



9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF STATES PARTIES  
2-4 SEPTEMBER  
GENEVA 2019

**MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison the la Paix,**  
**from 10:00 – 11:30 hours**

**1. Present:**

Sri Lanka - 9MSP Presidency  
H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez  
Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya

Peru  
Mr. Manuel Mundaca

Austria  
Ms. Susanne Hammer

Spain  
Mr. Rafael De Górgolas Hernández-Mora

Chile  
Ms. Pamela Moraga

Sweden  
Mr. Daniel Nord

Germany  
Mr. Bruno Paulus

Zambia  
Ms. Chileshe Veronica Nkole

Iraq  
Mr. Emad Al Juhaishi  
Mr. Mohammed R. Al-Haidari

CMC  
Ms. Amélie Chayer  
Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

Ireland  
Dr. Patricia Cullen

ICRC  
Ms. Wen Zhou

Lao PDR  
Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Secretariat - CCM Implementation Support Unit  
Ms. Sheila Mweemba  
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Netherlands  
Mr. Reint Vogelaar  
Mr. Neils Renssen

Apologies received:  
Mozambique  
New Zealand  
Nicaragua  
Switzerland  
UNODA

Panama  
Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

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

President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (9MSP), Ambassador Abdul Azeez of Sri Lanka, opened the second Coordination Committee meeting under Sri Lanka's Presidency with a warm welcome to all the Committee members. He also commended the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for all the support it had availed to the President's team since its assumption of the office.

## **3. Approve Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Coordination Committee Meeting**

The Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were unanimously approved as circulated by the Secretariat.

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

### **4.1 CCM Side events in the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA - First Committee**

The 9MSP President thanked the CCM Coordinators that had travelled to New York for their support during the two CCM side events held during the first week of the UNGA73 First Committee. The President reported that New Zealand - Coordinator for National Implementation Measures on Thursday 11th October 2018 had hosted an 'invitation only' lunchtime meeting at its Permanent Mission in New York whose focus had been on State Party obligations in accordance with CCM Articles 7 and 9 provisions. He warmly congratulated the Coordinator on the initiative.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez added that, as the Presidency of the CCM 9MSP, Sri Lanka had also organized a successful lunchtime side event on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the UN Headquarters premises on the universalization of the Convention with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The President highlighted that a good number of States attended the event and that though he was unable to be physically present, he had delivered the keynote speech via video.

### **4.2 CCM Resolution**

The President further reported on the negotiations that led to the adoption on 6 November 2018 of draft resolution L.39 on the "*Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions*". He highlighted that specific discussions had taken place on the preambular text of the Resolution and that, compared to the previous year, five additional States had voted in favor of the 2018 draft resolution. While expressing his overall satisfaction with the preliminary voting results, the President noted that a lot of work still needed to be done in the run up to the final UNGA vote in December. In this regard, he informed that in the following weeks Sri Lanka would reach out to States that had abstained from voting or that were not present in the room to vote in favour of the Resolution.

In contributing to the matter under discussion, the CMC expressed its great satisfaction at the change in vote by the Russian Federation on the CCM draft resolution this year - moving away

from years of voting no to abstaining. The CMC noted that a contributing factor could have been the bilateral meetings between Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Ambassador Mr. Branislav Kapetanović and representatives at the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation in Geneva. That vote change meant that for the first time only one State had voted against the Resolution - Zimbabwe. The CMC representative also brought to the attention of the Coordination Committee statements made by 2 Signatory States during First Committee which represented an opportunity for follow up. To conclude its intervention, CMC wholeheartedly thanked all the Coordinators for their excellent statements during the First Committee.

Ambassador Azeez in response thanked the CMC for its consistent support and good work on the Convention.

#### 4.3 ISU Director visit to Sri Lanka

The President notified the Meeting that the ISU Director would be travelling to Colombo to assess the feasibility of the Presidency hosting a regional CCM workshop focusing on universalization and national implementation measures to be held in Sri Lanka likely in early 2019. The Director would also use the opportunity to discuss its implementation of the CCM.

#### 4.4 Allegations on use of cluster munitions

In the interest of transparency, the President informed the Committee that members might be aware of an NGO that was protesting Sri Lanka's election as CCM president and was therefore circulating letters/articles alleging that Sri Lankan government forces had used cluster munitions during the 2009 internal war. Ambassador Azeez assured the Meeting that Sri Lanka was addressing these concerns seriously and that he would keep the Coordination Committee informed of any further developments in this regard.

