

## MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Tuesday 3 March 2026

13 :30 – 14 :15

GICHD, Maison de la Paix

### Attendance

#### *Present*

#### Lao People's Democratic Republic

3RC Presidency

H.E. Mr. Daovy Vongxay

Ms. Keobounsane Somsanouk

3RC Presidency's Consultants:

Ms. Phonenipha Mathouchanh

Ms. Sara Sekkenes

#### Australia

(Transparency Measures)

Ms. Gemma Hallett

#### Japan

(Victim Assistance)

Mr. Kazuki Tamai

Ms. Zoë Venetis

#### Austria

(General Status of the Operation of the  
Convention and CCM Gender Focal  
Points)

Ms. Hannah Sladek

#### Lebanon

(Risk Education)

Ms. Lara Abou Moussa

#### Burkina Faso

(Stockpile Destruction and Retention)

Mr. Cyrille Bonzi

#### Mexico

(Survey and Clearance)

Ms. Estefanía Padilla

#### Cameroon

(General Status of the Operation of the  
Convention and CCM Gender Focal  
Points)

Mr. Paul Serges Ntamack

Ms. Alicia Legal

#### Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

(International Cooperation and Assistance)

Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

#### France

(Survey and Clearance)

Mr. Mathieu Tasse

#### Niger

(Victim Assistance)

Mr. Yacoubou Ambarka Hassane

Norway  
(Universalization)  
Mr. Kristian Svanes

Peru  
(Stockpile Destruction and Retention)  
Mr. Angel Horna

Philippines (the)  
(13MSP Presidency)  
Ms. Hannah Zulayka L. Abubakar

Switzerland  
(International Cooperation and  
Assistance)  
Ms. Silvia Greve  
Mr. Marcel Rieder

CMC  
(Observer)  
Ms. Kasia Derlicka

ICRC  
(Observer)  
Mr. Fahad Ahmed

UNODA  
(Observer)  
Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

ISU-CCM  
Ms. Pamela Moraga  
Dr. Riccardo Labianco

*Apologies Received*  
Panama

*Absent*  
Costa Rica

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## **Opening Remarks, Adoption of the Agenda and the Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Ambassador Vongxay opened the meeting, greeting participants and welcoming Japan, as this was the first meeting attended by Japan's delegate as the new coordinator for victim assistance. The Ambassador noted that with Japan's participation, the Coordination Committee membership was completed.

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to the adoption of the agenda for the meeting, which was adopted without objection by the members of the Coordination Committee (CC). He subsequently invited the CC to approve the minutes of the Second Meeting of the CC, held on 23 January 2026. No objections were raised by the members of the CC. Prior to approval; the Ambassador noted a minor error in the minutes , which will be corrected.

## **Updates from the Presidency**

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to the next agenda item and provided updates from Presidency. The Ambassador described both the informal briefing to UN Members held on 30 January and the regional consultations on 20 February as productive meetings, with a large number of States Parties participating. He also welcomed the workshops on transparency organised by Australia, as well as the Informal Working Group on Universalization meeting organised by Norway and Costa Rica.

Ambassador Vongxay further informed the Committee that several letters from Lao PDR's Minister of Foreign Affairs had been sent to signatory States including Angola, the Central African Republic, and Indonesia. Similar letters were also sent to States not party to the Convention, including Kiribati, Solomon Island, Tanzania, Tonga and Zimbabwe. The Ambassador also referred to meetings with these States organised in collaboration with the Coordinators on Universalization.

Ambassador Vongxay also provided an update on the universalisation regional workshops. He informed the Committee that the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop had been postponed due to time constraints and challenges in securing funding for the event. The Africa Regional Workshop in Addis Ababa, however, remains scheduled for 13 and 14 May.

The Ambassador also reported on a visit to Lao PDR by Solomon Islands with the aim of sharing Lao PDR's experience on the implementation of the CCM. He noted that the delegation from the Solomon Islands had been received by the relevant authorities in the capital and had engaged in exchanges on implementation matters to help them better understand how to advance the ratification process.

Ambassador Vongxay informed the Committee that on 27 February the launching ceremony of Lao PDR's Presidency of the Third Review Conference led by Lao PDR's Foreign Minister was held in Vientiane. States, partners, NGOs working especially on the UXO sector and university students were invited to attend. Several articles and media reports were published in Lao PDR following the ceremony.

The ceremony also included the inauguration of an art installation based on a neutralised bomb that had been artistically carved, which tells the story of the origin of the UXO contamination and impacts to the livelihood of the local people. The installation is now displayed in the centre of the capital, to allow visitors and tourists to learn more about the legacy of war.

Finally, Ambassador Vongxay referred to the CC Retreat held on 23 January, organised with the support of the GICHD and the ISU, during which views on the implementation of the CCM were exchanged and experiences shared to inform the drafting of the next action plan. The Ambassador thanked CC members for their participation.

