



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Friday, 28 March 2025
at the Permanent Mission of the Philippines
from 11:00 to 12:15 hours

1. Present:

Philippines – 13MSP President

H.E. Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta

Ms. Christian Hope Reyes

Ms. Hannah Abubakar

Lao PDR – President Designate (3RC)

H.E. Mr. Daovy Vongxay

Mr. Thanousone Sisounonth

Mexico – Immediate Past President (12MSP)

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Australia

Mrs. Jennifer Cavenagh

Austria

Ms. Julia Eberl

France

Mr. Mathieu Tasse

Germany

Ms. Irmgard Adam

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Bahral-Uloom

Italy

Ms. Domitilla Sergi

Netherlands

Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

Norway

Mr. Fredrik Laache

Peru

Mr. Angel Horna

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Maya Brehm

UNODA

Ms. Alice Marzi

Ms. Tiffany Guendouz

ISU

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mr. Jared Bloch

Apologies received:

Panama

Absent:

Zambia

2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

The President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties (13MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, opened the third Coordination Committee Meeting under the Philippine Presidency with warm greetings to all present. The draft agenda was presented and adopted without amendment. Ambassador Sorreta clarified that the agenda was flexible and could be adjusted if necessary.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Coordination Committee Meeting

The Committee approved, without correction, the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 31 January 2025 as an accurate record of the discussions during that meeting.

4. Report of the 13MSP Presidency on the Outcomes of the “Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Workshop on the CCM” held on 18-19 March, Manila, Philippines

The Presidency reported that the workshop took place on 18-19 March 2025, in Manila, gathering 48 representatives from 21 Southeast Asian and Pacific Island States, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In addition to Lao PDR, other CCM States Parties that were present were Austria, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and Switzerland. Austria, Norway and South Africa participated in the workshop as resource speakers.

The Presidency explained that the workshop covered a broad range of topics, including the history of the CCM, the rationale for its creation, its obligations, and the current challenges facing the Convention. Other humanitarian disarmament conventions were also addressed. One of the sessions focused on how the CCM aligned with national priorities and highlighted the benefits it could offer to states through humanitarian disarmament.

The Presidency further reported that in the latter part of the workshop, participants were divided into two breakout groups and invited to share their perspectives on obstacles to joining the CCM and challenges related to its implementation. Common themes that emerged included:

- The time required to compile national reports and navigate the interagency processes, particularly in cases involving national security matters.
- Concerns over the financial obligations related to mandatory contributions.
- The process of incorporating CCM obligations into domestic legislation or administrative procedures.
- How to effectively influence others to consider joining the CCM amid current global security developments.

The Presidency stated that the workshop was well attended, with participants expressing appreciation for its interactive format. It was noted that Session 4, which addressed the CCM in relation to national priorities, saw particularly strong engagement. Many of the questions raised during that session pertained to interagency coordination, stockpile destruction and Article 7 reporting.

In closing, the Presidency informed the meeting that a press statement had been issued at the conclusion of the workshop, and that the Presidency's summary would be shared with participants once finalized.

Ambassador Sorreta noted that the workshop confirmed interest from some states in the region in joining the CCM, though additional time was needed to assess its implications, particularly as they were not directly affected by cluster munitions. He added that others had not yet prioritized engagement in multilateral conventions due to differing national contexts and priorities.

He emphasized the importance of sustained outreach to bring such states closer to the Convention, especially as many remained open to dialogue. He welcomed the announcement by Vanuatu that it was finalizing internal procedures to accede to the CCM.

While acknowledging slower progress among ASEAN States, Ambassador Sorreta observed more encouraging signs from the Pacific. He explained that ASEAN countries continued to retain the option to access, use and stockpile cluster munitions as part of their national defence doctrines, which are rooted in sovereignty concerns. He highlighted the potential for Lao PDR and the Philippines to serve as bridge-builders in following up with these states.

Australia thanked the Presidency for the update and the successful organization of the workshop. It sought further updates on how challenges differed between Southeast Asian and Pacific Island States, noting that this would inform Australia's approach. It also referred to high-level policy considerations in some States and expressed interest in how these might evolve, reaffirming its willingness to support universalization efforts where appropriate.

