



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Tuesday 11th December 2018
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison la Paix, from 10:45 – 12:00 hours

1. Present:

Sri Lanka - 9MSP Presidency
H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Sweden
Mr. Daniel Nord

Nicaragua - Previous Presidency
Ms. Nohelia Carolina Vargas Idiáquez

Zambia
Ms. Chileshe Veronica Nkole

Chile
Ms. Pamela Moraga

CMC
Mr. Hector Guerra
Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

Iraq
Mr. Mohammed R. Al-Haidari

ICRC
Ms. Wen Zhou

Ireland
Dr. Patricia Cullen

UNODA
Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Lao PDR
Mr. Sitsangkhom Sisaketh
Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Secretariat - ISU-CCM
Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle
Ms. Elaine Weiss

Netherlands
Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Apologies received:

New Zealand
Ms. Katy Donnelly

Germany
Mozambique
Switzerland

Panama
Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Apologies not received:

Peru
Mr. César Aréstegui

Austria
Spain

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

9MSP President, Ambassador Abdul Azeez, opened the third Coordination Committee meeting under Sri Lanka's Presidency by warmly extending compliments of the season to all those present.

3. Approve Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting on 8th November 2018

The Committee approved as circulated the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2018.

4. Update from the 9th Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) Presidency

The 9MSP President began by highlighting that clear benefits existed in the CCM for exchanging and cooperating with the APMBC and building further on commonalities, particularly in the domain of victim assistance.

4.1 ISU Director visit to Sri Lanka

The President notified the Meeting that the CCM ISU Director had undertaken a visit to Sri Lanka in November 2018, during which she met with relevant Sri Lankan government representatives to discuss Sri Lanka's initial transparency report under Article 7 of the Convention. Sri Lanka's Initial Report is due on 28 February 2019. He stated that the Director would provide more information on her visit during the agenda item on the ISU update.

4.2 2018 UNGA CCM Resolution

The President reported that the 2018 Draft Resolution XXII on the "*Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions*" had been voted on at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 5 December and invited the ISU Director to explain the voting results.

The Director clarified that the votes were conducted in two parts that year: the first was on the Preambular Paragraph 14 (PP14) of the Resolution, and the second on the Resolution as a whole. Zimbabwe, having abstained from voting on the PP14 during the preliminary vote in November, had in the final poll voted in favour of it. It had, however, still voted against the Resolution as a whole; notably the only State that did so. The ISU Director explained that the representative of Zambia had been engaging with the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the UN in Geneva who had indicated that he was unaware of the reason Zimbabwe voted against the CCM Resolution. The Director assured the Meeting that the ISU would also engage with the Permanent Mission on this matter.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked the ISU Director and assured the Meeting that the Presidency, too, would continue to hold bilateral meetings with signatory States and States not Party to increase support of the Convention.

5. Presentation of Concept Notes by Thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 9MSP

The President invited the Convention's Thematic Coordinators to present updates on their work based on their 2018 - 2019 Concept Notes to the Meeting.

5.1 Universalization (Chile & Panama)

Panama, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, informed the Meeting that its Concept Note, had been drafted and would be finalized and circulated for comments soon after the meeting following a final consultation with the ISU. She explained that both Universalization Coordinators would be focusing on bilateral meetings with targeted States at various meetings to raise awareness and promote the universalization of the CCM in the lead up to the 9MSP.

5.2 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

Ireland speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported that following the submission of their Concept Note, the VA Coordinators had started holding bilateral meetings to implement their work plan. Ireland expressed the Coordinators' intention to continue the good work led by Italy in the previous year. Ireland added that the Coordinators were looking forward to increased engagement with VA Coordinators of the other Conventions they had been working with, such as the APMBC, as it would be valuable for all VA Coordinators to enhance one another's work and intensify mutual learning. In this context, Ireland explained that together with the APMBC they would organize a VA workshop early 2019. The Coordinator further stressed that the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) would be the framework of their work. Finally, Ireland explained that Coordinators intended to consult with the ISU on issuing letters to States Parties with VA obligations in order to improve their rates of transparency reporting.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez echoed Ireland on the importance of mutual learning between the CCM and APMBC, adding that his attending the APMBC's just ended 17MSP had been extremely useful.