### **Updates on the Review Conference Process<sup>1</sup>**

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to updates regarding the Review Conference Process, focusing on work related to the Review Document. The Ambassador reported that the Presidency Team is working closely with the ISU on the document. He also noted that a total of 21 States and 11 organisations had submitted inputs to inform the Review Document.

Ambassador Vongxay continued by highlighting the particular significance of the forthcoming review conference, notably in light of ongoing discussions related to the UN80 initiative, as well as the need to enhance cost effectiveness, and the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. He emphasized the Presidency's openness to hearing from States Parties and stakeholders on ways to further strengthen and promote the effective implementation in the next cycle.

In this context, the Ambassador noted that, drawing on reflections shared by States Parties and building on the practice established by the Second Review Conference, the Presidency had prepared working papers on the architecture of the Convention. He indicated that these papers were intended to provide background and reflection to support the discussion among States Parties and would be circulated prior to the First Preparatory Meeting. Presidency would welcome the engagement of CC members in this exercise and encouraged them to provide inputs ahead of the first Preparatory Meeting, noting that approximately three weeks remain to prepare the working paper.

The Ambassador then opened the floor for comments from members of the CC.

The Representative of the Philippines thanked the Presidency and indicated their support on the proposal for a working paper concerning the Convention's architecture and looked forward to further discussions on what that would entail.

The Representative of Cameroon expressed appreciation for the work of the Presidency. He also noted that the focal points held informal discussions with several delegations that expressed concerns regarding the treatment of gender mainstreaming in the future drafting of the revised review document. He clarified that these delegations did not intend to introduce additional elements to the draft but rather wish to ensure constructive input. He further emphasised that the Coordinators acting as gender focal points remain available to support the Presidency and,

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<sup>1</sup> Segment reflects text validated by the Presidency including editorial adjustments.

added that the Coordinators would welcome further information on how the Presidency envisages their role in preparation of the First Preparatory Meeting.

The Representative of Australia then took the floor, thanked the Presidency, and noted that it had been a particularly busy month. She expressed appreciation to both the Presidency and the ISU. She also indicated that her delegation looks forward to the regional workshops and requested confirmation of their exact dates. The Representative further asked for clarification on the date of the launch ceremony of the CCM Third Review Conference in Vientiane, to inform her colleagues in capital.

The Representative of Australia also echoed Cameroon's request regarding the role of the Coordinators in preparation of the First Preparatory Meeting. She asked the Presidency for its views on the number of inputs received for the Review Document and whether additional efforts should be made to encourage States Parties to input on future draft documents.

Ambassador Vongxay responded to the Representative of Australia and indicated that the dates for the Asia Pacific workshop have not yet been confirmed. Regarding the launch of the Presidency in Vientiane, the Ambassador confirmed that the ceremony took place on Friday, 27 February, and that he believed that the Australian Embassy was represented at the event. With regard to the inputs received for the Review Document, the Ambassador noted that the Presidency considers the number of submissions to be satisfactory but remains hopeful to receiving further inputs, including after the circulation of the new draft.

### **Updates from the Coordinators**

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to the next agenda item and opened the floor for updates by the Coordinators.

The Representative of France updated the Committee on the activities related to survey and clearance, undertaken along with Mexico and with the support of the ISU. The Representative also informed about the working group's activities concerning Chad's extension request, including the meeting of the Article-4 Analysis Group, and the work undertaken to review Chad's draft extension request. He further noted that another meeting of the Analysis Group will take place during the NDM with the Chadian authorities.

The coordinator also noted the participation of the coordinators for International Cooperation and Assistance in the meeting and the idea of exploring synergies between article 5 and article 4 extension requests procedures in both APMBC and CCM through an informal exchange among coordinators.

The Representative of Japan provided an update on his first weeks as new coordinator on victim assistance. He expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Presidency and the ISU in this role. The Representative noted the challenges and priorities in this area as well as the importance of an integrated and non-discriminatory approach to victim assistance. He also reported that the two coordinators are working with the ISU to develop a workplan and noted that

they were invited to attend the Victim Assistance Retreat organised by the APMBC on Friday 13 March.

The Representative of Japan also reported that the Government of Japan is working on the project of supporting victim assistance through UNIDO in Africa, particularly for victims of explosive ordnance specifically on prosthetics technology, highlighting Nigeria as the pilot country. He noted that a side event on these issues is being considered for the Review Conference.

The Representative of Niger, Coordinator on victim assistance, added that work on the workplan is ongoing with the support of the ISU, and is expected to be finalised soon. He also indicated that they would attend the Victim Assistance Retreat.

