



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE**  
**held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
**in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix**  
**from 10:00 to 12:00 hours**

**1. Present:**

Republic of Iraq – 11MSP President

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa

Ms. Raghad Hasan

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico – President-Designate (12MSP)

H.E. Ms. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

United Kingdom – Immediate Past President  
(10MSP)

Mr. Simon Cleobury

Austria

Mr. Christoph Sternat

Ms. Sophie Leopold

Bulgaria

Mr. Nikola Yakov

France

Col. Philippe Lejeune

Germany

Ms. Irmgard Adam

Ms. Pauline Menges

Lebanon

Mr. Ahmad Soueidan

Malawi

Ms. Tiyamike Banda

Norway

Mr. Christian Rydning

Netherlands

Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Eirini Giorgou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

## **2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda**

Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, President of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (11MSP), warmly welcomed members of the Coordination Committee to the third meeting of 2023 and the fifth under the Iraqi Presidency. He announced that the meeting would be the last one with the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba, whose mandate would end on 30 April 2023.

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 Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 10 March 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 reported that the CCM regional workshop focused on Arab countries was successfully held in Baghdad on 19 March 2023. The workshop, which was kindly supported by the United Kingdom and Norway, brought together four States not Party—Jordan, Libya, Syria and the United Arab Emirates—and 3 States Parties—Iraq, Mauritania and Tunisia. 12MSP President-Designate, Ambassador Francisca Méndez, and Universalization Co-Coordinator, Spain, also participated in the event. Several organizations, including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), were also there to support the workshop. The objective of the one-day workshop was to encourage States not Party to join the CCM.

One successful outcome of the workshop was that it led to a bilateral meeting between the Iraqi presidency and Libya. During the meeting, Libya expressed interest in obtaining information on accession and on the advantages of joining the Convention. Ambassador Mostafa expressed his hope that follow up with Libya would continue in the future.

The President indicated that the Immediate Past President of the United Kingdom had conducted several in-country visits in March 2023 with the ISU Director in South-East Asia. He invited the UK representative to provide more information on these visits.

Mr. Simon Cleobury of the United Kingdom informed that Ambassador Aidan Liddle apologised for being unable to attend the meeting because of conflicting schedules. Mr. Cleobury reported that Ambassador Liddle had travelled to South-East Asia with the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba, in March 2023, namely to Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. In Kuala Lumpur, the duo met with and gave an overview of the Convention to the Undersecretary of the Multilateral Security Division at the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was noted that Malaysia had no cluster munition stockpiles or contamination, and

hence implementation would be limited to national implementation measures and reporting should Malaysia accede to the CCM.

In Jakarta, Ambassador Liddle met with and provided an overview of the Convention to officials of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI). Stockpile destruction and national implementation measures were discussed during the meeting and Ambassador Liddle reiterated the support available to assist Indonesia in implementing the CCM if it ratified the Convention. The management and destruction of Indonesia's old ammunition were also brought up during discussions. The Indonesian authorities informed that while there was no real obstacle to ratification, the process could be slowed down by upcoming general elections that dominated the priorities of the government.

In Bangkok, Ambassador Liddle and the ISU Director met with the Thai National Security Council (NSC) and other officials of the Thai Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. The humanitarian concerns of the use of cluster munitions and other conventional weapons were considered during that meeting. The Thai officials assured that the issue had been discussed extensively within the government. They disclosed that while Thailand was open to acceding to the CCM, its primary objective was to protect its country's interest.

Mr. Cleobury concluded that while these three countries had no fundamental objections to joining the Convention, further follow up would be necessary to achieve universalization and adherence among these States. He reiterated that Indonesia would also benefit from the CCM community's best practices of stockpile destruction. He highlighted the importance of continued engagement with these States.

In contribution to the discussion, the ISU Director shared her view that the accession of Thailand would encourage other countries in South-East Asia to join the CCM. She informed that Malaysia had stated they would welcome an ASEAN regional approach to CCM universalization. Furthermore, she reported that the officials she and Ambassador Liddle met with seemed to welcome the idea of simultaneous accession to the Convention when the idea was raised.

