination Committee.

On behalf of the entire Coordination Committee, the President conveyed his deepest gratitude to Ms. Chayer for her outstanding contribution to the work of the Convention. He further noted his appreciation of the invaluable impact of the work of the CMC in general. He gave the example of CMC's campaigner in Sri Lanka who played an important role in his government's decision to join the Convention.

**8. Date of the Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held in late March 2019 and that the actual date would be communicated by the ISU closer to the day.

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