



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE**  
**held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**  
**in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix**  
**from 10:00 to 11:30 hours**

**Present:**

Republic of Iraq – 11MSP President  
H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa  
Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico – President-Designate (12MSP)  
Mr. Alonso Martínez

United Kingdom – Immediate Past President (10MSP)  
Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Austria  
Mr. Christoph Sternat

Belgium  
Mr. Vincent Bodson

Bulgaria  
Mr. Nikola Yakov

Chile  
Ms. Montserrat Fuentes

France  
Mr. Robin Masson

Gambia  
Mrs. Baturu Camara

Germany  
Ms. Anna Mikeska  
Ms. Irmgard Adam

Guyana  
Mr. Colin Luckie

Malawi  
Ms. Tiyamike Banda

New Zealand  
Mr. Nicholas Clutterbuck

Netherlands  
Mr. Jelle Honing

CMC  
Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC  
Mr. Julio Veiga-Bezerra

UNODA  
Silvia Mercogliano

Implementation Support Unit  
Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi  
Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received  
Norway  
Spain

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

President of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (11MSP), Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, opened the second Coordination Committee Meeting under the Iraqi presidency with a warm welcome to all present, including those unable to attend the working lunch hosted by the presidency on 21 September. The Committee approved the provisional agenda of the meeting as tabled by the presidency.

The President congratulated the United Kingdom on the adoption of the Resolution on the *Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* by the First Committee of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77) with 145 votes in favour. The draft of the 2022 CCM Resolution was submitted by the United Kingdom in its capacity as the 10MSP President. Ambassador Hashim Mostafa highlighted that the results of the vote were excellent, with 5 additional votes in favour compared to the previous year.

## **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 21 September 2022, without correction, 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**

The President reported that Iraq had successfully hosted an Arab Region Roundtable Discussion on *Peace Building and Development through Disarmament Conventions* in New York in the sidelines of the UNGA 77. The event that took place on 18 October 2022 gathered 15 of the 22 states from the Arab region that were invited. Of the states that participated, 5 were States Parties, 1 Signatory and 9 States not Party to the CCM. The aim of the presidency in organizing this meeting was to work towards the full implementation of the Convention among states in this region. The President informed that during the event, Spain, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) had delivered presentations on the Convention and its work. This was followed by a constructive dialogue on the concerns of humanitarian issues in the region. The President then invited the ISU to provide an update on the engagements with the attendees.

The Implementation Support Specialist disclosed that following the event the ISU held bilateral meetings with some of the states. Djibouti, a signatory state, had informed that the person in charge of ratifications had resigned which had stalled the process of joining the CCM. The ISU had provided information to the delegate regarding ratification and implementation of the Convention, which the delegate had advised that she would transmit to her capital. The ISU also met with Libya and Yemen, both of which had expressed interest in the CCM and assured that they would follow up with their capitals on that matter. The delegate from Yemen also informed that he would discuss the matter with his colleagues at the Permanent Mission of Yemen in Geneva.

#### 4.2 Selection Process of the Next ISU Director

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa stated that the selection process of the new ISU Director was a technical one of adhering to a set recruitment procedure. As none of the members of the selection panel had human resource or recruitment expertise, they were greatly assisted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) along with the recruitment agency appointed by the GICHD, Impactpool.

The President highlighted that the selection panel members had been chosen according to geographical representation and with respect to gender equity. After the establishment of the panel, it had, to date, held two successful meetings. Following the first meeting, the panel had agreed upon the need to assign a secretariat to work alongside it throughout the recruitment process. The GICHD was selected as the secretariat and had proven to be valuable support to the panel. With its help, the panel had established the selection criteria. The President informed that the process was progressing well and that the panel had received a list of candidates compiled by the recruitment agency. This would be shortlisted to 5 candidates to be interviewed, which would have to be agreed upon by the panellists. He indicated that the final candidate would be presented to the States Parties for their agreement.

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa reiterated that the selection and interview processes were highly technical and assured that the presidency would be happy to provide that information should anyone request for it.

#### 4.3 Adaptation of the CCM Article 7 Reporting Forms

The President informed that the presidency had held two meetings with the Coordinator on Transparency Measures, The Gambia, and that the Coordinator would provide more information on that during the following agenda item.

