



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday, 30 January 2024
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix
from 14:00 to 16:30 hours

1. Present:

Mexico – 12MSP President

H.E. Mrs. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Ms. Mariana Roa

Austria

Ms. Lioba Bammer

Australia

Mr. Gordon Burns

Belgium

Mr. Vincent Bodson

Germany

Mr. Bastian Volz

Iraq

Ms. Raghad Hasan

Italy

Ms. Elena Gai

Malawi

Ms. Tiyamike Banda

Netherlands

Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

Norway

Mr. Fredrik Brogeland Laache

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. Angel Horna

Switzerland

Ms. Silvia Greve

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Nkole

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Maya Brehm

UNODA

Ms. Alice Marzi

ISU

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Absent:

Lebanon

2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

Ambassador Francisca E. Méndez Escobar, President of the 12th Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), warmly welcomed the Coordination Committee members to its second meeting under the Mexican Presidency with best wishes for the new year. She expressed appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the Coordination Committee members for their significant work in the preceding months.

Ambassador Méndez highlighted the achievement of Peru in successfully completing the destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles last December, ahead of its April 2024 deadline. She underlined this achievement as the first positive announcement to be delivered during the 12MSP. She emphasized the significance of this accomplishment as a demonstration of the unwavering commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Convention.

Acknowledging the diligent efforts of the Coordinators in formulating their thematic work plans leading up to the 12MSP, the President expressed anticipation for the implementation of these plans.

The Committee proceeded to approve the provisional agenda of the meeting as presented by the Presidency.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Coordination Committee Meeting

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2023.

4. Update on Activities Undertaken by the Mexican Presidency up to the 12MSP

The President informed that in previous weeks Mexico had been consulting with the Coordination Committee members, civil society organizations and its capital to identify the best ways to steer the Convention. She outlined that the Presidency team had met with representatives of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), as these organizations are close partners of the work of the CCM, to listen to their priorities and understand how the Presidency can collaborate on specific aspects during its term. She assured the Presidency's readiness to work together with all CCM stakeholders in this regard.

The President informed that discussions were ongoing regarding a universalization workshop aimed at Caribbean States, which could potentially take place in April. Following consultations with Mexico's expert disarmament personnel, it was decided that New York would be a suitable venue for the workshop, given the representation of all Caribbean States there. Discussions were underway with the ISU and the Mexican Mission in New York to identify suitable dates and a fitting programme. The Presidency expressed intentions to coordinate with the universalization working group in this regard.

The President reported that Mexico would start a dialogue with States not Parties to the Convention in Geneva, with plans to approach the United States, Brazil and other countries to better understand their position on the CCM and to promote the norms of the Convention.

Ambassador Méndez reiterated her keenness to hear from the thematic Coordinators on their work plans and contributions to strengthen the humanitarian aspect of the CCM. She was pleased that all the work plans had been submitted and circulated to the Coordination Committee. Mexico planned to propose a political declaration to be adopted by the 12MSP, in light of the two current conflicts where cluster munitions were being used. She assured that adequate consultations with relevant stakeholders would be undertaken. The President clarified that the declaration would send a clear message to political leaders to strengthen their commitment to not use cluster munitions. She cautioned that the declaration would need to be balanced and take into account previous commitments negotiated by past Presidencies. She added that a draft of the declaration could be considered in the near future.

The Presidency reported that Mexico had initiated a worldwide contest for youth in October 2023. The initiative had been presented to the ISU and UNODA and the details were being finetuned. A webinar to launch the contest was planned for late February to discuss categories of the contest including the intersect between the Convention and Risk Education, Humanitarian Disarmament, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where expert panellists would be invited to shed more light on these topics. Contestants could submit creative entries in various forms on these categories. The Presidency encouraged the Coordination Committee members to promote the contest once information on it had been circulated.

Furthermore, the Presidency announced that there would not be a CCM intersessional meeting that year, as was highlighted during the meeting between the Mexican Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights and the CCM Coordination Committee members. Instead, the Presidency aimed to organize a mid-term meeting to discuss critical aspects of CCM implementation. Ongoing discussions with the GICHD was taking place. The Presidency hoped to receive GICHD support to provide a venue for the event, potentially coinciding with another formal mine action meeting, such as the APMBC Intersessional Meetings. The objective would be to hold a half-day retreat to present substantive elements of the Coordinators' working papers to the wider CCM community and discuss their integration into the 12MSP final document. The Presidency reported that an initial consultation on the potential political declaration or statement of the 12MSP had commenced.

