



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Thursday 17th January 2019
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison the la Paix, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Sri Lanka - 9MSP Presidency

H.E. Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez
Ms. Rajmi Manatunga

Switzerland - 2RC Presidency-Designate

H.E. Sabrina Dallafior

Nicaragua - Previous Presidency

Ms. Nohelia Carolina Vargas Idiáquez

Austria

Mr. Raphael Ruppacher

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed R. Al-Haidari

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

Lao PDR

Mr. Sitsangkhom Sisaketh
Mr. Phetsamone Keovongvichith

Mozambique

Mr. Jaime Chissano

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. César Aréstegui

Spain

Ms. Claudia Penzol

Sweden

Mr. Daniel Nord

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra
Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle
Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

New Zealand

Apologies not received

Zambia

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

9MSP President, Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, opened the first Coordination Committee meeting of 2019 and the fourth under the Sri Lankan Presidency with warm New Year wishes to all present and expressed his anticipation for a year that would be more results-oriented with increased cooperation and intensified efforts towards the convening of the 9MSP.

3. Approve Minutes of the 11th December 2018 Coordination Committee Meeting

The Committee approved as circulated the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11th December 2018.

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

4.1 Universalization outreach

The President notified the Meeting that he had continued to promote universalization of the Convention by having bilateral meetings with signatory States and States not Party. He gave the example of the Maldives as a strategic state for him to engage with in the region due to its geographical proximity to Sri Lanka and its relatively recent change of leadership. The President also welcomed the Philippines as the Convention's 106th State Party and reiterated that universalization was among his key priorities during Sri Lanka's presidency.

4.2 Submission of Article 3 and Article 4 extension requests

The President informed that the ISU had circulated Bulgaria's Article 3 and Germany's Article 4 deadline extension requests to the relevant Analysis Groups for their consideration.

5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 9MSP

The President invited Thematic Coordinators to present updates based on the implementation of their work plans.

5.1 Universalization (Chile & Panama)

Panama, speaking on behalf of both the Coordinators, noted that progress had been achieved in this thematic area with the recent ratification of the Philippines to become the 106th State Party to the Convention. Panama further informed that they as Coordinators were planning to organize a closed side event on universalization in the margins of the *22nd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN22)*. Panama noted that invitations would be extended mainly to signatory States with the objective of providing them with a platform to exchange views on their ratification processes. She informed the Meeting that the ISU would also be participating in the event. The Coordinator concluded the update by inviting the other Coordination Committee members to attend the event which would be held on 6 February at 8am in room XXIV at the Palais des Nations.

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

Sweden, on behalf of the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinators, reported that Germany's Article 4 extension request had been submitted and circulated to the members of the Article 4 Analysis Group. This was after initial comments were made by the ISU. Sweden explained that the Analysis Group would be meeting on 23rd January to discuss the request with a view to providing feedback to Germany by the end of January 2019, as defined in the timeline outlined in the Guidelines.

Sweden further explained that as no further comments on the *Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* had been received since its presentation at the last Coordination Committee, it would propose that the Methodology be formally adopted by the Committee under the Agenda item "Any Other Business".

Sweden continued its update by stating that the Coordinators were expecting to receive Lao PDR's Article 4 extension request in the near future and that the State Party had been in close consultation with the ISU on the matter.

In response, Lao PDR informed that its capital had advised that it would need until 21st of January to consolidate and finalize the information to be included in its extension request. Lao PDR also informed that its delegation to the NDM-UN22 in February was prepared to meet with the ISU and other key stakeholders in the margins of the NDM.

In contributing to the discussion, the ISU Director reported that Lao PDR had submitted a first draft of the executive summary of its extension request to the ISU but not the detailed narrative and that she had advised the State Party to submit the complete version of its extension request as soon as possible as time was of the essence.

The President thanked the Coordinators and all who had contributed to the discussion and highlighted the importance of respecting the timeline outlined in the Guidelines for extension requests.

5.3 International Cooperation and Assistance (Netherlands & Peru)

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of both Coordinators, began the update by reminding the meeting that the ISU had circulated its concept note and had not received further comments from the Coordination Committee members on it. The Netherlands informed that the thematic Coordinators would be part of the Analysis Groups of both Articles 3 and 4 extension requests and that they were looking forward to working on the ones that had already been submitted by Bulgaria and Germany. The Coordinator added that during the year they would be devoting their efforts to reaching out to States with upcoming deadlines to determine if they would require cooperation and assistance to fulfil their obligations and thereby prevent extension requests.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez expressed his appreciation to the Coordinators for their update and enquired if they would continue to operationalize the Country Coalition concept, to which the Coordinators responded in the affirmative.

5.4 Reporting (Iraq)

Iraq pointed out that one of the key strategies outlined in its concept note was to send letters to States Parties reminding them to submit their annual transparency report covering the progress made between 1st January and 31st December of 2018. In this regard, Iraq confirmed that it would be sending out letters soon.

