



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Friday 10th March
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix
from 10:00 to 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Republic of Iraq – 11MSP President

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa

Ms. Raghad Hasan

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Austria

Mr. Christoph Sternat

Bulgaria

Mr. Nikola Yakov

Chile

Ms. Montserrat Fuentes

France

Col. Philippe Lejeune

Gambia

Mrs. Baturu Camara

Guyana

Mr. Colin Luckie

Malawi

Ms. Tiyamike Banda

Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Robert in den Bosch

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

ICRC

Ms. Maya Brehm

Implementation Support Unit

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (11MSP), Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, warmly welcomed the Coordination Committee members to the second meeting of 2023 and the fourth under the Iraqi Presidency. Cordial greetings were extended to Ambassador Robert in den Bosch of the Netherlands who attended the Coordination Committee Meeting for the first time. The Committee approved the provisional agenda of the meeting as tabled by the presidency.

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

The Committee considered and approved, without correction, the amended Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2023 as an accurate record of what had been discussed during that meeting.

4. Update on the Priorities of the Iraqi presidency up to the 11MSP

4.1 Universalization of the Convention

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa reiterated that CCM universalization remained a priority for the presidency and was pleased to welcome the recent ratification of Nigeria, making it the Convention's 111th State Party. He indicated that this positive move was a result of the CCM Africa Regional Universalization Workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria, in March 2022.

Similarly, a universalization workshop would be hosted by the 11MSP Presidency in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 March 2023 to encourage the Arabic-speaking countries to join the Convention. The President outlined that the CCM Arab regional workshop was an important effort towards universalization as only a few of the 22 Arab states were CCM States Parties. He informed that Iraq had invited the embassies of Arab countries in Baghdad as well as partners from United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The workshop was co-sponsored by the governments of the United Kingdom (UK) and Norway. He expressed his hope for high quality participation in the workshop and assured of the presidency's utmost commitment to promote CCM universalization in the region.

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa reported that another universalization workshop was held successfully in Cameroon in February 2023, which was dedicated to francophone African countries. He pointed out that the event, which was sponsored by Switzerland and the UK, was another step forward in CCM universalization. He invited his colleague, Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari, who had attended the workshop, to provide more information.

Mr. Al-Haidari informed that the Cameroon workshop for francophone African countries was held on 15 and 16 February 2023 in Yaoundé. It was attended by two signatory States, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Djibouti, and a State not Party, Equatorial Guinea. Besides the participation of the 11MSP presidency and Cameroon, the host country, representatives of France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom also attended the meeting. The 11MSP President provided a pre-recorded video address to the participants, highlighting the

importance of universalization in the African region. The workshop allowed for frank discussion among states regarding the obstacles that hamper their accession or ratification to the Convention, as well as exploration of solutions for the challenges. Mr. Al-Haidari reported that along with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), he had represented the presidency at bilateral meetings with the Cameroonian Ministry of External Relations and Ministry of Defence. During those meetings, the CCM implementation of Cameroon was discussed. Following the workshop, the President had sent letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti and Equatorial Guinea to encourage their ratification/accession to the Convention.

4.2 Selection Process of the Next ISU Director

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa informed that in line with the calendar set out in the decision of the 10MSP, the selection panel had successfully concluded its task and appointed Ms. Pamela Moraga as the next ISU Director. Ms. Moraga's appointment was recommended by the panel to States Parties through a letter of silence procedure that concluded on 8 March 2023 without any objection. He informed that the new Director would begin her mandate on 1 May 2023 and would attend the 11MSP in that capacity.

He commended the panel for having carried out a complicated procedure and respected the rules of the procedure adopted for this process. The President congratulated Ms. Moraga on her appointment. Ambassador Hashim Mostafa expressed his appreciation for the excellent work and legacy of the current Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba. He extended his gratitude to the GICHD and the consultant, Impactpool, for their important role in supporting the process. A detailed report on the selection process would be shared with the Coordination Committee the following week.

5. Update on implementation of their workplans by thematic Coordinators up to the 11MSP

The Presidency invited the thematic Coordinators to report on the implementation of their workplans up to the 11MSP.