5. Presentation and Implementation Status of Work Plans by Thematic Coordinators up to the 12MSP

5.1 Universalization (Malawi and Peru)

Peru expressed gratitude to the President for acknowledging Peru's recent compliance with its Article 3 obligations. Additionally, Peru informed that an official ceremony in Lima was scheduled for 31 January, to be attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of

Defence, and representatives of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), which provided invaluable support to Peru's stockpile destruction efforts.

Moreover, Peru appreciated the Presidency for sharing its plans and updates with the Committee. Peru reminded the meeting that Malawi had already introduced the Universalization Coordinator's work plan in November. Peru proceeded to outline some of their main priorities. The Coordinators would relaunch the universalization survey amongst permanent missions of States not yet party to the CCM in Geneva in order to gain deeper insights into the reasons behind them not joining the Convention. The Coordinators committed to continuing the activities of the Informal Working Group on Universalization and would soon schedule a meeting. Furthermore, they planned to further engage with States not Parties during the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in March 2024 and would collaborate with the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) to bolster universalization efforts. The Coordinators would be working with the ISU to draft a working document on strengthening the norms against the use of cluster munitions, focusing on the "stigmatization paradigm", which they hoped to finalize and present to the Coordination Committee in the near future.

The President stated that the IPU Secretary-General had expressed willingness to support CCM universalization efforts and emphasized that the session in March would be a valuable opportunity for outreach. The President also mentioned that discussions with her capital underscored the importance of strengthening CCM norms, while acknowledging the arduous and lengthy process for States not Party in joining the Convention. She encouraged Coordinators to reach out to the Presidency or the ISU for assistance in universalization efforts if needed.

A discussion ensued regarding the usage of the term "stigmatization" within the CCM context. Acknowledging its negative connotations and impact of stigmatization of individuals and groups of people, the term was deemed appropriate when expressing disapproval or condemnation of heinous acts and abhorrent weaponry, such as cluster munitions (in accordance with LAP Action 11). These have no legitimacy due to the unacceptable harm they cause to civilians.

5.2 Stockpile Destruction (Netherlands and Zambia)

The Netherlands and Zambia jointly presented their work plan. With the announcement of Peru's compliance with its Article 3 obligation, the Netherlands noted that one of the objectives set out in the Coordinators' work plan had already been achieved. The Netherlands presented the Coordinators' ideas on drafting one or two working documents. The first document would address the practices of States Parties on cluster munitions retained or acquired for the development of training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance or destruction techniques, according to the provisions in Article 3.6. A second working document could focus on the Article 3 Declaration of Compliance, examining its necessary contents and considering its voluntary or mandatory nature. They proposed involving experts in this effort, possibly through a roundtable discussion to gather insights.

Zambia emphasized the significance of detailed annual reports from States Parties retaining cluster munitions, particularly regarding the destruction of these munitions and their intended use. Zambia reiterated the Coordinators' plans to convene a roundtable discussion to assess the destruction of retained munitions and their utilization for training purposes.

The President enquired on the Coordinators' strategy for consulting experts on retained stockpiles and the stakeholders they planned to engage. The Netherlands responded that the Coordinators would engage with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and other relevant organizations. The Coordinators aimed to gather lessons learnt and best practices for incorporation into documents of the 12MSP and future meetings. Additionally, the Netherlands assured that the Coordinators would consult with the Presidency and the ISU including on any initiative related to organizing a side event during the MSP.

The ISU Director emphasized the importance of the Article 3 Coordinators delving into the topic of retained cluster munitions and explosive submunitions. Although some States Parties report using these munitions for training, they often provided limited information. Regarding the Declaration of Compliance, the Director suggested maintaining its voluntary nature but encouraged compliant States Parties to offer additional details. This could include information on the methods used for stockpile destruction, consideration of environmental factors, and sharing of best practices.