Contributing to the discussion, the ISU Director mentioned that the latest CCM Newsletter had included a reminder to States Parties to submit their 2018 annual transparency report by 30th April. She also announced that Saint Kitts and Nevis was the first State Party to submit its 2018 report, and had done so for the last two years in a row. The President commended Saint Kitts and Nevis wholeheartedly for setting a good example to other States Parties.

Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior of Switzerland, in contributing to the discussion, informed that Switzerland would be submitting its 2018 transparency report with pertinent information on the completion of its cluster munition stockpile destruction. Furthermore, Switzerland would be issuing a press release in the near future to announce the good news of its Article 3 compliance.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked Ambassador Dallafior earnestly for participating in the meeting and warmly congratulated Switzerland on fulfilling its Article 3 obligations well in advance of its 1st January 2021 deadline.

5.5 Victim Assistance (Ireland & Spain)

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, informed the meeting that the ISU had uploaded their concept note onto the Convention's website. Ireland reported on its participation and that of a number of other CCM Coordinators at a retreat organized by the APMBC's Committee on Victim Assistance that was held the day before. The retreat was chaired by Mozambique. The Meeting was reminded of the complexity attached to Victim Assistance and how issues pertaining to this thematic would persist even after the elimination of mines and cluster munitions, and therefore a collective and sustained commitment to support victims and survivors would be required at all levels.

The President concluded this section by praising the Coordinators for generating synergies between different Conventions.

5.6 Storage and Stockpile Destruction (Austria & Mozambique)

Mozambique, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, reminded the meeting that Botswana and Switzerland's completion of stockpile destruction had left the Convention with only 5 States Parties, including Guinea-Bissau, with obligations under Article 3. Mozambique reported that the Coordinators had written to the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau in New York City, but had not received any response. It would thereby be safe to assume that

Guinea-Bissau would not be able to fulfill its obligations under Article 3 before its 1st May 2019 deadline and would require to request an extension.

Mozambique informed the meeting that the Coordinators had also been in touch with Switzerland and were pleased to learn of the good news. The Coordinators extended their congratulations to Switzerland on eliminating its stockpiles 2 years before the deadline.

Continuing with its update, Mozambique notified that the Coordinators had had a bilateral with Bulgaria regarding its implementation of Article 3 of the CCM. Bulgaria had submitted the second draft of its extension request based on feedback from the ISU. Furthermore, the Analysis Group had been established, comprising of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance and representatives of the Implementation Support Unit, ICRC and CMC. Tentatively, the Analysis Group would be meeting by the end of the following week to conclude its preliminary analysis on Bulgaria's extension request.

Additionally, Mozambique reported that the Coordinators would be following up with Peru, South Africa and Slovakia (that had deadlines of 2021, 2023 and 2024, respectively) in the coming weeks to obtain updates on their implementation of Article 3. Finally, the Coordinator indicated that they would also engage with States Parties that had not provided any updated information on their retained stockpiles.

The President thanked all Coordination Committee members for their updates. He recalled that New Zealand had expressed its intention to co-host a regional universalization workshop in Sri Lanka in 2019. He hoped for an update from the new representative of New Zealand, as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, who was expected to arrive in Geneva imminently. The Ambassador then invited the ISU Director 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 as agreed by all CCM States Parties, individual invoices towards the 2019 ISU annual budget had been sent to 103 States, with the exception of the Netherlands that had made a 5-year pledge to contribute to the ISU budget and typically made its payment before the start of the year. The Director also reminded the meeting that the Holy See, Cook Islands, and the State of Palestine were not included in the assessed contributions. The Director further stressed the importance of States Parties making the contributions in a timely manner, in light of the comparatively low amount of carryover from the previous year. This would enable the ISU have the essential funds needed to carry out its functions without interruption.

6.2 2021 Article 3 and Article 4 deadlines

The Director further reported that the ISU had reached out to all States Parties with deadlines in 2021 to remind them that if there was likelihood that they would miss their deadlines then there was need to start the process of extension request preparations by May 2019. All the States contacted had responded by promising to check with their capitals for the latest information.

Contributing to the discussion, the President stated that it was critical to remind States Parties of their impending deadlines in order to reduce the amount of States needing to submit extension requests. The ISU Director added that States with Article 3 and Article 4 deadlines in 2021 that were not on track would have to begin preparing for their extension request in May 2019 for timely submission not less than 9 months before the 2nd Review Conference as stipulated in the Convention.

6.3 Communications

The ISU Director informed the Meeting that the ISU had continued to share information with the CCM community via the website and social media. The latest updates were the Philippines' ratification of the Convention and Saint Kitts and Nevis' submission of the first 2018 annual transparency report. With regard to the latter, as was done in the previous year, the ISU had awarded Saint Kitts and Nevis a virtual gold medal. The silver and bronze medals for the 2018 annual transparency reports were yet to be awarded. The Director also reminded the meeting that the CCM Newsletter covering the fourth quarter of 2018 had been published and circulated.