In response, Ambassador Sorreta affirmed that significant differences existed between the two regions. Pacific States generally do not include cluster munitions in their defence strategies and show greater openness to humanitarian disarmament norms. ASEAN countries, by contrast, face more complex security environments, including historical border conflicts and militarised frontiers, which lead them to view cluster munitions as a component of sovereign defence. He added that ASEAN States were generally satisfied with regional mechanisms, such as the ASEAN uniform white papers and arms registers, as confidence-building measures. Convincing them to adopt a categorical ban would require sustained advocacy.

He welcomed Australia's continued support and expressed appreciation for the upcoming "Amplifying Pacific Voices in Conventional Weapons Disarmament" workshop being organized with Japan for Pacific Island States, seeing it as a strong complement to CCM efforts.

The President concluded the section by commending the ISU for its dedicated support in organizing the Manila workshop.

5. Update by the 13MSP Presidency on Preparations for the 2025 Intersessional Meeting

Ambassador Sorreta informed the Committee that the Intersessional Meeting would be held on 7–8 April 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (Building E, Room XXI), to coincide with the presence of other disarmament experts attending related events.

He explained that the meeting would provide a platform for Thematic Coordinators to present their workplans, followed by interactive discussions. Coordinators were encouraged to come prepared to answer questions and engage actively with the CCM community.

Ambassador Sorreta added that the opening session would include remarks by himself and Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) which was sponsoring the meeting. This would be followed by a brief overview of recent developments and then individual presentations of work plans by each the Thematic Coordinators. Delegations would have the opportunity to engage after each presentation.

6. Presentation and Status of Implementation of the Work Plans by the Thematic Coordinators up to the 13MSP

6.1 Universalization (Norway and Peru)

Norway reported that the Coordinators had convened another meeting of the Informal Working Group on Universalization. During this meeting, participants discussed several issues, including lessons learnt from Lithuania's withdrawal from the CCM and the importance of early engagement with influential stakeholders such as parliamentarians and civil society. It was noted that decision-making in some states occurred rapidly and at high levels, making it difficult for external actors to access key decision-makers, which would require a more preventative outreach approach. Norway also emphasized the importance of monitoring developments under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), where shifts had occurred quickly.

Norway commended Australia's engagement with Pacific Island States through the Pacific Islands Forum and noted its alignment with the Manila workshop. It also welcomed Australia's collaboration with the Japanese APMBC Presidency and highlighted the benefits of a joint regional approach across Conventions.

Norway suggested developing a matrix to track the positions of States not Party to the CCM, similar to one used under the APMBC, which could support more targeted outreach. It was also shared that Norway and Peru were exploring joint démarches in countries such as Kenya and Indonesia, and had met with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to encourage it to activate its networks in relevant countries, including those facing security challenges or treaty withdrawal risks.

Peru joined in commending the Manila workshop and confirmed that the Coordinators had engaged the IPU with a view to integrating CCM topics into its upcoming meetings in Geneva, including the Conference of Speakers of Parliament in July and the IPU Assembly in October. It was highlighted that these events presented an opportunity to bring CCM-related issues into discussions of the IPU's Standing Committees on Peace and International Security and International Humanitarian Law. Peru confirmed it would keep the Committee informed of further developments.

Ambassador Sorreta underscored the value of enhanced collaboration between the Coordinators for Universalization and the IPU. He emphasized that, while the IPU can provide valuable support, it cannot act independently on behalf of national parliaments. Therefore, he highlighted the importance of engaging directly with national parliamentarians to promote references to the CCM in parliamentary statements.

Mexico noted that the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters had recently met, chaired by Ambassador Shorna-Kay Richards of Jamaica. Mexico had approached her to advocate for Jamaica's accession to the CCM, highlighting her influence and long-standing role in disarmament.

6.2 Clearance (France and Italy)

France reported that the Article 4 Analysis Group had resumed its work and reviewed the extension requests submitted by Afghanistan, Chile, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Somalia. Chaired by Italy and supported by the ISU, the Group completed a first round of review, with participation from civil society. Initial feedback was provided to the five States Parties to improve their submissions. The next phase would focus on revised requests, with the aim of finalizing assessments in the coming weeks.

6.3 Risk Education (Lao PDR)

Ambassador Vongxay thanked the Philippines for hosting the meeting and commended its efforts in organizing the Manila workshop.