### **5. Presentation of the Work Plans up to the 11MSP by Thematic Coordinators**

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa highlighted that main agenda item of the Meeting was the presentation of the work plans of thematic Coordinators for the coming year. The Implementation Support Specialist reminded the Coordinators to send their final work plans to the ISU for them to be uploaded onto the CCM website, as was the practice in previous years.

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

France expressed its pleasure in meeting with other members of the Coordination Committee. It prefaced its presentation by pointing out that the General Status and Operation Coordinators' plan was a continuation of the work done the previous year. France reminded that the Gender Focal Points Terms of Reference (ToR) produced by France and Namibia the previous year provide elements for future CCM Gender Focal Points to base their work on.

France informed that, in the Coordinators' plan for 2022-2023, they intended to draft a Working Paper on how States could better reflect gender issues in their transparency reports in cooperation with the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and on Clearance and Risk Education. The aim of this task was to produce a document that would be useful to the working methodologies of States Parties.

France announced that the Coordinators also planned to submit a synthesis to the Chairs of the disarmament fora on the topic of gender and universalization. The Coordinators might consult with States if gender issues affected their decision in joining the CCM.

Another project to be undertaken by the Coordinators on General Status and Operation was to assist the Victim Assistance (VA) Coordinators include gender issues in the *Victim Assistance Guide*. This Guide would help the VA Coordinators better support States Parties in the implementation of the Convention.

France indicated that the Coordinators would also like to organize a side event to help the CCM community understand how gender mainstreaming could be maintained in the Convention's agenda beyond the timeframe of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and the Third Review Conference (3RC). The aim of this side event would be to explore the possibilities available for the Convention regarding this subject.

## 5.2 Universalization (Malawi and Spain)

Malawi reported that the Universalization Coordinators intended to hold bilateral exchanges with Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York, which they had already begun in New York in the margins of the UNGA 77, and also with a number of African States in Geneva. Malawi echoed the President in pointing out that the side event with the Arab Group in New York was a success as it provided the Coordinators with information on why certain states had not joined the Convention and on what their next steps were. Malawi informed that the Coordinators also planned to conduct outreach through their embassies in capitals around the world and through regional organizations of which Malawi and Spain were members.

The Coordinators would also like to draft and circulate a survey amongst States not yet Party on the reasons for not joining the CCM, in order to better understand the particular circumstances of these states and personalize how to approach them. Malawi expressed that the Coordinators would like the ISU to assist them in this project.

Furthermore, the Coordinators would like to facilitate side events or speaking slots on the Convention during other disarmament meetings held in Geneva or in other cities. They hoped to also include CCM on the agenda of relevant meetings and workshops at the regional level to encourage ratification or accession.

Malawi communicated that the Coordinators would continue the activities of the Informal Working Group on CCM Universalization. Moreover, together with the presidency and the ISU, the Coordinators intended to support regional workshops that promote ratification of or accession to the Convention.

The Coordinators planned to work with the National Implementation Measures (NIM) Coordinator on the provision of model legislation for possible use by small States that do not possess cluster munitions and have not been contaminated by them. Malawi reported that they also planned to collaborate with the CMC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in their universalization efforts, and that they had already met with the CMC to discuss on how to move forward on this thematic area.

In concluding its presentation, Malawi outlined the three expected outputs of the Coordinators:

- At least one new State Party by the 11MSP,
- Increased awareness of the Convention, and
- A better understanding on why some states have not joined the CCM.

The President enquired if the Coordinators had begun collaborating with the ISU on the CCM workshop in Cameroon. In response, Malawi informed that the Coordinators had not done so, but would do so as specified in their work plan.

In providing more information on the Cameroon workshop, the Implementation Support Specialist reported that the ISU had had preliminary discussions with Cameroon on the possibility of holding a CCM Francophone Workshop in Yaoundé in early 2023. The ISU had met with Mr. Juteau Toussé, First Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Cameroon, on 18 October, where he informed that the government of Cameroon would be happy to co-host the workshop and provide necessary support for the participants. Another meeting with Mr. Toussé again was planned for that afternoon.