7. Any other business

7.1 UNOG financial matters

The UNODA representative advised that the UN 2019 preliminary assessed contributions had been issued and that electronic invoices for States Parties had been made available on a password restricted webpage. The UNODA representative explained that paper invoices had been discontinued to improve efficiency and reduce waste and that all invoices had been made available on the password protected section of the financial website. UNODA also recently sent out 2 emails to States informing them of this change and providing information on how to access the newly created website reserved for use only by official representatives of States.

Based on the table of contributions available on the website and dated 31 October 2018, the UNODA representative informed the Committee that contributions towards the organization of CCM meetings were in the negative due to the following:

- Unpaid 2018 contributions of approximately USD 11'000. This amount was currently balanced out by an amount of USD 25'000, which represented overpayments made by some States. However, overpayments do not cover debt in the form of lack of payments.
- CCM had accumulated arrears of USD 27'000 since beginning of operations. The UNODA representative reiterated that States Parties needed to start thinking of how to address the non-payment of arrears (outstanding debts), since the perpetuation of arrears was not sustainable.

The UNODA representative also indicated that the 2019 assessments were posted on the website and that collection rates would determine whether the UN would be in the position to hold the 9th CCM Meeting of States Parties (a decision to be taken 3 months before the meeting).

Contributing to the discussion, Panama enquired if UNODA would be able to send States the relevant information, in order to facilitate the Permanent Missions' follow up with capitals. In response, UNODA stated that Convention-specific tables with all the necessary information and updated monthly were available in the public section of the UNOG website (and not password protected).

In contributing to the discussion, the President noted the seriousness with which the issue needed to be taken and in his capacity as 9MSP President would be happy to do whatever was necessary to alleviate the problem.

In response to a question on why the UN did not consolidate the 2017 credits with the 2019 statements, the UNODA representative responded that the organization was currently looking into how to deal with the various queries raised by Member States on the issue of credits to address the continuous funding shortfalls.

7.2 Mine action exhibition

Germany informed that in the margins of the annual conference of the CCW Amended Protocol II in November 2018, it had held an exhibition that featured photographs on humanitarian mine action, which also highlighted issues related to cluster munitions and victim assistance. Germany intended to re-exhibit these images in the margins of the NDM-UN22 in February 2019. Germany explained that due to insufficient storage space in its Permanent Mission, it would like to handover the exhibits to anyone who would be able to utilize them in the future. In response, the ISU Director expressed interest in retaining the exhibits for future use by the ISU.

7.3 Adoption of the draft Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4

Sweden again informed the meeting that the CCM Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education had not received further comments on the draft *Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* since the previous Coordination Committee meeting, and was therefore proposing that the draft document be formally adopted for use by the Coordination Committee.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez enquired of the Committee if it had any additional comments on the Methodology. There being none, the draft document was formally adopted by the Coordination Committee.

7.4 Update on recent use of cluster munitions globally

Germany requested information from the CMC on recent allegations of the use of cluster munitions in Yemen. The CMC Director responded that while there had not been any confirmations in accordance with the standards of verification by the Cluster Munition Monitor, it continued to monitor and publish reports accordingly.

Ambassador Abdul Azeez thanked Germany for raising concern regarding any alleged use of cluster munitions, as this was an important step in stigmatizing cluster munitions and promoting their non-use.

7.5 Update on 2nd Review Conference (2RC)

While recognizing the need to focus on the 9MSP, Switzerland as the President-Designate of the CCM 2nd Review Conference (2RC) informed the Meeting that it had had a meeting with the ISU for a preliminary discussion on administrative and logistical arrangements related to the 2RC. In this regard,

Switzerland assured that it would share more information in due time, including an announcement on the date and venue for the Conference.

7.6 Update from CMC

The CMC representative conveyed her heartfelt congratulations to Switzerland on having completed its stockpile destruction. She also expressed her congratulations to the Philippines on its ratification of the CCM. She indicated that CMC had continued its outreach with signatory States by sending letters and campaigning at the national level. On that note, the CMC representative encouraged Coordination Committee members to look out for every opportunity to promote the universalization of the CCM with signatory States and States not Party. She highlighted the importance of concerted efforts as a successful strategy to increase adherence as different people delivering the same message was more likely to make an impact. She ended by stating that the CMC looked forward to working with the Coordination Committee and the different Analysis Groups throughout the year.

The President echoed all the points raised by the CMC and expressed his gratitude to all who had spoken.

In bringing the Meeting to a close, Ambassador Abdul Azeez introduced and welcomed his colleague, Ms. Rajmi Manatunga, who would be Sri Lanka’s focal person working on matters pertaining to the CCM. The President reiterated his anticipation of the increased work momentum on the Convention towards the 9MSP and thereafter towards the 2RC. He conveyed his best wishes to the Coordinators in the upcoming NDM-UN22, adding that he would be holding bilateral meetings with other States there to advance the work of the Convention.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

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

+++++