5.1 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Belgium and France)

France presented the apologies of its Co-Coordinator, Belgium, for being unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict of schedule with the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) meeting. Col. Philippe Lejeune of France introduced himself as the interim replacement of Ms. Inès Mensah as the CCM focal point.

France reminded that as Coordinators of General Status and Operation, were mandated to be the Gender Focal Points of the Convention. In accordance with the provisions of their workplan, the Coordinators had conducted various discussions with countries that had signed the Convention but not ratified it. To date, they had met with Liberia, Haiti, Kenya, Angola, Djibouti, and Cyprus. The Coordinators had also received feedback from Nigeria, but as it had become a State Party, Nigeria would not be included in the report to be submitted to the 11MSP on the role of gender in the ratification process. France restated the commitment of

the Coordinators to conduct bilateral interviews with the 11 signatory States. The aim of these interviews was to better understand the view of States on gender in their ratification process.

France reported that the first interviews revealed the following findings:

- Firstly, the interviews enabled the Coordinators to take stock of the current state of the ratification process of the states they met with. Prior to asking the states about the place of gender in the ratification process, the Coordinators enquired on their ratification status.
 - Liberia had expressed the political will to ratify the Convention by 2025. However, due to administrative delays, it expressed concern that it might not reach that goal.
 - Angola had demonstrated a new impetus to identify mines in its territory in the previous months. It had also shown its willingness to join the CCM through the openness of its authorities to the idea of ratification in the coming years.
- Secondly, it appeared that the majority of the States the Coordinators had met with disclosed that they had no difficulty with gender issues. Nonetheless, these States did not have an agreed definition of what “gender” meant at the national level.

France indicated that the Coordinators would present these conclusions as an anonymized statement at the 11MSP, where the Coordinators would inform States Parties of their conclusions and provide recommendations.

France continued its update by informing that, as per their work plan, the Coordinators intended to organized a joint event with the Gender Focal Points of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). France reminded the meeting that it was approached by the State of Palestine, the latest State Party of the APMBC, when France was the Gender Focal Point of the APMBC the previous year. This was followed by various bilateral meetings with the State of Palestine in its capital and in Geneva. On behalf of the Coordinators, France proposed to extend Palestine’s request for a workshop to all new members of the two humanitarian Conventions, unless Palestine specifically requested the event to be structured differently. Against this backdrop, the Coordinators would like to suggest the organization of a joint event between all the new States Parties to the APMBC and CCM, including Nigeria, where the Geneva centres, academics, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) could sensitize these States on gender issues in this area.

France reiterated that gender was a gateway to many other subjects. The work carried out by the Coordinators demonstrated how gender provided access to universalization issues. In its capacity as chair of the Article 5 Committee of the APMBC, France had witnessed how gender was an entryway to matters related to extension requests. In closing, France encouraged the other Coordination Committee members to engage with France and Belgium with regard to their various projects to see how the CCM Gender Focal Points could provide assistance on gender issues or discuss how to combine their efforts.

5.2 Universalization (Malawi and Spain)

Spain highlighted that with Nigeria's ratification, the Coordinators on Universalization had already achieved their first goal outlined in their workplan of at least one new State Party by the 11MSP. Spain reminded that another of the Coordinators' objective was to find out why some States had not ratified or accede to the Convention. To that end, the Coordinators were conducting an online survey that had been circulated to permanent missions in Geneva and New York. While the survey form was easy to fill out, it would have to be forwarded by the permanent missions to their capitals in order for the survey to be completed. The Coordinators circulated the form the week before and had already received seven replies from different regions. The information provided would be analysed by the Coordinators.

Spain informed on its participation at the Commonwealth CCM Universalization Workshop in London, England, on 2nd March 2023. It reported that 6 States not yet Party to the Convention—Cyprus, Gabon, Jamaica, Malaysia, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania—had attended the event. The ICRC and CMC had also participated as resource persons. The goal of the workshop was to present the importance of joining the CCM and simplicity of the ratification/accession process as well as its compliance.

Even though Nigeria was invited as a non-State Party, it had participated despite having ratified the day before the workshop. This was a particular highlight of the event, as Nigeria was able to share its recent ratification experience with the other states in attendance. Nigeria had encountered challenges in its ratification process, which had to go through a multi-layered federal government system, shared by many Commonwealth countries.