The Representative of Peru updated the Committee on several actions. He recalled that Article 3 of the Convention has been fully implemented. With regard to the workplan, he informed that the Coordinators are planning to organise an informal roundtable to exchange experiences and lessons learned related to stockpile destruction. He also indicated that an additional event on retention, including ways to enhance transparency and reporting and to reduce the number of retained cluster munitions is likely to be organised. He noted that further details would be provided at the next CC meeting, and thanked States Parties for their support, as well as the CMC, the ICRC and other relevant stakeholders.

The Representative of Norway was then given the floor by the Presidency. He reported on the first meeting of the informal working group on universalisation, which was attended by 10 States, as well as representatives from the CMC and the ICRC. He considered the meeting to have been very productive and noted that the Coordinators, Costa Rica and Norway, received valuable inputs for their workplan during the discussion.

The Representative of Norway further explained that the group intends to focus its efforts on a prioritised list of countries (around 15), including signatory States and other countries that may be close to ratifying or acceding to the Convention. He added that the group discussed possible approaches for supporting each other's efforts. With the support of the ICRC, civil society, and the ISU, the group is close to finalising a package of documents, including FAQ, and a list of events promoting universalisation, prepared by the ISU. These documents will be shared with all Committee members.

The Representative of Norway also noted that the group discussed possible activities outside Geneva. In this regard Norway is exploring the possibility of cross-regional demarches, which could serve as an example for other States. He added that a save-the-date for the next meeting of the group will be circulated during the current week and emphasized the intention to involve as many States as possible.

Ambassador Vongxay thanked Norway for the update and added that the Presidency would meet with the Ambassador of Tanzania in the coming days. He highlighted the importance of having many different states knocking on the same doors in order to bring more countries on board the

CCM. He also noted that, last Friday, in its capacity as Presidency, Lao PDR sent a message to Vanuatu welcoming it to the Convention, which entered into force for it on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The floor was then given to the Coordinators on international cooperation and assistance, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands reported that their workplan [on CCM Art. 6/International Cooperation and Assistance] had been submitted and that the Coordinators were currently implementing it with a focus on Country Coalitions. She also noted that the two Coordinators had been invited to attend the Article-4 Analysis Group on Chad's extension request. She reiterated her support on the initiative previously mentioned by the Article 4 Coordinator [France] to explore synergies between both Conventions (APMBC and CCM) regarding extension requests. The Coordinator also informed that they [i.e. the representatives of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Switzerland] had been invited to participate in the APMBC annual Victim Assistance Retreat as mentioned by Japan.

The Representative of Australia then took the floor and reported that notes verbales had been sent to the six States Parties that have yet to submit their initial report. A calendar summarising reporting submission deadlines across conventional arms control instruments had also been circulated to missions in Geneva and in New York to delegations that were not accredited in Geneva. She further briefed the committee on the workshop organised by her delegation on transparency reporting, further delving on the theme of finding synergies and commonalities between and across conventions. She highlighted the in-depth discussions held and the general preliminary conclusion that the "most lowest effort but highest reward" would be investing more in capitals, emphasizing the need for capital-based capacity building. The representative also informed the Committee that Australia had organised a briefing for Pacific Island States' missions in Geneva on disarmament instruments highlighting the heightened level of interest in that region as the strategic environment shifted.

She further reported that Australia had provided inputs to the Review Document, particularly regarding the section on transparency and reporting. She noted that efforts would continue to strengthen synergies and promote improved transparency in capitals.

She concluded by expressing her gratitude to the Presidency and the ISU for their participation to the event.

The Representative of Lebanon was then given the floor by the Presidency. After thanking the Presidency, the Representative explained that she was substituting for the ordinary member of the CC, who had not been able to attend the meeting.

As an update, the ISU Director briefly took the floor to confirm that Lebanon's workplan was received and uploaded on the Convention's website.

The Representative of Cameroon was then given the floor on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. He reported that the workplan had been

submitted and provided a summary of its main elements. He also noted that the two Coordinators organised an event organised with UNIDIR which would take place 12 March on gender mainstreaming in the Lausanne Action Plan.

Ambassador Vongxay thanked the Representative of Cameroon and expressed his hope that further discussions on gender would contribute to balanced language for both States Parties and states not party to the Convention.

#### **Update on the Article 14 Financial Situation**

The floor was then given to the Representative of UNODA for an update on the financial situation related to the contributions provided according to Article 14 of the Convention.

The Representative of UNODA explained that the figures for February had not yet been received, and that the update could only be based on the figures available at the end of January. She further noted informally that contributions were continuing to be received, and that the costs of the first preparatory meeting were already covered. Further contributions would be directed towards covering the organisation of other meetings. She also indicated that UNODA is preparing the cost estimate for the 15<sup>th</sup> MSP.

#### **Update from the ISU**

Ambassador Vongxay then gave the floor to the Director of the ISU for the updates on the ISU's activities.