Belgium shared its experience as a State Party that previously retained a substantial number of cluster munitions, leading to criticism from civil society during a prior MSP. After consulting with civil society, Belgium reported a significant reduction in its retained munitions. Belgium clarified that these munitions were considered inert once they lost functionality and could no longer be deployed as originally intended by the manufacturers.

The CMC expressed hope for more States with cluster munitions stockpiles to join the Convention in the future. The CMC expressed appreciation for the Coordinators' plans to further explore the issue of retained cluster munitions. The CMC emphasized the danger of using live munitions for training and debunked the notion that retaining cluster munitions for training was necessary. It underscored the importance of States Parties swiftly depleting retained cluster munitions.

Belgium expressed agreement with the intervention of the CMC but raised the point that the retention of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions was allowed under the Convention.

The President enquired if any weapons similar to cluster munitions were being developed that could potentially come under the purview of the Convention. In response, Belgium indicated that this would be a question for military experts in the community. The President suggested that this too could be an area of interest for the Article 3 Coordinators.

5.3 Clearance and Risk Education (Italy and Norway)

Norway congratulated Peru for complying with its Article 3 obligations, stressing the importance of highlighting that achievement broadly. Norway reported that the Coordinators,

in collaboration with the Article 6 Coordinators, would assess extension requests from Chad, Germany, and Lao PDR. The first Analysis Group meeting was scheduled for that Friday, with experts from various organizations invited to provide input on the requests. Norway noted that the Analysis Group was still awaiting Lao PDR's submission at that time. Norway informed that the analyses of the requests would commence shortly and that the Analysis Group aimed to provide feedback to requesting States within 8 weeks, as stipulated in the Guidelines. Norway expressed its hope that the States would incorporate additional information requested into their submissions.

Furthermore, Norway conveyed that the Coordinators aimed to produce two working papers. The first would focus on risk education, aligning with the priorities of the Mexican Presidency. This paper would explore the evolution of risk education within the CCM context, emphasizing its necessity at all stages of mine action. The Coordinators planned to organize a 2-hour seminar featuring presentations by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the GICHD on this topic. The second working document would address the integration of environmental considerations into cluster munition clearance work plans.

Norway outlined the Coordinators' intentions to collaborate with other CCM thematic Coordinators, particularly the Article 6 Coordinators and the Gender Focal Point Coordinators. They aimed to advocate for the inclusion of gender and diversity considerations in States Parties' clearance work plans. Additionally, Norway mentioned its support for a mapping project through the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), which could benefit both the CCM and APMBC. The Coordinators would gather information from countries with clearance obligations to enhance synergies with the APMBC and explore solutions to assist States Parties in fulfilling their Article 4 obligations.

The ICRC expressed appreciation to the Coordinators for presenting their work plan and offered its support through its weapons contamination unit. It stressed the importance of integrating risk education into other aspects of mine and humanitarian action to mitigate risks and save lives.

Germany informed that its Article 4 extension request involved the clearance of a former Soviet Union training ground and that more than 6 km² of cluster munition remnants had been cleared. Despite facing challenges such as high temperatures and heavy contamination, with cluster munitions comprising only 5% of the unexploded ordnance found, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to clearance efforts. With 190 personnel dedicated to cluster munition clearance, Germany emphasized that the extension request was necessary to address significant challenges, not a lack of commitment, and looked forward to achieving compliance with Article 4 in the future.

The CMC commended the inclusion of risk education in the Coordinators' work plan, emphasizing its importance in preventing the loss of lives and limbs caused by cluster munition remnants. Recognizing the substantial workload of the Analysis Group, the CMC expressed appreciation for its efforts and hoped for continued inclusive analyses of extension requests. Additionally, the CMC thanked Germany for clarifying its commitment to Article 4 implementation.

5.4 Victim Assistance (Austria and Panama)

Austria informed that the main focus for the Coordinators would be to update the Guide on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance, which was produced in 2016, to align it with the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In this regard, the Coordinators had met with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to discuss the document's structure and drafting timeline, with plans to circulate it to Coordination Committee members for input. The Coordinators were also considering the possibility of developing synergies in this project with other conventions. Panama added that the Coordinators would collaborate with the Gender Focal Points and Article 6 Coordinators.