Spain conveyed its pleasure that Jamaica had participated in the Commonwealth workshop, as it was one of CCM universalization's "lowest hanging fruit". Spain reminded that it had also engaged with Jamaica in New York in the margins of the UNGA 77 First Committee. Spain reported that Jamaica had informed that it needed to amend its laws on small arms to include cluster munitions before it was able to ratify the Convention. In this regard, the Universalization Coordinators intended to follow up with Jamaican parliamentarians and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs to communicate their availability to support the Jamaican government with the aim of achieving CCM ratification, especially through the Spanish Embassy in Kingston, which had been instructed to approach the Jamaican authorities.

Spain advised that it would be attending the universalization workshop in Baghdad and would be leading an interactive session on the next steps to achieve CCM universalization. Spain reported that it had facilitated a similar session in the Commonwealth workshop and would adapt its approach to the context of the Arab region, while maintaining the message of the simplicity of joining and implementing the Convention. Spain outlined that the Arab region had particular challenges as some States would have operational obligations under the CCM.

Spain indicated that at the APMBC intersessional meeting in June 2023, the Coordinators intended to follow up with States that were party to the APMBC but not to the CCM. The Coordinators also planned to reach out to States with ratification or accession processes stuck at the parliamentary level through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The President thanked Spain for its update and noted with pleasure that the CCM universalization workshops that year covered three language groups: Arabic, English and French. He expressed his hope for positive developments following the workshops, exemplified by the ratification of Nigeria. He informed that the presidency had received a positive response from Djibouti and hoped that it would ratify in the near future. Ambassador Hashim Mostafa highlighted that the workshop in Baghdad would be the first CCM workshop in the Arab region, where a number of countries were affected by cluster munitions, some of which, such as Iraq, were highly contaminated.

5.3 Victim Assistance (Austria and Chile)

Austria reiterated that the main task of the VA Coordinators that year was to update the existing VA guidelines. Austria reported that as a result of discussions with civil society that had worked on the original *Guide on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance*, the Coordinators had decided not to update the guide. Instead, the Coordinators would work on a new document that would be in line with the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 13.10. This would be a broader approach than what was previously envisioned. Austria informed that the ISU had kindly offered to fund the project.

Austria welcomed the appointment of Ms. Pamela Moraga as the next ISU Director and reminded the meeting that in her previous role, Ms. Moraga had served as the CCM Co-Coordinator on Victim Assistance. Austria conveyed that therefore the Coordinators expected their cooperation with the ISU and its new Director to continue smoothly.

Another outcome of the engagement with civil society was that the Coordinators would include a case study in the new VA guidelines. Iraq had been suggested as the case study as it exemplified best practice on implementing the IMAS on VA on a national basis. The VA Coordinators would resume their cooperation with the CCM Gender Focal Points on the sections related to gender issues in the guidelines. Austria informed that the Coordinators intended to organize a side event to launch and promote the new guidelines at the 11MSP. Furthermore, the Coordinators would be following with CCM States Parties with VA obligations at the margins of other meetings.

Austria enquired if Coordinators could participate in the CCM universalization workshop in Baghdad as resource persons. In response, the President assured that Coordinators were welcomed to participate in the workshop that Iraq was hosting. On behalf of the presidency, the ISU would be circulating an invitation to the Coordination Committee to the workshop that day.

5.4 Clearance and Risk Education (Guyana and Norway)

Guyana reported that the Article 4 Analysis Group was finalizing consultations with Iraq regarding its extension request. The Clearance and Risk Education Coordinators planned to reach out to other States Parties with Article 4 obligations to obtain updates on their implementation. To that end, the Coordinators would liaise with the Coordinator on Transparency Measures for technical assistance for these States Parties should the need arise.

In contributing to the discussion, the President expressed his hope that consultations between the Analysis Group and Iraq would come to a mutually satisfying conclusion. The presidency enquired on updates regarding Mauritania's extension request submission.

In response, the ISU informed that Mauritania had submitted unofficial drafts to the ISU for initial assessment. However, as Mauritania had not provided its work and resource mobilization plans, the ISU would be meeting with Mauritania the following week to inform them of the critical elements of the request that were still missing.