Ambassador Mostafa echoed that the regional approach in CCM universalization was advantageous and had been demonstrated through a number of CCM workshops and meetings in the past year. He pointed out that Nigeria's ratification was a direct result of a regional workshop. The ISU Director added that, similarly, Saint Lucia's accession took place only six months after the CARICOM workshop in 2020.

## **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 reminded the meeting that the Coordinators/Gender Focal Points had met with several CCM signatory States including Liberia, Haiti, Kenya, Angola, Djibouti, and Cyprus. In essence, these States had indicated that they had no objections with regard to gender considerations in the CCM. France reported that the Coordinators intended to meet with other signatory States—Jamaica, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Indonesia—to gather their feedback as well. France informed that the Coordinators had faced difficulties in getting in touch with some of these delegations in Geneva and expressed its hope that they would be able to report more progress in their work in the following meeting.

## 5.2 Universalization (Malawi and Spain)

Spain informed on its participation at the CCM regional workshop that took place in Baghdad, Iraq, in March 2023. It expressed its appreciation of the warm welcome by Iraqi officials. Spain highlighted that the workshop provided the opportunity for the CCM community to learn more about the dynamics of the Arab region and its challenges. Spain commended Iraq for being an outstanding example in the region, in that Iraq had demonstrated the possibility and facility of compliance with the Convention despite having a vast area of cluster munition contaminated land.

Spain reported that the Coordinators had continued to receive responses to the universalization survey that was circulated among States not Parties regarding the reasons they might not be in a position to join the Convention. Spain pointed out that it was a positive thing that States not Party continued to engage with the CCM community.

The United Kingdom enquired if the survey sent to States not Party was the same as the one handed out to participants at the CCM Commonwealth Workshop in March 2023. In response, Spain clarified that the surveys were similar but not identical, and that the survey circulated by the Coordinators was an online survey that had been sent to Permanent Missions in Geneva or New York or directly to the countries' capitals.

In its contribution to the discussion, Mexico thanked Iraq for its generous hospitality during its participation at the CCM workshop in Baghdad. Mexico echoed Spain in stating that the workshop was a useful learning experience for the CCM community.

## 5.3 Victim Assistance (Austria and Chile)

Austria informed that the Coordinators had continued to work on the VA guidelines with civil society. Austria reiterated that these guidelines would be a new document, rather than an updated version of the existing *Guide on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance*. Austria underscored that the adoption of the new International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) had significant implications on the work of the Convention including on victim assistance.

## 5.4 Clearance and Risk Education (Guyana and Norway)

Norway reported that the Article 4 Analysis Group had successfully concluded consultations with Iraq regarding its extension request, and that Iraq had submitted the final version of its request that included all the requisite elements. Norway reminded that the consultation

process between the Analysis Group and Iraq had been a long one that began in December 2022. The Group was satisfied with Iraq's request and would recommend the 11MSP to grant Iraq a 5-year extension of its clearance deadline. In this regard, the Group had drafted and submitted its analysis of Iraq's request to the 11MSP Presidency.

Norway informed that the Article 4 Analysis Group had provided Mauritania with feedback on its draft extension request and would be meeting with Mauritania virtually the following day to further discuss elements that needed to be included in the request. Norway expressed the Coordinators' hope that Mauritania's request could be finalized in a short time.

#### 5.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Bulgaria and the Netherlands)

The Netherlands informed that the Coordinators had invited the 4 States Parties with outstanding Article 3 obligations to meet with them virtually, in order for the Coordinators to be informed of the status of their stockpile destruction programmes. Along with the ISU, the Coordinators had met with representatives of the Peruvian Ministry of Defence, Air Force and Permanent Mission in Geneva. Peru had assured that it had destroyed 57% of its cluster munition stocks. Peru shared about the challenges it faced in its implementation. Nonetheless, Peru assured the Coordinators that it was confident in achieving compliance before its 1 April 2024 deadline and would not need to submit another extension request.

The Netherlands reported that the Coordinators and the ISU had also met with Bulgaria and was pleased to announce that Bulgaria's implementation, too, was on track. Bulgaria had indicated that it was making good progress and hoped to complete its destruction by August 2023 prior to the 11MSP. Bulgaria assured that even if it did not achieve full compliance before the MSP, it did not foresee any obstacles in doing so before its deadline of 31 December 2023.