The Presidency emphasized the importance of aligning the document with the LAP and IMAS, suggesting integration of insights from Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and best practices from the APMBC.

The Netherlands, serving as one of the APMBC VA Coordinators, offered collaboration with the CCM VA Coordinators.

The CMC appreciated the VA Coordinators' presentation and offered its expertise to support their efforts. It also enquired about the annual APMBC VA retreat in 2024.

In response, Zambia, also serving as an APMBC VA Coordinator alongside the Netherlands, confirmed the upcoming APMBC VA retreat in 2024, which would include the CCM VA Coordinators as in previous years.

5.5 International Cooperation and Assistance (Lebanon and Switzerland)

Switzerland announced plans for several meetings aimed at enhancing cooperation and assistance. These included an informal joint meeting with the APMBC Committee to exchange views, two meetings for donors and affected States with established Country Coalitions, and a workshop with the Swiss Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Demining Command (KAMIR) on international cooperation possibilities. The first donor-affected State meeting would focus on "Shortening the Chain" to make international cooperation and assistance more direct and straightforward between donor and affected States. The second would be on "Face-to-Face", which would facilitate, for example, South-to-South sharing of experiences and capabilities of personnel working on the ground in similarly affected countries.

In addition to that, the Coordinators planned to hold a workshop with the Swiss Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Demining Command (KAMIR) on possibilities of international cooperation and assistance, as KAMIR had gathered experience working in the field in a number of affected countries.

The Presidency commended the practicality of the proposed activities, noting their alignment with other thematic working groups. Mexico highlighted extension requests as opportunities for innovative cooperation and praised the Coordinators for their interest in promoting South-South and technical collaboration. The Presidency expressed its interest in the work of KAMIR.

In response, Switzerland emphasized KAMIR's extensive field experience and its collaboration with the Spiez Laboratory for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Protection.

The CMC acknowledged the Coordinators' efforts and raised concerns about small-scale contaminations in affected States not receiving adequate attention from donors. It expressed interest in collective learning to address challenges in international cooperation and assistance for CCM States Parties.

5.6 Transparency Measures (Australia)

Australia congratulated Peru for fulfilling its Article 3 obligations. The Australian representative introduced himself and expressed his eagerness to collaborate with Coordination Committee members in preparation for the 12MSP. Australia enquired whether the usual process was for Coordinators to update their work plans after the meeting.

In response, the Presidency clarified that work plans were flexible documents, subject to adjustment throughout the cycle. This was confirmed by the ISU Director who informed that the work plan served as a guide to the Coordinators and that their implementation was more important than the work plans themselves.

Australia expressed concerns about declining annual reporting, noting also that some States Parties that had not submitted initial transparency reports. Australia invited feedback from the Coordination Committee on how this situation could be improved, and informed that written feedback was also welcomed.

The Presidency pointed out the crucial need to identify means of addressing decreases and delays in report submissions. It suggested that analysing and learning from other conventions, such as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which had previously had low reporting rates but had recently seen increasing submission rates. Mexico added that another fundamental aspect to explore was the use of tools to facilitate reporting, such as the practice of the APMBC's online reporting platform, which could be applied to the CCM context.

Belgium emphasized that there had been recognition of a decrease in the number of report submissions over the last three years, not only for the CCM but also for most disarmament conventions. Belgium advocated for the need to inform potential new States Parties on the obligation to report. Belgium asserted that there was no magic solution to increase reporting rate. It reminded that the reporting template had only been updated the previous year and that it could be counterproductive to introduce even more changes in the near future. Nevertheless, Belgium echoed the Presidency that it could be beneficial to consult with other conventions with better reporting rates.

In contributing to the discussion, Malawi highlighted that reporting was a challenge for States Parties that had no key obligations under the CCM due to the lack of engagement with these States. It echoed Belgium in linking reporting to universalization efforts. Malawi suggested States Parties to target a number of unaffected States Parties to encourage them to report.

Germany acknowledged the valid points made by the Coordination Committee regarding the topic of discussion and recognized that there was room for improvement in States Parties' attitudes towards reporting. Germany encouraged further reflection and exploration to improve reporting rates.

