



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Wednesday 21st September 2022
at the Iraqi residence, 26 Quai de Cologny, 1223 Cologny
from 13:15 to 15:00 hours

Present:

Republic of Iraq – 11MSP President

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa
Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico – President-Designate (12MSP)

H.E. Ms. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

United Kingdom – Immediate Past President
(10MSP)

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle
Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Belgium

Mr. Vincent Bodson

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

France

Ms. Inès Mensah

Germany

Ms. Irmgard Adam

Guyana

Mr. Colin Luckie

Malawi

Ms. Tiyamike Banda

Norway

Mr. Christian Rydning

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Silvia Mercogliano

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba
Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Apologies received

Bulgaria
Gambia
Lebanon
New Zealand

2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (11MSP), opened the first Meeting of the Iraqi presidency, by warmly welcoming the members of the Coordination Committee to the working lunch. He then expressed his deepest condolences to the UK delegation on the passing away of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and conveyed his best wishes to His Majesty King Charles III.

The President thanked Ambassador Liddle and his team for their efforts in implementing the Convention during their presidential term. He also extended his thanks to the ISU team and all the Coordinators for their diligence and conveyed his hope to build on past successes through their collective effort. He also expressed his warm welcome to the 12MSP President-Designate Ambassador Francisca Méndez Escobar of Mexico and looked forward to having constructive cooperation in implementing the Convention with her in the future. He concluded his opening remarks with an invitation to the incoming thematic Coordinators to introduce themselves.

Incoming Coordinators Malawi, Belgium and the Netherlands thanked the President for hosting the lunch meeting and reiterated their commitment to carry out their respective roles as Co-Coordinators on Universalization, Stockpile Destruction and General Status and Operation of the Convention.

The Committee approved its provisional agenda as tabled by the presidency.

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

The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 25 July 2022, without correction, as an accurate record of what had been discussed during that meeting.

4. Presentation of the priorities of the Iraqi presidency up to the 11MSP

The President informed that the Iraqi Presidency would focus on three priorities in the period up to the 11MSP.

4.1 Universalization of the Convention

Iraq would continue to dialogue with Signatory States and States not Parties to encourage them to join the Convention. The President indicated that his team had already started discussions with the Universalization Coordinators, Malawi and Spain, to consider various activities to be undertaken to promote CCM universalization including in the margins of the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). He informed of various regional universalisation workshops including a middle east regional one to be hosted in Iraq in the first quarter of 2023. He expressed his hope that these efforts would achieve tangible results by the 11MSP.

4.2 Oversee the Adaptation of the CCM Article 7 reporting forms

The Presidency informed that it would work closely with the Gambia, as the relevant thematic Coordinator, in leading efforts in the adaptation of the Article 7 reporting forms as outlined in Action 45 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). Ambassador Hashim Mostafa clarified that other thematic Coordinators would be consulted on their respective sections based on the new elements introduced in the LAP. He reported that the presidency had had an initial meeting with the Gambia to discuss the best way to manage the process of adapting the current Article 7 forms. He noted that the main new element to be included concerned that of gender mainstreaming, which was mentioned in various Actions. Therefore, as a first step, the President invited the relevant thematic Coordinators to collaborate with the Transparency Measures Coordinator by submitting possible amendments to their sections of the reporting forms to reflect the new LAP elements.

4.3 Task on the selection process of the next director of the ISU

The President reminded the Meeting of the decision taken at the 10MSP on the recruitment procedure of the next Director of the ISU to start the recruitment process, given that the contract of the current director would come to an end in April 2023. In line with that decision, the presidency in collaboration with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the contracted recruitment agency, published the vacancy announcement on the CCM website on 7 September 2022. On the same day, a letter informing of the job posting and inviting interested states to serve in the selection panel was sent to all CCM States Parties. He pointed out that the Coordination Committee would be informed on the next steps related to the recruitment process accordingly.

The President concluded his presentation by reiterating that he and his team would be counting on the support of the Committee in carrying out their mandate over the year. He then requested the Coordinators to provide any feedback or comments on the presidency's three priorities.

In its contribution to the discussion, Spain thanked the President for hosting the meeting and reported that Spain and Malawi had met with Iraq and the ISU to discuss CCM universalization and had identified some activities that they would share with Coordination Committee in the future. It highlighted that they would issue démarches to targeted States in New York to encourage them to join the Convention. Spain further informed that the Coordinators would approach States that had no representation in Geneva to get more clarity on their accession processes. The Coordinators would participate in a side event that would be organized by the Iraqi Presidency in New York targeting the Arab Group countries. The event would investigate the different reasons preventing States from that region from joining the Convention and also promote that Iraq and Lebanon had become States Parties.

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) congratulated the United Kingdom for the successful 10MSP and conveyed its enthusiasm to work with the 11MSP Presidency and the Universalization Coordinators both at Geneva and New York level. The CMC expressed its readiness to support their efforts and reiterated that there was still a lot to achieve in CCM

universalization. It also looked forward to collaborating with Mexico during its forthcoming presidency. The CMC further commended Iraq for engaging at the regional level.

In its contribution, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also congratulated the United Kingdom for the successful holding of the 10MSP. It expressed its readiness to provide support to the work of the Iraqi and Mexican Presidencies. It reminded of its longstanding work on promoting the universalization of CCM, primarily through its field presence around the world. In this regard, the ICRC reported that it would be organizing regional IHL conferences in South East and South Asia respectively in October/November this year, with a strong focus on weapons treaties. It concluded by pledging its support to the 11MSP Presidency and all the thematic Coordinators.