The President asked the ISU if a formal agreement had been made with Cameroon to host the workshop. The Implementation Support Specialist explained that discussions with Cameroon were underway, and that the ISU was still waiting for more clarity on the matter. The President enquired on the potential dates of the workshop, to which the Implementation Support Specialist it would either be in late January or early February.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) welcomed the plan and recalled receiving a few responses to universalization letters sent to States not yet Party by the UN Secretary-General. These replies mostly referred to the continued military necessity of cluster munitions as a reason they had not joined the CCM.

### 5.3 Victim Assistance (Austria and Chile)

Austria introduced the VA Coordinators' work plan as a continuation of the work done in previous years. The Coordinators intended to reach out to the national focal points of States Parties with Article 5 obligations to follow up on their challenges and needs in the implementation of the actions related to victim assistance in the LAP. To that end, the Coordinators planned to conduct bilateral meetings in Geneva in the margins of the meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Protocol V and the Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN). Moreover, they might deliver démarches, as needed, through the Austrian and Chilean Embassies in relevant countries.

Austria informed that the Coordinators would like to work with VA Coordinators of other relevant Conventions to explore synergies with other legal and policy frameworks which share VA objectives. Following that, Austria and Chile aimed to prepare and present a working paper that reflects their findings on the topic.

Austria highlighted that a key activity of the year for the Coordinators was to update the *Guidance on an integrated approach to victim assistance* and the *Guidelines on gender and diversity responsive victim assistance in mine action* for them to be in accordance with the LAP. Austria indicated that a first draft had been produced and hoped to provide more details on the document in the upcoming meetings.

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

Guyana conveyed the apologies of its Co-Coordinator, Norway, for being unable to attend the meeting. In presenting its work plan, Guyana informed that the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Education intended to meet with affected States Parties to find out the status of their implementation of LAP Actions 18-30.

Particular focus would be given to states with imminent clearance deadlines in order to facilitate high-quality extension requests where deadlines cannot be met. In this regard, Iraq, which had indicated its intention to request an extension of its Article 4 deadline, would be prioritised by the Coordinators. The Coordinators would also lead and participate in the work of the Article 4 Analysis Group to consider extension requests.

Guyana indicated that the Clearance Coordinators would promote the establishment of new Country Coalitions in cooperation with the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators. Guyana assured that they would go beyond the actions in the work plan, if necessary, in order to fulfil their mandates.

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

The Bulgarian representative, Mr. Nikola Yakov, informed that it was his first time at a CCM Coordination Committee Meeting as he had joined the Bulgarian Permanent Mission in Geneva only three weeks before. Bulgaria reported that the Stockpile Destruction Coordinators had prepared and submitted the work plan to the ISU, as per the practice in previous years. Following the statements made at the 10MSP, the Coordinators had taken note that only 4 States Parties had outstanding obligations under Article 3.

The representative of Bulgaria noted that his country was among the 4 States and revealed that he was in charge of Bulgaria's cluster munition stockpile destruction in his previous position. Bulgaria announced that an update on its implementation status had been provided the previous week. Bulgaria thanked all CCM States Parties for granting it a second extension request at the 10MSP that was needed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Speaking as Co-Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction, Bulgaria assured that the Coordinators would base their work on Actions 12 to 17 of the LAP. They intended to have constant coordination with the 4 States Parties in order to be able to identify any obstacles that might

arise during the destruction process in a timely manner. Their aim was that these States would provide regular updates on their progress and submit their transparency report by the deadline. In closing its presentation, Bulgaria added that the budget for the Coordinators to implement the work plan would not incur significant resources.

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

Germany indicated that the work plan of the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators was similar to that of the previous year. The Coordinators planned to continue to have regular communication with affected States Parties, donors and operators to exchange views and information, enhance international cooperation and assistance and to promote the establishments of new Country Coalitions. The Coordinators would follow up with States Parties with established Country Coalitions to track the implementation of their time-bound obligations under the Convention. Furthermore, the Coordinators would engage with States with time-bound obligations regarding their needs for international cooperation and assistance, and with potential donors regarding their possibilities and encourage States Parties to establish Country Coalitions. The Coordinators would work with the Coordinator on Transparency Measures to encourage States Parties to enhance the quality of information provided in their Article 7 reports.