Austria highlighted some challenges that could occur in reporting from a national perspective, such as interministerial cooperation in reporting and the challenge of different reporting deadlines across conventions. It suggested enhancing synergies between disarmament conventions in Geneva.

Australia thanked all who had shared their views and comments.

5.7 National Implementation Measures (Iraq)

Iraq highlighted the importance of improving progress on the NIM. Iraq informed that it would contact those delegations that had requested assistance for Article 9 implementation, with further attention to the two new State Parties. It would work with the Coordination Committee members to identify a list of States that should be targeted as a priority among those States that have not submitted sufficient information on their legislative framework. Furthermore, it would develop a concept note or a factsheet on NIM to highlight the existing resources available to assist domestic implementation and enhance States' understanding of it. Iraq would organize a joint meeting with the Universalization Coordinators to discuss how to incorporate NIM in universalization efforts. It would explore organizing a workshop to gather States to share their experiences on factors that impacted their national implementation processes with the findings of the workshop to be incorporated into a working paper to be submitted to the 12MSP.

The Presidency emphasized the importance of engaging with States Parties that had not yet enacted legislation or provided sufficient information in this regard. It also endorsed the idea of organizing a side event to highlight available resources on NIM. Additionally, it supported the link between universalization and NIM and proposed exploring ways in which the ISU and CCM community can offer support.

5.8 General Status and Operation (Belgium and Germany)

Belgium pointed out that the Coordinators would focus on three "tracks" in the lead up to the 12MSP: the first of which would be to increase collaboration within the Coordination Committee to streamline gender and diversity considerations across all thematic areas of the Convention. Belgium informed that the Coordinators would reach out to each working group to streamline gender and diversity considerations. The second track would be focused on engagement with other relevant stakeholders outside of the CCM, such as other Gender Focal Points. In this regard, Belgium expressed gratitude to the Netherlands for having organized the meeting to foster synergies between the CCM and APMBC.

Germany informed that the third track was on collaboration with UNIDIR. Germany reported that one of the research aims would be to document the work of gender mainstreaming in the CCM and another to explore how gender and diversity had been incorporated in other

conventions in order to allow for comparison and recommend the best ways forward. The Coordinators would explore hosting a side event in the margins of the 12MSP to enhance the visibility of gender and diversity issues within the Convention and ensure continuity of the Gender Focal Points' role beyond the CCM Third Review Conference.

The Presidency highlighted that the LAP was a valuable resource on gender mainstreaming in the CCM with clear actions that could be operationalized by States Parties. Mexico also suggested learning from the APMBC's experience in this aspect and expressed its gratitude to the Netherlands for organizing the recent event to strengthen synergies between the two Conventions.

The Netherlands reported that in view of the APMBC's forthcoming Review Conference, it had facilitated an informal exchange on gender and diversity with both the APMBC and CCM Gender Focal Points, involving the APMBC and CCM ISUs, UNIDIR and the Gender and Diversity Working Group. The Netherlands expressed gratitude for the CCM Gender Focal Points' work plan and commended its efforts to enhance synergies between the work of both Conventions.

6. Update by the ISU

6.1 Meetings with States in the Sidelines of the APMBC 21MSP

The ISU Director reported that the Unit met with over 16 States during the 21st Meeting of States Parties (21MSP) of the APMBC in November 2023, addressing various issues such as universalization, Article 4 implementation, reporting, national implementation measures, and other relevant matters. Regarding universalization, the ISU met with Signatories and States not Parties to discuss challenges hindering their accession or ratification to the CCM. The Director listed the countries the ISU interacted which included, among others, Angola, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kutait, Uganda, and Yemen. She emphasized that this information was shared with the Coordination Committee members to ensure coordination in approaching these States to encourage them to join the CCM. Notably, the ISU prioritized engagement with countries from the Middle East due to ongoing conflicts in the region, despite them not being deemed "low-hanging fruit" in terms of CCM universalization. The Director underscored the importance of these engagements to convey the continued relevance of the CCM in conflict-affected regions.

6.2 Follow up with States with Article 4 Obligations

The ISU Director provided updates on engagements with States Parties having Article 4 obligations as follows:

Chad: Chad reported that they had not received any support to clear its cluster munitions remnants. It expressed hope to receive assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), given the organization's previous work in the country.