### 5. **Presentation of Concept Notes by Thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 9MSP**

As agreed during the previous meeting, the Presidency invited Thematic Coordinators to present their 2018-2019 Concept Notes to the Committee.

#### 5.1 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

On behalf of both VA Coordinators, Ireland reported that they would build on the work undertaken with its previous Co-coordinator, Italy. The Coordinator provided a general overview of its key objectives based on Action 4 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP). In this context, she outlined that they would continue to reach out to states that had not responded to previous letters and send targeted letters; look into long term funding challenges; design actions to work on challenges encountered in Article 5 implementation and again reach out to States Parties that still needed to designate a focal point. It was agreed that the Coordinators would send an electronic copy of their Concept Note to the Secretariat for it to be shared with other Coordination Committee members for comments/additions and thereafter would be uploaded onto the relevant thematic page of the Convention's website.

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

Sweden, on behalf of the Clearance Coordinators, informed the Meeting that as expressed during the previous Coordination Committee, one of the key priorities of its 2018-2019 Concept Note would be to ensure that a methodology for handling Article 4 extension requests would 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 explained that they would meet with the ISU to finalize their Concept Note in the following days.

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

Austria, reporting on behalf of Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, began by congratulating the Presidency on the voting results of CCM resolution L.39. Austria then reminded the Meeting that at the 8MSP in September 2018, there only remained 7 States Parties with obligations under Article 3. She further explained that of these States, two States Parties had indicated that they would complete destruction of their stockpiles by December 2018. The Coordinator further clarified that in the period up to the 9MSP, Austria and Mozambique intended to specially focus their attention on the 3 States Parties with completion deadlines in 2019. In order to ensure the effective implementation of Action 2 of the DAP, the Coordinator informed that they would engage with all 7 States Parties bilaterally and through letters. To conclude its presentation, Austria thanked the ISU for its support and promised to send an electronic copy of its Concept Note to the Secretariat for further distribution and comments.

## 5.4 Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

Peru, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported to the Meeting that they were finalizing their Concept Note which would build on the structure of the past years. In this regard, he informed that the Coordinators would reproduce the successful model used over the previous year and organize a series of 3 closed side events: one with States in need of assistance, one with donor States, and finally one with both categories of States. Peru concluded by informing the Meeting that the Article 6 Coordinators would continue to focus on enhancing the initiatives started under the Country Coalitions concept established by the German Presidency. Co-coordinator, the Netherlands, added that it would reach out to the Stockpile Destruction and Clearance Coordinators to start work on a methodology for the analysis of Article 3 and 4 extension requests as mandated by the MSP, with a view of presenting a draft at the next CCM Coordination Committee meeting.

## 5.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq informed that it had already submitted its Concept Note to the Presidency and thanked the ISU for its support in the preparation. The Coordinator explained that one of its key priorities during the coming year would be to follow up with all the 13 States Parties still with outstanding Initial Transparency Reports and the 2 States Parties with initial reports due in 2019. He also informed that letters had already been sent out to all 13 States Parties reminding them on the need to submit the overdue reports as soon as possible. Iraq further reported that it had already

following on the letters with bilateral outreach to States Parties with overdue Initial Transparency Reports - Rwanda, Tunisia, Togo, Benin and Iceland - in the margins of the 34<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Iraq added that in collaboration with the ISU, it would send out reminders to all States Parties early in 2019 to submit their 2018 annual reports in good time. The Coordinator further explained that it hoped that these efforts would contribute to an increased the rate of timely submission of both initial and annual Article 7 reports by the 9MSP.

The Coordinator seized the opportunity to thank New Zealand for hosting the side event on national implementation measures and transparency in New York in the margins of the First Committee which was attended by States Parties with overdue Initial Transparency Reports.

Iraq concluded its report by stating that it looked forward to working with other Coordinators to increase the provision of CCM implementation information through transparency reporting and that it would continue its outreach in the coming weeks in the margins of the CCW Conferences and the APMBC Meeting of States Parties to be held in Geneva later in the month.

#### 5.6 General Status and Operation of the Convention

Zambia informed the Meeting that she would meet later with her co-Coordinator Germany soon after he returned on New York to develop a Concept Note which would be circulated for comments once finalized.