5.3 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR & Sweden)

Sweden, on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, informed the Meeting that they had been working on the development of a *Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* to be used by the two Analysis Groups. Sweden explained that as agreed in the Guidelines for extension requests approved at the 8MSP, each Article's respective Analysis Group would include the Coordinators of the specific thematic (Clearance or Stockpile Destruction) and the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance. Sweden clarified that to produce the draft Methodology the Coordinators on Articles 3 and 4 had consulted with the ISUs of the CCM and the APMBC, the former Chair of the Analysis Group of the APMBC, and ICBL-CMC. He reminded that the document had been circulated by the ISU Director the day before. Sweden reminded the Meeting that the draft methodology would need to be adopted by the Coordination Committee prior to its adoption at the next MSP.

Sweden further noted that while the ISU was not mentioned in the composition of the Analysis Group in the Guidelines for Article 3 & 4 Extension Requests adopted at the 8MSP, its role was crucial in supporting the tasks to be undertaken and therefore needed to be clearly stated in the document outlining the Methodology to be used by the Analysis Group. To this end, Sweden explained that a paragraph to address this omission had been added to the document.

The Coordinator proceeded to highlight other key elements in the Methodology, which were drawn from the annexes of the Final Report of the 8MSP, including the importance of the pre-analysis efforts of the extension requests, the possibility of conflict of interests, and the timeline. The Coordinator underlined that the Methodology was vital in ensuring that all extension requests would be handled in a fair and equal manner. Furthermore, the report of the Analysis Group would have to be approved by the Chair of the Analysis Group, the President of the Convention.

In contributing to the discussion, the Netherlands highlighted that the Methodology had been drafted with the view to ensure that each extension request would be treated equally and that the report issued by the Analysis Group would be fair and balanced, as that would enhance the confidence of States Parties in the process. The Netherlands pointed out that the annexes of the Methodology, which were the extension request checklists for the Analysis Groups, were based on Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention. It added that both Articles were very clear as to what information was required from States Parties when submitting an extension request. The Coordinator also highlighted that the APMBC Article 5 working group had also been a good resource for the CCM Coordinators to come up with a clear framework to analyse each extension request.

Contributing to the discussion, the CMC commended the Coordinators that had worked on the draft Methodology for CCM extension request analysis, and assured the Meeting of its full support to the work of the Analysis Groups.

Sweden concluded its update by inviting Coordination Committee members to continue to send any additional comments on the draft Methodology as the aim was to have the final version adopted at the next Coordination Committee meeting to be held in January 2019.

5.4 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

The Netherlands began its update by welcoming Co-Coordinator, Mr. César Aréstegui who would be replacing Mr. Manuel Mundaca as the representative of Peru on the Coordination Committee. The Netherlands then reported that the thematic Coordinators had met with the ISU the previous week to finalize their Concept Note. He explained that while building upon the work of the former Coordinators, their focus would shift to States Parties with upcoming deadlines and those requesting extension of their Articles 3 and 4 deadlines.

In contributing to the discussion, the President enquired if the Coordinators would be operationalizing the Country Coalition concept introduced by Germany, to which the Coordinators responded in the affirmative.

The representative of Peru expressed his gratitude to the Meeting for the warm welcome and informed that he intended to meet with the ISU Director and the CMC to become more acquainted with the work of the Convention.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez enthusiastically welcomed the new Coordinator and stated that he looked forward to working together with him.

5.5 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq reminded the Meeting that the ISU had already circulated its Concept Note and expressed its appreciation to UNODA for its useful feedback and had included the United Nations agency as a strategic partner in its work plan. Iraq further informed that it had had a bilateral meeting with a State Party that had an overdue initial transparency report and had provided guidance to the State on the use of the CCM reporting template. The State Party had clarified that it was facing institutional challenges in submitting its initial report and therefore required more time to do so.