Germany: More information on Germany’s implementation to be provided in a subsequent section.

Lebanon: Lebanon indicated that it was on track to meeting its obligations. However, a significant decrease in funding had led to a need to submit an extension request to be considered at the 13MSP. Lebanon expressed its intention to invite the ISU for an in-country visit to review the draft request before its official submission.

Somalia: Somalia highlighted similar funding challenges and expressed its intent to submit an extension request for consideration at the 13MSP. Somalia also planned to invite the ISU to assist its national authorities in drafting the request.

6.3 Meetings with States with Outstanding Article 7 and 9 Obligations

The ISU Director informed that the Unit held meeting with four States Parties (Ghana, Lesotho, Niger and Senegal), to remind them of their annual reporting and National Implementation Measures (NIM) obligations. Following these engagements, two States Parties, Ghana and Lesotho, submitted their Article 7 reports. Additionally, the ISU facilitated communication between Senegal and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to aid in the domestication of the Convention within its national legislation.

6.4 2023 UNGA Resolution on the CCM

The ISU Director proceeded to update the meeting by informing that A/78/32 Resolution on the “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 4 December 2023 with the following voting results:

- In favour: 148
- Against: 1
- Abstained: 36

This represented a significant progress, as it was the first time the resolution garnered a total of 148 Yes votes. In comparison, the previous year's voting results were 144 in favour, 1 against and 37 abstentions. The ISU had circulated the voting results to all CCM States Parties for their reference.

6.5 Other Follow-Up Meetings

Afghanistan: The ISU Director provided an update on follow-up meetings. In this regard the Unit met with Afghanistan on 9 January. Afghanistan conveyed that its Article 4 implementation remained on track, with a survey initiated covering over 50% of its districts. However, new contaminated areas had been identified. If anticipated funding would be received, Afghanistan expected to achieve compliance ahead of its deadline.

Somalia: A subsequent meeting with Somalia on 9 January revealed that Somalia still lacked clear information on its contaminated areas.

Uganda: On 25 January, the ISU engaged with Uganda to follow up on its ratification process. Uganda highlighted the need for coordinated efforts among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Defence; and Gender, Labour and Social Development to advance the process. The ISU committed to direct a letter to the Permanent Secretary of the latter Ministry and Uganda's Permanent Mission in Geneva to expedite the ratification process, with the letter sent the previous day.

6.6 Article 4 Extension Requests

Lao PDR: On 15 November, Lao PDR submitted its initial draft extension request to the ISU. After review, the ISU provided preliminary feedback. Lao PDR was expected to provide an updated version by the end of that day.

Chad: Chad submitted its initial draft extension request on 21 November. Following review and feedback from the ISU, Chad submitted an updated draft on 9 January, which has been forwarded to the Analysis Group.

Germany: On 21 December, Germany provided its extension request, which the ISU reviewed and gave feedback on. Germany indicated that its response to the ISU's queries would be included as an annex to the request. The request had been circulated to all States Parties and uploaded onto the Convention's website.

6.7 ISU Finances

The ISU Director informed that since the last Coordination Committee Meeting, 6 States Parties had made contributions to the ISU 2023 Trust Fund, bringing the total number of contributing States to 57.

The Director announced that the 2023 contributions had exceeded the approved 2023 ISU budget. She pointed out that this was good news considering that the ISU had slight deficits the previous 2 years, as was reported at the 10th and 11th Meetings of States Parties.

The Director further reported that the CCM 2023 Sponsorship Programme had received support from 3 States Parties, which facilitated the attendance of 16 delegates at the 11MSP in September. The Sponsorship Programme plays a crucial role in facilitating participation from under-represented regions in CCM meetings and aims to promote a more gender-balanced and diverse representation. Invitation letters sent to targeted States emphasized the Programme's focus on gender and diversity considerations.

6.8 Preparation for 13MSP

The ISU Director provided an update on discussions with UNODA and the Philippines regarding the venue for the 13th Meeting of States Parties (13MSP). The Philippines indicated its consideration of hosting the meeting in Manila, although the venue had not yet been confirmed.