He recalled that Lao PDR had previously submitted the risk education work plan for review by its capital. The draft had since been reviewed, and consultations had taken place with the ISU, to whom he expressed appreciation for its support. He described the work plan as comprehensive and aligned with the Coordinator's priorities and emphasized the importance of coordination with other thematic areas, particularly cooperation and assistance.

Ambassador Vongxay reported that Lao PDR had made good progress on risk education up to the end of the previous year. However, he raised concern over the recent suspension of U.S. support to several NGOs, which had affected over 3,000 personnel and halted field activities. He noted that funding had since been restored to the Government and some NGOs, and expressed hope that remaining support would resume soon. He welcomed input on further strengthening the work plan.

Ambassador Sorreta thanked Ambassador Vongxay and acknowledged the serious impact of donor withdrawals on humanitarian work. He proposed that the ISU prepare a paper analyzing the implications of such suspensions across CCM workstreams and encouraged open discussion on the issue.

The ISU Director noted that the matter was already being considered for discussion at the upcoming Intersessional Meeting.

Ambassador Sorreta stressed the need to assess the impact of the funding suspension on the work streams of the Convention, especially on clearance, victim assistance and affected

NGOs. He highlighted that while some assistance had resumed following bilateral discussions with the United States, limitations remained, particularly for social sector projects. Nonetheless, he expressed optimism that progress was still possible.

Australia thanked the Presidency and Lao PDR for their interventions and sought clarity on the nature of the funding changes, distinguishing between temporary and ongoing effects. It emphasized the importance of understanding these shifts.

6.4 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands and Switzerland)

The Netherlands recalled that, as announced previously, a joint meeting between the Cooperation and Assistance Committees of the CCM and APMBC would be held on 1 May. The aim would be to exchange experiences and strengthen synergies between the two Conventions. The Netherlands and Switzerland were working on guiding questions for the event.

6.5 Transparency Measures (Australia)

Australia reported that it had continued supporting States Parties in meeting their Article 7 reporting obligations, noting that 2024 reports were due by 30 April 2025. It thanked the ISU for circulating reminders and reiterated its commitment to encouraging timely submissions.

Australia welcomed suggestions on engagement strategies and noted that six States Parties had overdue initial reports, some for over a decade. It had sent reminders on 21 March and instructed its diplomatic missions to engage bilaterally. Australia invited others to join in this coordinated outreach.

It highlighted its constructive approach and acknowledged capacity challenges. Australia had also launched initiated discussions on improving synergies across arms control frameworks. On 12 March, Australia hosted a successful informal working group meeting with representatives from the Permanent Missions of Mexico, Japan, France, Chile, Norway and the Netherlands, and international organizations including the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The treaty secretariats and ISUs of the CCM, APMBC, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) also participated. The meeting enabled a valuable exchange on transparency reporting, shared challenges and good practices across disarmament instruments, highlighting the importance of cooperation.

Australia concluded that this marked the beginning of broader collaboration and would continue engaging stakeholders ahead of the 13MSP.

Ambassador Sorreta thanked Australia for its outreach and highlighted that Pacific States at the Manila workshop had raised concerns over reporting burdens. He noted that with sufficient support, such concerns could be addressed.

6.6 National Implementation Measures (Iraq)

Mr. Mohammed Bahr Al-Uloom reported he had recently assumed the role of Coordinator following the departure of Ms. Raghad Hasan. He expressed his intent to build on her efforts to help States Parties meet their Article 9 obligations.

In coordination with the ISU, Iraq had circulated a letter to 47 States Parties, categorized by the status of their national implementation measures: 27 with legislation under consideration or in the process of being adopted, 9 for which clarification is needed regarding the legislative status, and 11 with no available information. The aim was to gather updated data for a joint ISU–ICRC–CMC database to support transparency and knowledge-sharing in implementing Article 9 obligations.

Iraq planned to engage bilaterally with these delegations during the CCM Intersessional Meeting and the 28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN28).

Ambassador Sorreta welcomed Mr. Bahr Al-Uloom and noted that national implementation remained a barrier for some small States to join the Convention, as raised during the Manila Workshop. He recalled that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) offered model legislation, training and briefings for national administrators. Noting the ICRC’s limited presence in the Pacific, he suggested organizing regional support sessions to jointly address reporting and national implementation measures.