5.6 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

The representative of New Zealand informed that it was her last meeting before leaving as her tour of duty had come to an end. She notified the Meeting that her replacement would be taking over the role in January and would submit the Concept Note as she would be implementing it. She explained that New Zealand intended to co-host a regional workshop in Sri Lanka with the 9MSP Presidency; for which it was still seeking the necessary funds. The Coordinator further informed that it would be focusing its work on States Parties drafting national legislation prohibiting investment in production of cluster munitions. It highlighted that the PAX 2018 “Worldwide investment in cluster munitions report”, which had just been released, showed that advocacy in this area had strengthened the norms established by the Convention. In this regard, New Zealand announced that it would like to organize a workshop with PAX in the near future.

In addition, New Zealand stated that it intended to follow up with States Parties that had requested assistance to fulfil their Article 9 obligations. It also planned to cooperate with the Coordinator on Transparency Measures to hold bilateral meetings with States Parties that had not submitted their initial transparency reports. To conclude its update, New Zealand expressed its appreciation to the ISU for having prepared a list of legislations passed by various CCM States Parties to be eventually made available on the Convention’s website. The Coordinator reported that it would like to continue collaborating with the ISU to follow up with States Parties to provide further information on the strength of their legislation in implementing the CCM domestically.

On behalf of the entire Coordination Committee, the President conveyed heartfelt thanks to Ms. Katy Donnelly for her outstanding contribution to the CCM on behalf of New Zealand in its work in humanitarian disarmament. The President thanked all Coordination Committee members for their presentation and invited the Director of the ISU to provide her update.

6. Update from the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

6.1 Update on the financing of the ISU

The ISU Director reported that since the last meeting 1 State Party had made a voluntary contribution of CHF 25'258 to the ISU Trust Fund. She explained that only 54 States Parties of those to whom invoices were sent had made contributions towards the 2018 budget amounting to just over CHF 445'401.56 against a budget of CHF 465'440. In addition, 2 additional voluntary contributions were in the process of being transferred and that once received, total contributions would amount to a contribution surplus of approximately CHF 30'000.

6.2 CCM Country Pages

The Director reported to the Meeting that the ISU had finalized and uploaded all the country pages on the CCM website. She encouraged the Coordinators to check the profiles pages and to inform the ISU if they wanted any information on their respective country pages to be amended.

6.3 ARMAC Workshop in Cambodia

The ISU Director informed the Meeting that the ISU had been invited to make a presentation on the CCM with a particular focus on international cooperation and assistance at the first ever regional workshop of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC). The 3-day Workshop was held on 12-14 November and many States not Party in the region were present. She also reported that in a bilateral meeting with the Philippines during the workshop, she had been informed that its instrument of ratification would be deposited in New York soon.

6.4 Visit to Lao PDR

The Director reported that she had held discussions with the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) in Lao PDR to provide guidance on its Article 4 extension request. In this regard, a full day workshop was held with all relevant NRA staff and operators in Lao PDR to ensure that the request submitted would have the input of all stakeholders. She informed the Meeting that the ISU had not yet received Lao PDR's draft extension request.

The Director further reported that she had an opportunity while in Laos to visit *The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise's* (COPE) Visitor Centre which is widely visited by tourists and Laotians. COPE is a member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). The Director had taken the opportunity to provide the Centre with updates on the implementation status of the Convention as well as with some CCM publications. She showed the staff where to access CCM updates online and encouraged them to use the tools and resources available on the Convention's website.

6.5 Visit to Sri Lanka

Further to the brief statement made earlier by the 9MSP President, the ISU Director informed the Meeting that she had travelled to Colombo after her visit to Lao PDR and had made a presentation on CCM Article 7 requirements at a workshop hosted by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence. The workshop, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Defence and other governmental

departments focused on the completion and submission of Sri Lanka's initial transparency report. She was advised that Sri Lanka would submit its initial transparency report by its deadline of 28 February 2019.

6.3 OAS Presentation in Washington

The ISU Director was invited to give a presentation on the CCM at the formal meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States (OAS). She reported that the OAS was considering the possibility of adopting a resolution on the OAS being a cluster munition free zone as has been done with the APMBC. The invitation had been extended at the initiative of Chile, in its capacity as the vice president of the Committee. The meeting was well attended and the response was positive with most CCM member States making strong statements in support of the Convention during the meeting.