A major task the Coordinators would undertake would be to participate as members of the Analysis Groups to consider the Article 3 and 4 extension requests. The Coordinators stated that they might host another joint meeting with the APMBC. Germany reminded that the joint meeting organized the previous year was on practices related to international cooperation and assistance as well as extension requests. The Coordinators would reflect on which pertinent issues to be discussed in the coming joint meeting.

#### 5.7 Transparency Measures (The Gambia)

The Gambia highlighted that this was its first time serving in the CCM Coordination Committee and conveyed its hope of successfully carrying out its mandate with the support of the 11MSP Presidency and the ISU. The Gambia reported that it had met with the presidency and the ISU on two occasions to discuss the amendment of reporting forms. It informed that it would ask the ISU to circulate the current reporting template form to the thematic Coordinators in the near future to solicit comments on their respective sections of the form. The Gambia expected to be receiving these comments up to January 2023, which would be followed by discussions in February and March with the Coordination Committee on the comments provided. The Gambia indicated that it expected the adoption of the new template, which would be submitted to UNODA, in April or May.

The Gambia further informed that it planned to request to the African Union (AU) to facilitate an outreach to the 8 African States Parties with overdue initial reports. The Gambia also intended to engage with the capitals of states with outstanding transparency reports through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and diplomatic missions, with the guidance of the ISU.

Between January to March 2023, The Gambia planned to engage its missions in Abuja, New York and other cities to conduct an outreach with the 8 countries that had yet to submit their

initial reports. It expressed its hope to achieve tangible outcomes and reduce the list of 8 States by half.

## 5.8 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand informed that its work plan was based on updates provided by the ISU on the implementation of the thematic area. As it had reported during the 10MSP in September, New Zealand highlighted that the development towards the full implementation of Article 9 had been slow, with approximately half of CCM States Parties either not having complied with this obligation or not having provided information on their implementation. Therefore, with a list of States to follow up with being too long for a 12-month work plan, New Zealand had narrowed it down to around 10 countries to focus on that year. Of particular interest were those that had requested assistance for Article 9 implementation. New Zealand intended to engage these States to find out what assistance they required and help them receive that assistance.

New Zealand would continue to promote the available NIM tools and resources, such as the CCM model laws, using the video it had developed that was accessible on the CCM website. New Zealand reiterated its support for the regional approach to encourage progress in Article 9 implementation by including NIM as an agenda item in CCM workshops all over the world. New Zealand would keep working closely with the ISU, ICRC and CMC and expressed its heartfelt appreciation for their invaluable support.

## 6. Update of the Implementation Support Unit

### 6.1 Financing of the ISU

The Implementation Support Specialist reported that since the 10MSP, 5 additional States parties had paid their 2022 contributions. As of 3 November, 50 States had contributed almost CHF 396'000 which was just over 81% of the 2022 budget. At the same time in 2021, only 72% had made their contributions.

The 2023 assessed contribution invoices had been sent to all States Parties in mid-September, and up to that day 10 States Parties had already sent their 2023 contributions. As the amounts of a lot of countries that had been assessed for 2022-2024 were relatively small amounts, multi-year invoices were sent to them. States Parties with small amounts due were encouraged to settle these amounts in one payment as this would be beneficial to them in the form of overall lower administrative and bank transaction costs.

### 6.2 Bilateral with States in New York

The Implementation Support Specialist thanked UNODA for helping the ISU obtain their UN Headquarters ground passes to attend the meetings of the UNGA 77 First Committee.

He reported that, in addition to the States that attended the Arab regional roundtable meeting, the ISU also had the opportunity to meet with a number of other States:



- The ISU had provided Kiribati with information on the Convention and its obligations. Its Ambassador assured that he would follow up with his capital on CCM accession as he did not consider it as a complicated issue.
- In collaboration with Universalization Coordinator, Spain, the ISU held bilateral meetings with Indonesia, Jamaica and Timor-Leste.
- The ISU met with Congo, Guinea, Rwanda and Togo to remind them of their overdue initial transparency reports. The ISU had sent them the Article 7 reporting templates to facilitate the process. Their representatives had promised to follow up with their capitals on the matter. The other 4 States Parties with outstanding initial reports were unavailable throughout that week.
- The ISU also met bilaterally with 10 States Parties—Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Mozambique, Palau, Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—to remind them of their annual reporting obligation, which some had not complied with since 2011.
- The ISU team approached the delegates of 5 States—Nepal, Qatar, Russia, Uganda, and Zambia—to encourage them to vote in favour of the 2022 CCM Resolution or to change to a more positive vote. Particular emphasis was given to the delegation of Zambia, a State Party that abstained the previous year.
- On 19 October the ISU team visited the Mission of Palau and collected its cash contribution to the ISU budget up to 2028.