The Netherlands further reported that Slovakia had assured the Coordinators that its implementation was on track and would meet with them in May to give them a more comprehensive update. Unfortunately, South Africa had not responded to the Coordinators' request to meet. The Netherlands affirmed that the Coordinators had done their utmost to engage with South Africa and requested the troika of CCM Presidencies to intervene.

Co-Coordinator, Bulgaria, pointed out that letters, telephone calls and emails to South Africa had not achieved tangible results and suggested an in-person approach. In relation to Slovakia, Bulgaria informed that it had met briefly with the representative of Slovakia the previous day, and that Slovakia had confirmed that it would submit its Article 7 annual report that week and meet with the Coordinators in early May. Bulgaria had reiterated that it was on track in implementing its Article 3 work plan.

In response, the 11MSP President joined the Coordinators in expressing his concern regarding South Africa's lack of response. Ambassador Mostafa had sent South Africa a letter to enquire about its Article 3 implementation status at the start of the year and had not received a reply to the letter.

In contributing to the discussion, the ISU Director indicated that the deadline for submission of final documentation on extension requests to the United Nations was at the end of June. This was to ensure that the UN had sufficient time to process and translate the documents in the lead up to the 11MSP.

The President pointed out that South Africa would be considered non-compliant if it did not submit an Article 7 report to inform of the status of its implementation or submit a request to extend its Article 3 deadline. He opened up the floor for discussion on how to approach this matter.

As the 12MSP President-Designate, Mexico stated that it seemed imperative for the troika of presidencies to meet with the Ambassador of South Africa in Geneva to discuss this issue with him. Mexico emphasized that preliminary outreach options had been exhausted and that necessary measures had to be taken to reach the next steps of the process.

In its contribution to the discussion, Spain suggested that follow up in the capital might be required, in that representatives of Bulgaria and the Netherlands in Pretoria could pursue talks with members of the South African government in order to resolve the issue. In response, the 11MSP President pointed out that if the issue was caused by delay in Pretoria, a troika meeting with the Ambassador of South Africa in Geneva might not be the most effective way to achieve progress in the matter.

The ISU Director explained that this had been a longstanding issue and that South Africa had been non-compliant under Article 7 of the Convention for several years. She indicated that South Africa had only submitted one transparency report in 2017. Furthermore, the updates provided by South Africa at previous Meetings of States Parties or Review Conference had not included much detail of its Article 3 implementation status. The ISU Director reminded the meeting that she was on standby the previous year to travel to Pretoria to follow up on this matter. She suggested that the best approach to help South Africa understand how critical this issue was could be for a meeting at the ambassadorial level in Geneva. She highlighted that the CCM community had never dealt with non-compliance issues and that this could set a precedent at the 11MSP. She, therefore, recommended that preventative measures be taken to avoid an undesirable situation. She added that previously attempted outreaches to the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa in Geneva had not been successful.

The President enquired if the troika of presidencies should try to meet with the Permanent Representative of South Africa in Geneva. In response, the ISU Director affirmed that that would be a good idea as the Permanent Representative needed to be informed of the severity of the issue. She stressed that it would be important to exhaust all measures that could be taken in Geneva to see if this matter had to be advanced to the level of Pretoria.

Ambassador Mostafa enquired if the troika presidency outreach should be done orally or in writing. In response, the ISU Director suggested that a letter could first be sent prior to meeting with the Permanent Representative to explain the gravity of the situation. She outlined how the CCM Article 3 had had a good record in terms of compliance, which would not reflect well on South Africa should it be found to be non-compliant. Additionally, the ISU

Director underscored that the Permanent Representative could be the gateway for the message to reach high-level government officials.

Based on the discussion, the President affirmed that the troika of CCM Presidencies should reach out to the South African Permanent Representative in Geneva. He enquired if the United Kingdom, in its capacity as the Immediate Past President would agree to this. In response, the United Kingdom representative assured that he would consult with Ambassador Liddle on the matter.

The Bulgarian representative reminded that his predecessor had worked on a possible démarche in Pretoria and had received approval from the government in Sofia to proceed. Bulgaria pointed out that the troika and the Pretoria démarche were not mutually exclusive interventions and could work in parallel or in succession. Bulgaria proposed that the Article 3 Coordinators needed to be ready to deliver the démarche before the 11MSP depending on the outcome of the troika meeting with the South African ambassador.