5.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Bulgaria and the Netherlands)

The Netherlands reported that Bulgaria had provided an update on the implementation of its Article 3 deadline extension request workplan. Bulgaria had also informed the ISU that it was on track to comply with its obligations by the current deadline of 31 December 2023. As of 1 January 2023, no cluster munitions were present on Bulgarian territory. At that time, 50 percent of all explosive submunitions of the remaining Lot 3 scheduled for destruction had been successfully destroyed.

The Netherlands informed that after the previous Coordination Committee Meeting the Stockpile Destruction Coordinators had met with Peru to acquire an update on its Article 3 implementation. Pursuant to that, Peru's Air Force, with the support of NPA, had destroyed a total of 1,162 cluster munitions and 8,445 Alpha bomblets. That left Peru with still 859 cluster munitions to destroy by April 2024. Peru had stressed to the Coordinators that it had never deployed cluster munitions in any conflict and its utilization of these weapons were only for training purposes.

Additionally, the Netherlands indicated that Slovakia had informed the Coordinators that the destruction of the M26 cluster munitions, previously a task it had encountered difficulties in, had been continuing according to plan. The Netherlands stated that the Coordinators had not received an update from South Africa since the previous Coordination Committee Meeting and flagged it as potentially concerning.

5.6 Transparency Measures (The Gambia)

The Gambia apologized for not attending the previous Coordination Committee. With regard to the amendment of the Article 7 reporting forms, The Gambia reminded that they had been circulated twice to the Coordination Committee at that stage and reported that some Committee members had provided feedback, but none had given any suggestions. The Gambia informed that some of the Committee members were awaiting feedback from their capitals.

The Gambia pointed out that following comments from Mine Action Review and some States Parties, the Coordinator would meet with the Presidency to review them and thereafter

circulate the compiled comments to the Coordination Committee. The Gambia encouraged the Committee members to submit their feedback in a timely manner.

Regarding the eight African States Parties with overdue initial reports, the Gambia reported that its Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been expending efforts in engaging with these States. Its Permanent Mission in New York had circulated a reminder to the permanent missions of these eight States in New York. The Permanent Representative of The Gambia in Geneva had begun bilateral meetings with several ambassadors of these countries. Furthermore, The Gambian Embassy in Addis Ababa would follow up with the representatives of these States in Addis Ababa. The Gambia conveyed its hope that some of these States would submit their initial transparency report before the 11MSP.

In concluding its update, the Gambia urged the Coordination Committee members to submit their comments on the Article 7 reporting forms.

6. Update of the Implementation Support Unit

On behalf of the ISU Director, the ISU Implementation Support Specialist apologised for her absence that day. He informed that the Director was working with the 10MSP President to organize visits to Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand the following week. Updates on those meetings would be provided at the following Coordination Committee Meeting.

6.1 Financing of the ISU

The Implementation Support Specialist informed that since the previous meeting, five more States Parties had contributed to the ISU 2023 Trust Fund. In total, 30 States Parties had contributed around CHF 148'000 which was about 28% of the annual budget. At the same time the previous year, the ISU had only collected approximately 10% of the annual budget, which signalled an improvement in the provision of contributions in 2023.

The Implementation Support Specialist announced that two additional States Parties had made assessed contributions to the ISU's 2022 Trust Fund since the previous update, bringing the total number of States that had contributed, as of 10 March 2023, to 61. Altogether these States had contributed CHF 465'464, which was about 95% of the 2022 budget. That translated to a shortfall of just over CHF 20'000.

6.2 Follow up with States with Article 4 obligations

The Implementation Support Specialist reported that Mauritania had submitted its first draft extension request on 8 February 2023, in which it asked for a two-year extension up to 1 August 2026. The ISU provided Mauritania with initial feedback on the same day. On 21 February, Mauritania submitted an updated version of the draft request, to which the ISU submitted its detailed feedback on 24 February. On 3 March, Mauritania provided another amended draft, which was reviewed by the ISU. The ISU provided Mauritania its feedback on 7 March and both parties agreed to meet virtually on Monday, 13 March 2023, to discuss how to improve the draft request before the official submission.

7. Conclusion of the Meeting

As no other business was raised, Ambassador Hashim Mostafa concluded the Meeting and informed that the date and details of the next meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.