The Director of the ISU thanked the Ambassador and informed the members of the committee that the ISU has continued to support preparations for the Third Review Conference through close coordination with the Presidency and thematic coordinators. Following the extension of the deadline to submit comments to the Zero Review Document to 13 February, a substantial number of submissions were received and have been consolidated by the ISU.

Furthermore, she noted that coordination meetings with the Coordinators were ongoing in support of the drafting of the work plans for the current work cycle. Four workplans were currently pending but work with the coordinators is ongoing to finalize them as soon as possible. She also flagged that the Information Note for the First Prep Meeting would be circulated the following day. She then outlined the events and other engagement activities involving the ISU, including: the attendance to Australia's workshop on reporting, the first meeting of the Informal Working Group on Universalisation, Switzerland's consultation process on the Swiss Mine Action Plan, Article-4 Analysis Group, Australia's debrief meeting to Pacific Island States, and, finally, the first informal working group on the CCM Sponsorship Programme to support the drafting of guidelines for sponsorship allocation.

In addition, the Director announced that the ISU launched an initiative to map existing technical resources and expertise relevant to the CCM implementation with the aim to update the ISU's technical database relevant to CCM implementation, ensuring that available expertise across the

CCM community is visible and readily accessible in response to requests from States Parties. It was also reported that the ISU was working with the Gambia to identify technical resources and institutions to help strengthen implementation of the Convention at national level through awareness raising.

The Director also thanked CMC for their facilitation of a meeting with Dominica on universalization, which was considered quite positive in terms of signalling that there would be no substantial obstacle to joining the CCM. The Director suggested that the Presidency could also engage with Dominica on universalization efforts.

Regarding the ISU financial update, the Director informed the committee that the financial situation of the ISU has remained stable. She confirmed that 98% of the total approved budget had been received by the ISU and that the Unit was in the process of closing the 2025 accounts the following week. She referred to the minutes of the last CC for further information.

Regarding the sponsorship programme, the Director of the ISU expressed concern about the level of contributions received so far. In order to ensure broad and inclusive participation, further voluntary contributions would be greatly appreciated.

The Director then thanked the Representative of Australia for her intervention and questions and noted that most text-suggestion inputs to the Review document had come from English-speaking countries. Overall, she observed that comments received, both on the drafting and those of a more general nature, were very positive and supportive of the Presidency and the process, as well as the strengthening of the Convention. She added that organisations, provided very specific technical inputs, which would require careful consideration. From the ISU's perspective as noted by the Presidency, the response to the Review Document had been encouraging. The Director also thanked Cameroon for engaging with delegations with different views on gender and noted that such constructive efforts were appreciated.

Ambassador Vongxay added that the Presidency had noted very supportive comments and expressed appreciation for the strong commitment demonstrated toward the implementation of the Convention, which is important to address the challenges on the ground. He also appreciated the work of the coordinators, especially the drafting of the workplans, and welcomed the ISU's reminder regarding the submission deadline for Article-7 reports.

Ambassador Vongxay further noted that it would be useful to observe the trend of submission of Article-7 reports and expressed interest in reviewing year-to-year developments. He also underlined the importance of supporting smaller delegations.

### **Any Other Business**

Before closing the meeting, Ambassador Vongxay asked whether there was any other business to discuss.

The floor was then given to the Representative of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), who thanked the Committee's members for their engagement and highlighted ongoing efforts on

universalisation outreach. She noted that the CMC had been pleased to meet with a number of States and welcomed the information regarding the meeting with Tanzania. She also indicated that the coalition planned to meet soon with Pacific States based in Geneva.

The Representative of the CMC further noted that they had recently met with the Ambassador of Jordan, and, to their surprise, learned that he did not consider the CCM as a treaty comparable to the APMBC.

The Representative also pointed out to earlier news of US purchase of cluster munitions from Israeli owned companies – a concerning development that was protested in an open letter to Congressmen, initiated by the US CMC. The Representative further mentioned reports that cluster munitions may have been used in Israel by Iran a few days before the CC meeting took place. However, the CMC noted that it was unable to verify this episode, and the information currently appeared to rely on a single source.

### **Closing of the Meeting**

Ambassador Vongxay thanked the Representative of the CMC and noted that the CMC would be meeting with the Presidency in the near future. He also mentioned that the Presidency had recently met with the CEO of MAG. In this regard, the Ambassador highlighted that the Presidency was considering ways to involve the operational actors in the Review Conference process.

Ambassador Vongxay reminded members that the next meeting would be held on 21 April, at 9:30 am, in the same room. He reassured the members of the Committee that the Presidency would work closely with them in preparing the upcoming First Preparatory Meeting.

Thanking all participants for their engagement and announcing that the next CC will take place on 21 April, Ambassador Vongxay closed the Third Meeting of the Coordination Committee.

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