6.9 Other Universalization Efforts

The ISU Director reported on a meeting held with the UNMAS Director to enhance cooperation between the Unit and UNMAS. The proposal was raised to organize joint meetings of the ISUs of the CCM, APMBC and the CCW. The aim is to initiate a coordination group for activities related to universalization, leveraging synergies between the work of these conventions.

In addition, the Director mentioned that Peru was considering organizing a universalization workshop in Lima.

6.10 “Meet the Makers” Conversation Series

The ISU Director highlighted that the first event of the “Meet the Makers” conversation series had occurred on 24 January 2024, featuring representatives of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). A podcast capturing the key highlights of MAG's presentation was scheduled for release in the coming weeks.

6.11 Gender Focal Point Meeting by the Netherlands

The ISU Director underscored a key takeaway from the meeting for Gender Focal Points of the CCM and APMBC, hosted by the Netherlands, which emphasized the need to dismantle silos between the work of the Conventions and their respective partners. Notably, cooperation between the ISUs, UNIDIR and the GICHD was bolstered during the event. The Director expressed optimism that the momentum generated from the meeting would be sustained going forward and thanked the Netherlands for this initiative.

6.12 ISU Support and Collaboration with Coordinators

The ISU Director extended the ISU's support to the Coordinators, offering guidance for the implementation of their work plans. Recognizing the demanding schedule of the Coordinators, especially with ongoing disarmament meetings, she reaffirmed the ISU's commitment to assisting them in light of the challenges faced by the CCM. She encouraged the Coordinators to communicate any specific needs or areas where ISU support would be valuable in executing their work plans effectively.

The Director highlighted that the upcoming the Human Rights Council session and Conference on Disarmament High-Level Segment were opportunities for the Coordinators to engage with States and advocate for CCM adherence. She reiterated that universalization was an obligation of all States Parties and not just of the Presidency.

The Presidency thanked the ISU Director for her comprehensive update. Furthermore, Mexico also offered its support to the thematic Coordinators in the implementation of their work plans. The floor was then opened for further questions or comments.

Contributing to the discussion, Malawi informed that the Universalization Coordinators were exploring the possibility of organizing a side event in the margins of the Human Rights Council

session, an activity not initially included in their work plan. Malawi reported that they had begun discussions with the United Nations regarding a potential side event focused on Disarmament and Human Rights. Malawi added that the Coordinators would consult with the ISU on further developing this initiative.

7. Any Other Business

Australia raised two matters. Firstly, it expressed interest in reviewing any draft political declaration proposed for the 12MSP by the Presidency, alongside other States Parties. Secondly, Australia queried whether there was a process or plans in place for the three-yearly review of the Hosting Agreement of the ISU. Australia understood that the most recent review might have been conducted in 2017.

In response to Australia's first enquiry, the Presidency clarified that no draft declaration had been prepared. Mexico elaborated that the political declaration would encompass the collective efforts of the thematic Coordinators of the Convention. The content would be informed by the working papers generated by these Coordinators, by recent or forthcoming instances of cluster munition use including its stigmatization, as well as by any potential transfer of these weapons. Mexico asserted that as the drafting process would evolve alongside the Coordination Committee's activities in the lead up to the 12MSP, the document would be circulated in due course.

In addressing Australia's second question, the ISU Director commented that if no amendments were made during the most recent review of the Hosting Agreement, it implied that the Agreement was deemed to be functioning effectively at that time. She encouraged States Parties to share their perspectives on how the Agreement had functioned for them. While acknowledging the excellent support the ISU received so far from the GICHD, she mentioned that there were recent changes in the GICHD's internal regulations and new policies and procedures were being put in place, which needed to be reviewed and examined in light of the Host Agreement. Additionally, she reported that the APMBC ISU Director and herself would be meeting to discuss these recent changes and how they would affect both the ISUs. She noted that there might be issues to be addressed, particularly regarding the extent to which GICHD new policies and procedures should apply to the ISU. The Director suggested presenting a roadmap to the Coordination Committee at the next meeting.

The Presidency noted the significance of receiving a briefing on this matter from the ISU during the next meeting, emphasizing the need for the ISU's autonomy from the GICHD.

In conclusion, the Presidency thanked the Coordination Committee members for their constructive contributions and expressed enthusiasm for future engagements.
