



MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Wednesday 12th June 2019
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 10:00 - 11:00 hours

1. Present:

Sri Lanka - 9MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez

Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Switzerland - 2RC President-Designate

Mr. Laurent Masméjan

Austria

Ms. Susanne Hammer

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Ireland

Ms. Nicola Brassil

Lao PDR

Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Peru

Mr. César Aréstegui

Spain

Mr. Rafael De Górgolas Hernández-Mora

Sweden

Ms. Anna Envall

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Veronica NKOLE

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

Mr. Jared Bloch

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Apologies received:

Iraq

Mozambique

New Zealand

Apologies not received:

Panama

2. Opening Remarks by the President

Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, CCM 9MSP President, opened the extraordinary Meeting of the Convention's Coordination Committee by thanking all those who had been able to participate in the Meeting at short notice. He underlined the fact that though matters relating to the financial health would be discussed further during the mid-term review working lunch, there was an urgent matter regarding the holding of the forthcoming 9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (9MSP) which had to be addressed immediately. Ambassador Abdul Azeez reminded the Committee that the purpose of the emergency meeting is to deliberate on the imperative cost cutting measures that needed to be undertaken in order that the 9MSP could go ahead in September as he had been informed by United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) that as of 31 May 2019 the collection rate for the CCM was at 66.3% and therefore there were insufficient funds for the holding of the 9MSP. Given that scenario, the Meeting needed to agree on concrete cost cutting measures and to also provide urgent and clear instructions to UN conference management on the expenses that it could incur and those that it could not with regards to the 9MSP. Thereafter, the President gave the floor to the UNODA representative to provide a detailed report on the state of financing of the 9MSP.

3. Detailed Brief on CCM financing by UNODA

The UNODA representative reminded the Meeting that according to existing practice and regulations, costs are shared among the States Parties and observer States participating in the meetings, based on the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated and taking into account the number of States participating in the meetings. She further informed that in accordance with current UN financial rules all funds had to be on the bank account 3 months in advance of the MSP. Therefore, funds for the 9MSP scheduled for 2 to 4 September 2019 would have to be on the bank account not later than 3 June. Unfortunately, as at 12 June 2019 there was an outstanding balance of USD 79'973 balance on the CCM account though one State had informed that it had made a payment of USD 20'000 thus reducing the remaining funds shortfall to around USD 59'000. As there still was not enough financing, the CCM Secretariat needed instructions on how to proceed regarding the hosting of the 9MSP.

UNODA elaborated that Arabic and Chinese interpretation services require a higher number of interpreters per interpretation booth than the other UN official languages. Consequently, interpretation in these two languages resulted in higher costs. She also provided the costs for translation of each page into all six official languages and an overview of the documentation forecast of the 9MSP.

In thanking UNODA for the brief, Ambassador Azeez informed the Meeting that he had called all the States that owed more than USD 2'000 and had followed this action with letters. Some states had responded positively to the reminder. He committed to continue to pursue the matter with another round of calls.

In the ensuing the discussion, it was pointed out that some documents were more important than others and that one option would be to translate into all languages only documents that contained decisions. The meeting then identified the three extension requests summaries as documents that did not need full translation into six languages because their content was referred to in the respective analysis, which would be translated into all six official languages. The meeting also decided that the 2019 Annual Report of the ISU did not need translation. These measures would reduce the balance by at least another approximate USD 42'000.

It was also mentioned that under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) interpretation was only provided in the languages of the States present at the meeting. One member suggested that instead of

picking and choosing languages to cut, the sessions should all be held in English as the language used when there were not enough funds to organize a meeting. It was further considered that the second day of the 3-day 9MSP could be an informal session without interpretation. The Committee was reminded that the Rules of Procedure required interpretation in all six languages, but that States Parties could decide otherwise.

4. Summary of possible measures for consideration by States Parties

After a vibrant discussion, three main possibilities emerged as the most viable cost-cutting options that CCM States Parties could consider to ensure that the 9MSP went ahead. These options were:

- a. As a one-time only contingency measure, the 9MSP could hold all sessions on day 2 of the MSP (3 September 2019) informally, without any interpretation. The estimated saving through this measure would amount to approximately USD 18'000 which would help reduce the balance significantly.
- b. The President would write to observer States whose participation and contribution had been part of the calculation of the individual assessed contributions but were yet to make a payment. These observer states were to be asked if they intended to participate in the 9MSP and to pay their respective dues by 30 June 2019 at the latest. Possible payments because of this measure could amount to over USD 36'000. This action would allow for a fair distribution of costs according to the existing financial rules.
- c. If there was no confirmed participation by Chinese and Russian speaking delegations, interpretation in the two languages would not be provided throughout the entire MSP. This would result in a further cost reduction of approximately over USD 8,000 per language per day.

The Meeting concluded that one certain way to reduce the outstanding balance would be to cut documentation costs amounting to approximately USD 42'000, thus reducing the deficit. It further observed that in the absence of additional contributions being received by 30 June 2019, in addition to having some 9MSP documents issued in English only, the other way to guarantee that the 9MSP went ahead was to hold the second day of the 3-day 9MSP as an informal meeting. The lack of interpretation services on Tuesday, 3rd September 2019 would consequently significantly reduce on the outstanding balance to pay for interpretation services. Agreement of the States Parties could be sought through a *silence procedure*.

It was agreed that Germany would prepare a paper highlighting the options discussed and submit it to the President for further action.

5. Concluding Remarks by the 9MSP President

Ambassador Abdul Azeez expressed his appreciation to the Coordination Committee members for their appreciation of the seriousness of the situation and for having engaged in a productive discussion and hoped that an acceptable resolution to the crisis would be found and agreed to by all CCM States Parties. He ended the Meeting with words of gratitude to the Coordination Committee for the progressive way the matter regarding finances was considered.

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