6.7 General Status and Operation (Austria and Germany)

Germany reported on a recent workshop held in connection with the study on gender-sensitive assistance by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). During the workshop, two researchers presented their findings and engaged participants with questions aimed at enhancing the quality and relevance of the study.

Following the workshop, Germany met with UNIDIR, which proposed renaming the project to “Asia: Gender-Sensitive Assistance”. Germany noted that the programme had been affected by the recent US funding suspension, with discussions ongoing on how best to address the situation. The resulting paper was expected to be finalized by mid-April, after the CCM Intersessional Meeting and would therefore not be presented at that time. However, plans were underway to present it at a later date, likely in June.

Germany reported that the Coordinators participated in the recent Gender and Diversity Working Group Workshop, which included APMBC gender focal points and featured constructive exchanges. Furthermore, Germany would be hosting a working lunch with APMBC gender focal points on 9 April during the NDM-UN28, with invitations to be circulated shortly.

Austria thanked the President for hosting the Manila workshop and appreciated the opportunity to engage in discussions on humanitarian norms from a CCM perspective. It found the discussions highly engaging and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting such norms.

Austria reported that in recent weeks, it had continued engaging with relevant stakeholders to explore how such discussions could be more broadly integrated into CCM processes. It indicated that further input on this topic would be provided during the Intersessional Meeting, including ideas on how to carry this dialogue forward in the lead up to the 13MSP.

Austria suggested that the Universalization Coordinators explore how the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation could support continuing cooperation with the IPU.

Ambassador Sorreta thanked both Coordinators and emphasized the relevance of humanitarian norms, particularly for States without cluster munitions. He also welcomed the efforts of Austria and Germany in promoting diversity and inclusion in disarmament processes. He then invited the CMC, ICRC and UNODA to join the discussion.

The CMC thanked the Philippines for organizing the Manila workshop and appreciated the opportunity for the CMC to contribute to the event. It stressed the need to uphold and strengthen the CCM's humanitarian norms to maintain its relevance, attract new States and prevent withdrawals, highlighting training, reporting and proactive engagement as key to demonstrating continued commitment.

The CMC noted the value of the forthcoming Intersessional Meeting for in-depth discussions and called for joint efforts to address current normative challenges. While acknowledging Lithuania's withdrawal as a setback, the CMC urged continued work on clearance, victim assistance and international cooperation, stressing that the CCM community's strength lies in collective efforts.

Regarding the suspension of U.S. funding, the CMC expressed concern but welcomed the partial resumption of support through the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA). It emphasized the need to highlight the impact on field-level actors and shared that it was collecting data on these effects, which is available to interested stakeholders.

Finally, the CMC referred to a new initiative under the APMBC to establish a voluntary trust fund (VTF) for affected States Parties and suggested exploring a similar mechanism for the CCM.

UNODA welcomed holding the Intersessional Meeting back-to-back with the NDM, indicating that this would enable the participation of mine action stakeholders and offer a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the field about local mine action programmes. UNODA highlighted the importance of discussions on universalization and the overall status of the Convention, given current global circumstances. It noted that the meeting would also provide an opportunity to present on the Convention's financial health. While the situation was not deemed critical, UNODA underlined the need to remind States Parties of their obligations, including the timely payment of assessed contributions.

UNODA confirmed its participation in the 2 April workshop titled "Amplifying Pacific Voices in Conventional Weapons Disarmament" and announced that its Director would deliver a presentation on disarmament and arms control structures. UNODA viewed the event as a key opportunity to showcase the work of its regional centre in Kathmandu and its active

engagement in conventional arms programmes, while also serving as a platform to discuss ongoing regional initiatives and developments.

The ICRC welcomed the Manila workshop and reported that participants appreciated the interactive discussions. The ICRC acknowledged current resource constraints but confirmed its intention to contribute as much as possible to the upcoming Interessional Meeting, including delivering a presentation aligned with its capacity and thematic priorities. It welcomed the meeting as a timely opportunity to revisit humanitarian conventions, reinforce their connection to IHL and reengage colleagues who may not have worked on these issues in recent decades.

Ambassador Sorreta thanked all organizations and recalled that questions about financial contributions had come up in Manila. He noted that the ISU had provided clarifications and emphasized that such practical steps could make a difference.

