
MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Friday, 4 December 2015

at the Palais des Nations

from 08:30 – 10:00 hours

1. PRESENT:

Croatia - President

Dr. Dijana Pleština - Chairperson
Ambassador Vesna Batistić Kos
Mr. Hrvoje Debač
Ms. Zlata Penić-Ivanko

The Netherlands, President - Designate

Ambassador Henk Cor Van der Kwast
Ms. Dorien de Keyzer

Australia

Ms. Tanya Parkin
Mr. Hugh Watson

Austria

Mr. Robert Gerschner
Mr. Thomas Zehetner

Costa Rica

Mr. Norman Lizano Ortiz

Czech Republic

Ms. Markéta Homolková

France

Ms. Marie-Gaelle Robles

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mexico

Ms. Paola Ramirez Valenzuela
Ms. Beatriz Hernandez Narvaez

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Norway

Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
Ms. Malgorzata Hauge

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean
Mr. François Garraux

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

CMC

Ms. Megan Burke

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - CCM ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba
Ms. Liliana Romao Mota

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Chile
Ecuador

APOLOGIES NOT RECEIVED

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The second Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Convention on Cluster Munitions under the Croatian Presidency was opened by the President, Dr. Dijana Pleština. She warmly welcomed all the Coordination Committee Members present and proposed that in the interest of the efficient use of time, any corrections of the Minutes would be combined with any matters arising from the Minutes as well as any updates to be provided since the last Meeting. As there were no corrections to be made, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of what had transpired at the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2015.

3. Matters Arising and Update by the President

The President gave a brief overview of some major developments concerning the Convention since the last Coordination Committee meeting held three weeks earlier. She announced that Germany had made an announcement that it had become Article 3 compliant after having destroyed all its cluster munitions stockpiles ahead of schedule. The President reported that she had congratulated Germany on this achievement in a statement that had been posted on the Convention's website.

The President also reminded the meeting that on 7 December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly would be taking a vote on the earlier submitted resolution on the "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions". She urged all the Committee members to reach out in particular to the States that had in the earlier First Committee vote abstained and encourage them to consider changing their vote to "YES" and that those that had voted against the Resolution in the First Committee to consider abstaining rather than voting against it again.

In response to the President's urging, Zambia reported that it had reached out to the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe in Geneva regarding its vote against the Resolution and would continue to engage Zimbabwe with a view to changing that position.

4. Matters Arising and Update by the President - Designate

The Netherlands reported that the dates of the 6th Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) and venue had been decided and that the 6MSP would be held from 5 - 7 September 2016 in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations.

The President-Designate further reported that the first Coordination Committee Meeting under the Dutch presidency would be held on Thursday, 21st January at the Permanent Mission of The Netherlands. He reported that at that meeting present he would present a Plan of Action for the Dutch presidency. Furthermore, he would also use the meeting as a brainstorming session on how best to implement the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

In addition, it was also announced that the Meeting would be followed by a reception to signify the official hand over of the presidency from Croatia to The Netherlands. An invitation was extended to all the Coordination Committee members present to attend the reception.

5. Matters Arising and Updates from Coordinators of the thematic Working Groups

The President invited the Coordinators of the different thematic Working Groups to provide any updates on any work that may have been undertaken since the last meeting and on what was being planned for the period up to the 6th Meeting of States Parties.

a. Universalization

On behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, Zambia reported that not much work had been done since the last Coordination Committee meeting but reiterated that the coordinators would continue to reach out to States that had abstained during the UN 1st Committee vote on the Resolution on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”.

b. General Status and Operation of the Convention

On behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Czech Republic and Switzerland), Switzerland informed the Meeting that the Coordinators had nothing new to report as they were still reflecting on how best to fulfill their mandate under the Convention. They hoped to be able to more clearly define this role in early 2016.

c. Victim Assistance

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance (Australia and Chile), Australia reported that they had continued to work with the Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance on a Joint Working Paper on victim assistance. It was further reported that the Coordinators had met with a representative on Handicap International on the margins of the 14MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to explore further the possibility of organizing a Workshop on 16 February 2016 parallel to the United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) annual National Mine Action Directors’ Meeting. The meeting aims to target participants of the Directors’ Meeting with the intention of incorporating their experiences and perceptions in the working paper.

d. Clearance and Risk Reduction

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction, Norway informed the Committee that there was nothing new to report since the last Coordination Committee meeting.

e. Stockpile Destruction and Retention

The Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, France and Mexico, informed the Committee that there was nothing new to report since the last meeting though they would

continue to coordinate on how to continue with their work in the implementation of the Convention.

f. Cooperation and Assistance

The Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance, Austria and Iraq, reported that since the last meeting of the Coordination Committee, they had held two meetings with the Coordinators on Victim Assistance to further strategize on the hosting of a workshop targeting affected States and donor States; the outcome of the workshop would thereafter be incorporated into the proposed Working Paper on Victim Assistance.

g. Reporting

In its role as Coordinator on Reporting, Costa Rica informed the Meeting that since the last update where it had been reported that personalized letters had been sent to remind States Parties of the need to submit either overdue initial Transparency Reports or late 2014 Annual Reports, these efforts had started to yield positive results. In this regard, Samoa which had last submitted a report in 2012 was now up to date with its transparency reporting obligation.