#### 5.7 Universalization (Panama & Chile)

Panama, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, informed the Meeting that they were in the process of finalizing their Concept Note's timeline and activities they would share as soon as possible with the ISU. While recognizing the tremendous challenge that lay ahead in reaching 130 States Parties by 2020, Panama explained that the Coordinators would explore innovative approaches.

The Coordinator pointed out that it would continue to hold bilateral meetings both in Geneva and through its representations in global capitals and strive to promote dialogue and raise awareness on the CCM in all relevant fora. In this context, she explained that having the ISU make presentations on the Convention would be useful. In addition, she announced that with the support of the ISU, CMC and the ICRC, Coordinators would develop a brochure on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) addressing the concerns expressed by States yet to join on matters such as the financial implications of joining the Convention, etc. She further added that the brochure on FAQ would be a tool that could facilitate outreach activities carried out by all Coordinators and other States Parties. She highlighted that the brochure would be made available on the Convention's website alongside other resources such as the ICRC's ratification/accession toolkit and model law.

The Coordinator reiterated the idea of using other relevant fora to help further promote the universalization of the Convention. In this context, Panama further explained that it would seek the support of other States Parties to develop partnerships with regional organizations such as

the African Union (AU), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in order to maximize universalization efforts.

Ireland expressed its support towards the Coordinators' strategy to engage in outreach activities through Embassies in capital and through regional organizations. Ireland announced that it had just joined the OIF and that it would be happy to support the Coordinators' efforts to further engage with countries that are members of the organisation.

With a view to enhancing adherence with the Convention, Ireland enquired if, like with the APMBC, the CCM had considered appointing a goodwill ambassador.

In response, the ISU Director confirmed that the option had certainly been considered towards the end of the 6MSP Presidency held by Netherlands. She explained that then the challenge had been the identification of a person that simultaneously was passionate about the Convention and had global appeal. The Director added that having APMBC Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Bin Ra'ad, had indeed greatly helped increase the profile of the Ottawa Convention and that this was an idea that merited further exploration.

In supporting the idea, the President explained that Prince Mired's role and visit to Sri Lanka in March 2018 had been instrumental in the country's adherence to the APMBC and that the CCM could learn from its sister Convention's experience in this regard.

In the ensuing discussion, Ireland asked who would fund such an initiative. The ISU Director responded by conceding that it would most likely be the responsibility of States Parties to come up with the necessary funding mechanism.

In contributing to the discussion, the CMC emphasized that universalization was also about finding the right contact persons in capital and ensuring that many States Parties reach out to the government authorities with the same encouraging message. She added that while the idea of having a goodwill ambassador was positive, it was also important to take into consideration the fact that this would be a time-consuming endeavour.

In its contribution to the discussion, the ICRC explained that with the support of the ISU it had identified priority States for its universalization outreach. The ICRC representative added that she had already contacted ICRC's regional legal advisors around world and asked them to engage with relevant Ministries in capitals on CCM universalization. She also mentioned that ICRC was planning to organize regional workshops on the CCM in 2019 and that she looked forward to coordinating closely with the Presidency, the Coordination Committee and the ISU on these in order to maximize efforts. To conclude its intervention, ICRC explained that it had offered its services to the Sri Lankan government for the implementation of CCM Article 9. In that regard, she added that she was happy to announce that a workshop on the drafting of Sri Lanka's CCM domestic law would be organized in Colombo on 6 December.

The President thanked the ICRC for its efforts to further promote the universalization of the Convention and noted that the ISU Director's visit in Colombo in November and the legislative

workshop organized by ICRC in December were key steps towards Sri Lanka's timely implementation of its CCM obligations.

To highlight the trend in the rate of CCM Universalization, the ISU Director distributed a chart illustrating this since 2009 and reminded the Meeting that based on Article 1 of the Convention, it was the collective responsibility of all States Parties to promote increased adherence to the Convention. She further added that if at least each member of the Coordination Committee focused on one particular State, the rate of universalization would rapidly increase.

The President thanked everyone for the rich exchange of ideas on how to strengthen universalization efforts and reminded all Coordinators to send their finalized concept notes to the ISU for further distribution to the Coordination Committee, and when accepted to be uploaded on the Convention's website.