A more informal exchange was held the following day with CARICOM Ambassadors. Most representatives of signatory States and States not yet Party to the CCM that attended the working breakfast indicated that they had been unaware of their states position and explained that they saw no reasons for not joining the Convention and promised to follow up with their respective capitals. In addition, the ISU Director was advised to engage more with Washington-based Ambassadors with regards to universalization as they tended to be more influential in their capitals, as they were also the Ambassadors to the White House.

One notable example is Jamaica which had been very active during the Oslo process but which still has to ratify the Convention 10 years after it signed the treaty. The Jamaican Deputy Ambassador, who himself had been part of the Jamaican delegation during the Oslo Process expressed his surprise that Jamaica had not yet ratified the CCM. He advised the ISU to follow up with New York and capital.

Chile extended its thanks to the ISU for participating in the meetings with the OAS and reiterated that these type of engagements with regional organizations were a good opportunity to advance universalization of the CCM and highlight the convenience of increasing synergies among the various coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as well as with the APMBC committees. Chile also thanked the ICBL for participating in the OAS Hemispheric Security Committee meeting and underlined the previous work done.

Contributing to the discussion, Ambassador Abdul Azeez echoed that Washington was a useful hub to advance the work of the CCM. He expressed his appreciation to the ISU Director for engaging with the OAS and CARICOM, and encouraged all Coordinators to engage in regional fora.

6.4 Submission of Article 3 and Article 4 extension requests

The Director reported that Bulgaria had sent the first draft of its Article 3 extension request and that the ISU had already provided detailed comments on it for Bulgaria's consideration and expected to receive an updated version from it in early 2019.

She further reported that the ISU had also just received Germany's Article 4 extension request the previous evening and but that it had not yet reviewed the request.

With regards to Lao PDR, the ISU had been advised by the NRA that it still needed more time to organize its information before it could submit its request which had been due on 1 December in accordance with the Extension Request Guidelines. The Director acknowledged that based on her discussions in Lao PDR the previous month, the sheer amount of information to be included in the request made it understandable that the submission would require a lot more time. The ISU Director further suggested that the Article 4 extension request Analysis Group considers the possibility of holding a half-day workshop with the NRA representatives in Geneva in the margins of the *22nd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers* in February 2019. This would help the Group better understand the challenges and needs of Lao PDR such as the possibility that it expected to require more than 5 years just to complete the survey of CMR contamination on the territory. In response, Sweden agreed with the proposal and requested the ISU to go ahead and organise the workshop.

6.5 CCM signature celebration

The Director informed that, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the signature of the CCM, the ISU had published a special edition newsletter highlighting the successes recorded by the Convention over the last 8 years. The ISU had also participated in an informal event hosted by the Norwegian Permanent Mission to celebrate the occasion, where Ambassador Abdul Azeez gave a short speech.

The 9MSP President thanked the ISU Director for her comprehensive updates and expressed his gratitude to Norway for organizing the event. He pointed out that as President of the APMBC, Norway's initiative was an exemplary gesture of increasing synergies between the two Conventions.

7. Any other business

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Lao PDR, Mr. Sitsangkhom Sisaketh, introduced himself to the Meeting, as he had just been recently posted at the Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva. He explained that the emphasis of his portfolio was on political-security matters in the ASEAN region. He expressed his appreciation to the ISU for its dedication with regards to the clearance of cluster munition remnants in Lao PDR and the support provided in the drafting of his country's Article 4 extension request. He added that he would be pleased to contribute to the work on Lao PDR's extension request. To conclude, he assured the Meeting that he would follow up with his capital on the prompt submission of Lao PDR's draft extension request.

In response, Ambassador Abdul Azeez welcomed Mr. Sisaketh to the CCM community in Geneva and thanked him for his spirit of cooperation. The President pointed out that focusing on regional organizations and fora to further promote CCM universalization was among his key priorities during Sri Lanka's presidency, and that in this regard the ASEAN region was a target area.

In joining in the welcoming of new Coordinators to the CC Meeting, CMC Director, Mr. Hector Guerra, extended his hopes of close collaboration to the Coordinators from Lao PDR, Peru and Iraq.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held in late January 2019. The actual date of the Meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the day.

The 9MSP President ended the Meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a restful festive season.

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