Peru informed that the UN Headquarters would host its 2025 treaty event during the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly in September, where the Secretary-General would invite senior officials to sign or ratify international instruments. Peru reported that the Universalization Coordinators had contacted the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN (Treaty Section) and was informed that the CCM is usually featured in the treaty event. Peru expressed that the Coordinators would consider the possibility of sending a communication to Geneva-based missions before the summer break to encourage their capitals to use this opportunity to accede to or ratify the CCM.

7. Update by the ISU

The ISU Director noted that she would provide a targeted update complementing ongoing thematic support in areas such as transparency, universalization, victim assistance, and gender mainstreaming. She highlighted the ISU's regular outreach efforts and its engagement in dynamic initiatives to advance CCM humanitarian objectives. The ISU had also been consulting ambassadorial and capital-based representatives, as well as other stakeholders, to brainstorm potential activities aligned with its 12MSP mandate and plan for the year ahead.

7.1 CCM Meetings

The ISU Director reported that on 10 February, Iraq, at the request of the ISU and in its capacity as Disarmament Coordinator for the Arab Group, organized a regional meeting on the CCM as a tool for promoting peace and development. The meeting featured opening remarks by the 13MSP President and was attended by six States Parties and five States not Party. Iraq, the ISU and the ICRC served as key resource persons. The Director emphasized the importance of such regional dialogues for outreach and to highlight the Convention's increased relevance in addressing humanitarian challenges in conflict-affected regions and thanked Iraq for its support.

On 3 March, the ISU addressed the 32nd Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for the first time since its establishment. The statement highlighted the CCM's goals, its rights-based approach to victim assistance and promoted collaboration between disarmament and disability rights communities. The ISU positioned the Convention

as a model humanitarian disarmament treaty for integrating disarmament with disability inclusion and urged stronger ties between disarmament and human rights communities.

Efforts to bridge disarmament with broader humanitarian frameworks continued: the ISU participated in the Humanitarian Roundtable 2025 held in Oslo on 12–13 March, organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Red Cross, among others. The event focused on how protecting civilians in armed conflict contributes to conflict prevention, peace, and both national and international security. It also explored compounded challenges at the intersection of humanitarian action and disarmament.

Additionally, on 26 March, the ISU Director met with the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, alongside other disarmament secretariats. This marked the first meeting in a new series of hopefully regular consultations aimed at breaking down humanitarian advocacy silos and improving information-sharing among ISUs. Following the meeting, the ISU Director briefed participants of the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme on the CCM and current challenges.

The Director further noted that, as referenced by the Universalization Coordinators, on 12 March the ISU facilitated and participated in a meeting to explore engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Discussions included a potential political declaration, bilateral meetings and a resolution. She underlined the importance of strengthening ties between the ISU and the IPU, to develop consistent humanitarian messaging for parliamentarians, particularly in response to the rise in security-focused narratives.

Finally, referring to the Manila workshop, the Director echoed earlier remarks made by Ambassador Sorreta regarding the sustained follow up required with participating states following the workshop, preliminarily identified as low-hanging fruits in terms of accessions to the Convention.

7.2 Updates on Extension Requests

The ISU Director reported that the Article 4 Analysis Group had reviewed extension requests submitted by Afghanistan, Chile, Lebanon, Mauritania and Somalia. Initial feedback was provided to all five States in February. Of these, three States had already submitted revised requests or responses with clarifications to the ISU, while two were still pending.

She noted that during the upcoming Intersessional Meeting, States Parties with extension requests would be invited to present their submissions. The Article 4 Coordinators were advised to present the request on Afghanistan's behalf with the following approach:

They would provide a brief overview of the extension request, highlighting that it aims to improve human safety and socioeconomic conditions by addressing the effects of cluster munitions on affected communities. Consideration of this request by the meeting would not imply recognition of any entity but would reflect the States Parties' commitment to the Convention's humanitarian goals.

7.3 ISU Finances

The ISU Director reported that, following a recent contribution from a major donor, total contributions to the 2024 ISU annual budget had reached CHF 463'193, representing 97% of the approved budget of CHF 477'724.

She further informed that invoices for 2025 contributions had been issued. As of the reporting date, 21 States Parties had contributed a total of approximately CHF 171'000 to the 2025 budget, amounting to 34% of the approved CHF 497'138. It was also noted that Lithuania made its 2025 contribution on 17 March, shortly after its withdrawal from the Convention took effect, reflecting its continued support for the Convention's objectives despite no longer being a State Party.