The President indicated her happiness at the positive outcome and she hoped that reporting by States would continue to improve. During the exchange, Zambia also reported that it would soon submit its 2014 overdue Article 7 Report.

h. National Implementation Measures

New Zealand, the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (NIM), reported that she had had a meeting with the ISU Director and had discussed various possibilities on how to implement its mandate in the coming year with the assistance of the ISU. The Coordinator reminded the meeting of the main actions adopted at the 1st Review Conference under the relevant section of the Dubrovnik Action Plan. Considering those three actions and the agreed measures to be undertaken by States Parties, it was agreed with the ISU to focus initial activities on what might be achievable in the immediate period up to the 6MSP.

These activities could include the following:-

- Compilation of a comprehensive collation of NIM-related information provided by States Parties in their Article 9 and Article 7 reports – this would then allow for targeted follow up with States Parties that might need further assistance to complete this action.
- Carrying out outreach to States Parties that have particularly robust methods for ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are aware of obligations under the Convention and of their national implementation measures. This would provide for the basis for the development of a “best practice guide” for use by other States Parties during national outreach/information dissemination activities
- Compilation of a summary document of the challenges that have been identified as preventing progress in the revision/adoption of national legislation, as well as of solutions that have been successfully employed. The idea would be to create a resource that could assist States in ensuring compliance with Article 9.

- Enhancement of the connection with Action 1.2 under “universalisation”, with the Coordinator on NIM liaising with the Universalization Coordinators (Zambia and Ecuador) to ensure both teams efforts were mutually supportive (for example on the action to “promote relevant models of legislation and provide targeted assistance to States requiring support in the development of new national legislation to enable ratification of, or accession to, the Convention).

She concluded her presentation by reminding the Committee that as announced in Dubrovnik; at the national level, New Zealand’s focus would be on the Africa project, which would see their expert legal adviser providing targeted support to interested countries in the development of the national legislation necessary to allow for the ratification of the Convention. It was hoped that this would contribute both to the universalisation of the Convention and also to strengthening national implementation.

6. Update on the recruitment of CCM ISU staff

In introducing further discussion on the subject of the recruitment of ISU staff, the President emphasized the need for the matter to be addressed and concluded as quickly as possible. She then invited the ISU Director to provide the meeting with an update on the progress following the agreement at the previous Meeting for Committee members to provide written submissions regarding the vacancy announcement and the key elements therein.

The Director reported that only two of the members had provided submissions – Costa Rica and Switzerland. She also recommended that only one position be filled in the interim until the financial situation of the ISU was clearer. Thereafter, the President read out the Swiss submission before she opened the floor for further discussion on the proposed job description and salary.

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that there was an urgent need for the ISU to be staffed with at least one other person on a fixed term contract if the ISU was to commence working at the minimum necessary capacity level to ensure that the mandate it was charged with by the States Parties was carried out. This was commended as a prudent approach by the ISU and should be supported. In this regard, it was agreed that priority should be given to the recruitment of the Implementation Support Specialist who would also act as director in the absence of the substantive Director. Some Committee members further stressed the need for careful decisions to be taken regarding the remuneration of the staff to avoid the untenable financial situation the APMBC ISU had found itself in. As such, if necessary, the discussion relating to the salary scales should continue even after the vacancy announcement had been made. It was further proposed that the ISU considers developing its own salary scale.

In their debate, Committee members also highlighted the need for the CCM ISU salary scales and conditions of service to be similar to those of the APMBC ISU which had just been agreed to that week during the 14MSP of the APMBC. However, one State cautioned the Committee to be aware that it may not be practical to make comparisons between the two ISUs since the CCM ISU had just started functioning whereas the other ISU had been in existence for much longer.

The Meeting agreed that the recruitment of the 1 staff be expedited in order that the Director got the support that she needed in order to adequately carry out the mandate given to the ISU by the States Parties. The President Designate further informed the meeting that the Dutch Presidency would in January circulate a letter to all States Parties reminding them of the CCM ISU financing decision.

In concluding the discussion, the President instructed the Director to circulate the GICHD salary Scale table from which she had derived the proposed salary to be paid to the Implementation Support Specialist and that any further submissions from the Committee had to be made by Wednesday 9th December so that the vacancy could be announced by the end of the week.

7. Any Other Business

The representative of Switzerland took the opportunity to thank the Croatian presidency, and Dr. Dijana Pleština in particular, for the commitment shown in taking up the leadership of the CCM. He also commended Croatia for the successful hosting of the 1st Review Conference.

In response, the outgoing President thanked all the previous and current Coordinators for their support to the Croatian Presidency both before and after Dubrovnik. She once again extended special thanks to Sara Sekkenes, Executive Coordinator of the interim ISU for her assistance in the preparation of and up to the end of the First Review Conference in Dubrovnik. The President also thanked the Director of the Implementation Support Unit, for all the assistance rendered to Croatia during its presidency.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held on Thursday, 21 January 2016, at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, at a time to be advised later.