In contributing to the discussion, Norway demonstrated its support for a multiprong approach in engaging with South Africa with the goal of preventing a non-compliant situation. Norway stressed that the CCM community needed to get the attention of the South African government in the hope of getting the key stakeholders involved in discussions on CCM implementation. There could be value in carrying out different approaches.

#### 5.6 International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Lebanon)

Germany informed that as members of the Article 4 Analysis Group, the Coordinators had been involved in consultations related to the extension requests of Iraq and Mauritania. The Coordinators were awaiting further discussion with Mauritania on its request.

#### 6. Update of UNODA on CCM financing in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention

UNODA reported that the status of contributions as of the end of April was yet to be released and that according to the status in March, 77.7% of the 11MSP budget had been met. UNODA indicated that there was still a considerable amount of time before the 11MSP and expressed its hope for the gap to be closed in due time. However, if the April report showed no significant progress, UNODA planned to identify which countries would need to be reminded to make their contributions. In actual terms, the budget shortfall was approximately USD 90,000.

UNODA informed that the UN Secretary-General had issued a Note Verbale to invite all States Parties as well as States not Party to the 11MSP. The Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, had also signed the letter to invite Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to the Meeting. UNODA further informed that Room XIX of the Palais des Nations had been reserved for the 11MSP and that one room would be made available for side events to be held during the lunch break of each day of the Meeting.

## **7. Update of the Implementation Support Unit**

The President restated that the meeting that day was also an opportunity for the Coordination Committee members to farewell Ms. Mweemba. He reminded that the selection panel had selected Ms. Pamela Moraga as the next ISU Director.

In paying tribute to Ms. Mweemba, Ambassador Mostafa acknowledged the many accomplishments of the ISU Director in the eight years of her tenure. He highlighted that it was a historical moment for the CCM community to farewell its first ISU Director. Speaking of his personal cooperation with Ms. Mweemba during his previous mandate as President-Designate and subsequently as President, he commended the ISU Director for her practical and helpful support towards the Iraqi Presidency as well as States Parties in carrying out the work of the Convention. He thanked her profusely on behalf of the Coordination Committee for her valuable contribution to the Convention's implementation. Ambassador Mostafa wished Ms. Mweemba success in her following assignment and presented her with a token of appreciation.

### **7.1 Financing of the ISU**

The ISU Director informed that since the previous meeting, eight States Parties had contributed to the ISU 2023 Trust Fund. In total, 36 States Parties had contributed CHF 335'467 which was about 65% of the annual budget. At the same time the previous year, the ISU had only collected approximately 37% of the annual budget. The ISU Director conveyed her hope that the contributions would fully cover the budget that year.

### **7.2 Follow up with States with Article 4 obligations**

The ISU Director reported that the ISU had also participated in consultations related to the extension requests of Iraq and Mauritania, as was reported by the members of the Article 4 Analysis Group. She added that the ISU was not expecting any more extension requests to be submitted that would be considered at the 11MSP, and if that remained the case, it would be two requests less than was forecasted. That would reduce some of the documentation costs of the Meeting.

### **7.3 Handover to new Director**

The ISU Director informed that she had met with the incoming ISU Director the previous Friday to begin the handover process in order to facilitate a smooth transition. She expressed her pleasure working with the CCM States Parties and Coordination Committee members, and acknowledged the excellent cooperation States Parties had with the ISU throughout her tenure. She indicated that the Convention had achieved more than she had initially expected and that its overall health was good. She emphasized that she was confident that Ms. Moraga would successfully lead the ISU and continue the outstanding cooperation with States Parties.

UNODA conveyed its gratitude for the successful cooperation it had with the ISU Director throughout her tenure.



Mexico congratulated the ISU Director for her tremendous support towards the work of the Convention. Mexico acknowledged Ms. Mweemba's expertise and contribution in guiding the CCM community to improve on the implementation of the Convention's provisions.

**7. Conclusion of the Meeting**

As no other business was raised, Ambassador Hashim Mostafa concluded the Meeting by reiterating his best wishes to the outgoing ISU Director. He also informed that the date and details of the next meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.

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