7.4 Hosting Agreement

The Director reported that, in preparation for the upcoming Meeting of States Parties, the ISU had been working closely with the GICHD and in coordination with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to review the implementation of the Hosting Agreement and address any implementation gap.

It was noted that the parties had formalized their agreement to grant specific exemptions from the GICHD's internal rules and regulations to ISU staff. This technical clarification, in accordance with Article 5 of the Hosting Agreement, would allow the ISU to apply a tailored staff appraisal system to ensure regular performance evaluations.

Further to this, an agreement was also reached to standardize ISU staff contract durations under a four-plus-four-year structure. The review process considered past recommendations, including the establishment of regular review sessions between the GICHD and the ISU, including, if possible, the Swiss Permanent Mission.

It was further noted that there is a renewed common understanding that the Hosting Agreement, in its current form, remains satisfactory to all parties.

7.5 Audit of Swiss Contributions to the GICHD

The ISU Director reported that, regarding the audit by the Swiss Federal Audit Office of Swiss contributions to the GICHD, mentioned at the last CC meeting, she had met on 4 February with Ambassador Julien Thöni, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament. During the meeting, Ambassador Thöni had clarified that the audit concerned Swiss contributions to the GICHD, not to the ISUs.

The Director noted that Ambassador Thöni acknowledged the wording of the audit report was unfortunate, as it did not clearly reflect States Parties' oversight of the ISUs or their independence. It was agreed that greater transparency was needed in how the GICHD allocated in-kind contributions to the ISUs, in order to ensure a shared understanding of the level of services provided.

8. Any Other Business

Ambassador Sorreta informed that he had met with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu three weeks prior. He reported that she had expressed strong support for disarmament treaties and reaffirmed her commitment to finding constructive solutions. While conveying hope that no further withdrawals would follow Lithuania's, she also voiced concern over reports that some States were considering withdrawing from the APMBC.

The President added that following the Manila workshop, Ms. Nakamitsu took part in a regional disarmament event under the ASEAN Regional Forum, where she highlighted progress and persistent challenges. She identified funding and budget constraints as key obstacles and noted that technological solutions have not yet replaced the need for personnel in the field. Nonetheless, she conveyed a continued sense of optimism in the community.

Ambassador Sorreta also informed the meeting about the launch of the 2025 CCM Youth for Humanitarian Disarmament Multimedia Contest on 5 March and asked the ISU whether any entries had been received.

The ISU Communications Consultant confirmed that several enquiries had been received and at that stage they were mostly concerning entry guidelines and requirements. He reported that outreach was conducted through the University of Geneva and other local institutions to promote participation and expressed hope that these efforts would lead to strong engagement.

The President encouraged the Committee to expand outreach by facilitating collaboration between universities in their respective countries and relevant UN organizations to promote participation in the youth contest. He noted that, while there was no cash prize, the winner would be sponsored to travel to Geneva to attend the 13MSP and have their work featured in an exhibit alongside other entries during the meeting. He emphasized that this should serve as a meaningful incentive and urged all members to promote the contest among eligible youth aged 18 to 29.

Switzerland clarified, in response to the ISU Director and with reference to the minutes of the previous Coordination Committee meeting, that the Hosting Agreement for the ISU had been concluded between the GICHD and States Parties as a whole. It noted that the Agreement specified the type of support the Centre was to provide to the ISU. Switzerland further explained that while it provided financial support to the GICHD for the implementation of the Agreement, it was not a direct party to it. Therefore, Switzerland did not have, nor did it claim to have, a special role in the assessment of the Hosting Agreement.

Ambassador Sorreta welcomed the clarification, affirming that it reinforced the independence of States Parties. He emphasized that the arrangement reflected a three-way structure, wherein Switzerland contributed resources, for which States Parties are grateful, but did not influence ISU operations. He added that this understanding would also be further clarified with the GICHD.

9. Conclusion of the Meeting

In closing, the President thanked all participants for their engagement and noted that the next occasion they would meet would be at the CCM Intersessional Meeting. He highlighted that the meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of each thematic work plan. He expressed hope that States not yet party to the Convention would also attend and contribute to the discussions.