### 6.3 Article 4 Extension Request

After a series of meetings with the Iraqi Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), the ISU had assisted the DMA team in drafting the Article 4 extension request. Iraq had assured that it would submit its request officially in the near future.

### 6.4 Quarterly Newsletter

The 2022 third quarterly newsletter was circulated on 3 October 2022 to the usual mailing list. The Implementation Support Specialist reminded the Coordination Committee to inform the ISU if they had any news items to include in the following edition.

### 6.5 11<sup>th</sup> South Asian Regional Conference on IHL

The Implementation Support Specialist communicated the apologies of the ISU Director for not attending the Coordination Committee Meeting that day. He informed that she was participating in the 11<sup>th</sup> South Asian Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) that week which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 31 October to 2 November.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **7.1 Adoption of the CCM Resolution by the UNGA 77 First Committee**

The United Kingdom echoed the 11MSP President by indicating that the First Committee voting results for the CCM Resolution that year were very good. With 145 votes in favour, it was a record achievement for the Resolution. The UK congratulated the entire Coordination Committee and the ISU, pointing out that the success of the Resolution thus far was due to a collective effort.

The UK highlighted that the next step would be to encourage more States to vote in favour of the Resolution in the General Assembly. Some States Parties that did not register a vote at the First Committee might be persuaded to do so at the General Assembly. The trend in previous years demonstrated improved results following the First Committee vote. The UK conveyed its hope in maintaining the trend.

The President noted that the following CCM Resolution would be submitted by his country and hope to achieve similar success as the UK had in this regard.

In contributing to the discussion, the Implementation Support Specialist informed that out of the 13 States that were not present to vote at the First Committee, 8 had voted YES in previous years. He suggested that it could be worthwhile to encourage these States to vote for the CCM Resolution at the General Assembly. He further informed that Zambia, that switched its vote to Abstain the previous year, had returned to its original voting pattern. For the first time, Myanmar, which had previously abstained, voted in favour of the Resolution. China had maintained its Yes vote following a positive change in its voting pattern the previous year. Also noteworthy were that 32 States not Party voted in favour of the Resolution. Nonetheless, 31 States not Party had remained consistent in abstaining since 2017.

### **7.2 Financial Status of the Convention**

UNODA informed that in the following weeks States Parties that participated in the 10MSP would receive an invoice for the 11MSP. For the first time, the preliminary invoices would only be issued to States Parties that attended the previous meeting. UNODA further reported that the CCM 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts had been closed and that States would receive an annex to the invoice clearly indicating their funded and unfunded credits.

### **7.3 Cluster Munition Coalition**

The representative of the CMC introduced herself, particularly to the incoming and new Coordinators. She expressed her appreciation for their work plans and went on to say that they contained many good ideas and new proposals to improve the implementation and promotion of the CCM.

#### 7.4 Representatives of Germany

Ms. Anna Mikeska of Germany informed that both she and her colleague, Ms. Irmgard Adam, were currently working together on CCM issues. However, in December, she would be focusing on CCM issues while Ms. Adam would be focussing on other tasks. From January onwards, Ms. Adam would be taking over all CCM responsibilities.

Ms. Anna Mikeska of Germany informed that both she and her colleague, Ms. Irmgard Adam, would be working together on CCM issues in November. However, in December, she would be focusing on CCM issues while Ms. Adam would be responsible for tasks relating to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). From December onwards, Ms. Adam would be taking over all CCM responsibilities.

#### 8. Conclusion of the Meeting

The President announced that the Coordination Committee would likely meet again in early December and that the date and details of the upcoming meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.

Ambassador Hashim Mostafa thanked all the Coordinators for presenting their work plans and expressed his optimism on a successful cooperation in the coming year built upon the work of previous CCM Coordinators. He concluded the meeting by congratulating the UK a final time for the excellent results achieved with the adoption of the CCM Resolution by the First Committee.

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