UNODA expressed support for the incoming President. With reference to universalization, it recalled that the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) as Depositary of the Convention has been sending letters to States not Parties encouraging them to join the Convention. UNODA also recalled the existence of the three Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu and indicated that they could provide support- as and if needed- on the organization of events.

The President thanked those who had contribution to the discussion reminded that the presidency's universalization agenda potentially included a regional workshop for African francophone states in Cameroon, a regional workshop in Basra, Iraq, and maybe another in Thailand.

Ambassador Méndez expressed her appreciation to Ambassador Hashim Mostafa for hosting the working lunch and for the support extended to Mexico's future presidency. She concurred with the priorities that had been presented and noted that they covered very important matters. She highlighted that Mexico is working hard on the issue of gender equity and assured that Mexico would continue to contribute to the work of the Convention. She further highlighted the prevailing difficult period for multilateral matters but acknowledged that the CCM was a relatively successful disarmament instrument and that there was need to showcase its achievements and increase its visibility.

The President thanked Ambassador Méndez and pointed out the importance of keeping the Convention alive rather than investing in a new Convention and to promote awareness and encourage more States to join. He noted the need for Conventions to adapt in accordance with the realities of the day. He further noted that new conflicts bring to bear the need for greater gender awareness.

In his contribution to the discussion, Ambassador Liddle thanked the President for his kind words extended to the UK's presidency and concurred that the priorities presented sounded like the perfect evolution of the implementation of the LAP and assured of his support to the Iraqi presidency. He recalled that the UK had planned to hold an event in Southeast Asia in the past year which did not take place. Therefore, the UK was willing to continue work on holding this event, and would make a further voluntary contribution to the ISU which would

support universalisation activities including the funds for the ISU to organize a workshop in that region in the coming year.

The President thanked Ambassador Liddle and pointed out that having a troika of presidencies in the Coordination Committee was very useful and constructive for the Convention and encouraged the continuation of the practice.

5. Update on any thematic activities in the margins of UNGA77

The President reminded that the 10MSP presidency would be submitting the CCM Resolution to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for the second time to resume the established practice of past presidency coordinating the preparation of the annual UNGA CCM Resolution. Furthermore, it was logical for the UK to submit the 2022 Resolution as it would contain elements of the implementation of the Convention during the cycle of the UK Presidency. The Iraqi Presidency would continue this practice by coordinating the UNGA CCM Resolution next year. He then invited Ambassador Liddle to present the draft resolution.

Ambassador Liddle informed that a first draft of the resolution has been circulated just before that Coordination Committee meeting and highlighted that there was a minimum revision of 2021 Resolution with most of them being technical changes. He also mentioned that a new paragraph had been added in accordance with past practice to reflect on the work undertaken by the UK Presidency. A minor change was made in OP3 to bring the language closer to that of the Lausanne Declaration and the 10MSP final report. He thereafter welcomed any comments on the draft. He further clarified that the UK would as was the established practice ask all Coordination Committee members to co-sponsor the Resolution by the week. He informed that on 29 September 2022, the UK would host an informal consultation on the resolution with all states in Geneva. He planned to hold another round of consultations in New York City on 6 October to give States more time to consider the Resolution.

The President thanked Ambassador Liddle for the explanation and asked if the consultations would be virtual or in-person. In response, Ambassador Liddle clarified that the Geneva consultation would be virtual while the New York one would be in person. He added that he did not expect much change to the current text.

In contribution to the discussion, Netherlands thanked Ambassador Liddle for presenting the draft and informed that the draft had already been sent to its capital. It enquired about making the language of OP3 stronger in order to send a clear signal regarding that issue. In response, Ambassador Liddle pointed out that national positions on this matter varied and that the language was a trade-off between having a strong position on promoting the norm or keeping the number of YES votes high.

The President reiterated the need to build on the success of the UK Presidency in this matter. He informed that in light of the presidencies' effort to promote the universalization of the Convention, the Iraqi permanent mission in New York intended to hold a side event in the form of a roundtable meeting for experts of the Arab Group countries to encourage them to join the CCM. Then he invited the thematic Coordinators to provide any input on the forthcoming UNGA First Committee meetings with regard to promoting CCM implementation.

To that end, Spain informed that the Universalization Coordinators were still planning to mobilize their delegations in New York to support them in delivering the démarches. Spain assured that the Coordinators were ready to support the presidency's efforts and informed that the ISU would also be in New York during the 3rd week of October to collaborate on universalisation. Spain highlighted the need to emphasise to Signatory states and States not Parties that there are several resources available such as the ISU, CMC, ICRC and States Parties to help them in making the necessary decisions to join the Convention. Spain also stressed that progress is not only about the number of ratifications but also evaluated on the amount of new information gathered from targeted states.

6. Any other business

Preparation of thematic work plans

The President requested the coordinators to prepare the usual thematic work plans outlining their activities up to the 11MSP to be presented at the following Coordination Committee meeting which would be held in early November. He clarified that the work plans would help to plan and monitor their work and help to report on the mandate of the Committee at the 11MSP.

In contributing to the discussion, Malawi thanked the President for hosting the meeting and asked the presidency to share any ideas with the Coordinators to enhance the implementation of the Convention. It expressed the readiness to assist the presidency in its efforts. In response, the President pointed out that with the support of the Immediate Past President, the 12MSP President-Designate and the ISU, the Iraqi Presidency would do its utmost to enhance the universalization and the implementation of the Convention.

7. Next Coordination Committee Meeting

The President concluded the meeting by thanking the Coordinators for their active engagement and pointed out that he looked forward to an excellent collaboration in the coming months. He informed that the date and details of the upcoming Coordination Committee meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.