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

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

The ISU Director reported that since the last meeting 2 more States Parties made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund amounting to CHF 41'664.25 (7a, 7b and 7c). She explained that so far just 54 out of 102 States Parties had met their obligations towards the 2018 budget of CHF 465'440. In this regard, only CHF 415'143.56 had been collected representing approximately 89% of the total budget collected so far. Therefore, there still remained a balance of CHF 50'300 to meet the full budget. Nonetheless, the Director highlighted that 3 of the usual big contributing States were yet to make their contributions this year and that if these contributed at 2017 levels then the full budget would be met.

The Director further reported that one State Party made a contribution of CHF 4'856.29 towards the Working Capital Reserve bringing its funding total to CHF 381'823 leaving a small shortfall of CHF 18'177 to reach the optimal level of CHF 400'000.

### **6.2 CCM Country Pages**

As announced during the previous Meeting, the Director reminded that the ISU had started uploading CCM State Party country profile pages on the CCM website. The Director then distributed sample pages to Coordinators and welcomed feedback on their respective national profiles. Contributing to the discussion, Austria suggested adding country focal points or contact persons on each profile to facilitate easy communication. In thanking Austria for its constructive recommendation, the Director committed to making the relevant changes to the individual country profiles as necessary and invited other Coordinators to send their comments by email.

### **6.3 New brochure on International Cooperation and Assistance**

The Director announced that the ISU had developed a brochure on CCM Article 6 as an extra tool to promote the Country Coalitions approach and to facilitate universalization outreach. The Director also notified the Meeting that the ISU had received a grant from Canada that included CHF 3'000 towards the implementation of the Country Coalitions concept. She further added

that these funds could be used in support of the activities of the Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators in Geneva.

Contributing to the discussion, Ireland asked if the Country Coalitions concept was also intended to mentor future CCM States Parties. In response to Ireland's query, the Director replied that the Country Coalitions concept was more about assisting States Parties with current obligations and that it had not been used before as a tool to promote universalization. In response to another query on whether States not Party could benefit from the CCM Sponsorship Programme, the Director clarified that every year such States had benefitted from it. To illustrate this, the Director mentioned the case of Sri Lanka, then not a State Party, whose participation in the 7MSP had been facilitated through the CCM Sponsorship Programme.

## **7. Any other business**

### **7.1 Destruction of retained cluster munitions**

The Netherlands notified the Meeting that, as announced at the 8MSP, it had taken further steps to destroy a part of its retained cluster munitions. The representative explained that in order to reduce the number of retained munitions, the Netherlands had issued a call for tender which was secured by Norway and that the munitions to be destroyed would be shipped for destruction once the extensive administrative work had been done. He concluded by saying that the Netherlands would report on progress made in that regard at the 9MSP.

### **7.2 Use of the UPR Mechanism for CCM Universalization**

Panama highlighted the idea of using other relevant fora to help further promote the universalization of the Convention. In this context, Panama also suggested the inclusion of CCM-related issues into the recommendations made to States that are under review within the Human Rights Universal Periodic Review cycles. Panama stated that this was an opportunity to raise many issues including on disarmament matters. She encouraged all Coordinators to make these interventions in their national capacities.

In support of the Coordinator's idea, CMC explained that it was already doing so with regards to victim assistance and that it would be happy to expand its CCM outreach within that forum.

Acknowledging the strategies of the Coordinators for universalization, the President underscored the relevance of raising awareness on the CCM in other processes and the usefulness of the brochure with FAQ to facilitate States Parties' overall universalization efforts.

### **7.3 CMC Universalization Priorities**

The Cluster Munition Coalition informed the Meeting that it would focus its universalization efforts in the following weeks on 5 priority States. In this regard, it would follow up with The Gambia and South Sudan on the depositing of their respective instruments of ratification/accession in New York. In light of recent statements made at the First Committee,



the CMC added that it would also work with Djibouti and the Philippines. It was further reported that based on the latest steps taken by Angola, CMC would engage further with that country.

**8. Date of the Next Meeting**

The President concluded the meeting by thanking all Coordination Committee members for their work and invited Thematic Coordinators to send an electronic copy of their concept notes to the ISU as soon as possible for further distribution and comments.

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held during the second week of December. The actual date of the Meeting would be communicated closer to the day.

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