



*Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Ginebra*



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 6 November 2017

in Conference Room 7A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 09:30 – 11:00 hours

1. Present:

Nicaragua - 8MSP President

H.E. Hernán Estrada Roman

Mr. Luis-Alberto Vargas

Ms. Nohelia Vargas

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Mr. James Hayne

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Croatia

Ms. Ines Sprem Scigliano

France

Ms. Camille Guffet

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Italy

Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

Lao PDR

Mr. Kalamoungkhoun Souphanouvong

Mozambique

Mr. Carlos Siliya

The Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Peru

Mr. Manuel Mundaca

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Muniton Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Mélanie Gerber

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

New Zealand

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The 2nd Coordination Committee Meeting under the Nicaraguan presidency was opened by the President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP), Ambassador Hernán Estrada Roman, with a warm welcome to all the Committee members. At the representative of Ireland's request, the Ambassador invited the Committee members to briefly introduce themselves. The President then presented the provisional Agenda and there being no additional items for discussion, he proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 28 August 2017

The Committee approved without corrections the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28 September 2017 as a correct record of that meeting.

4. Updates from the 8MSP Presidency

Ambassador Estrada provided an update on 2 matters undertaken by the Presidency since the last Meeting:

4.1 Side event at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York

The President informed the meeting that the Nicaraguan Presidency had been represented at the side event Germany had organized on the "challenges to the implementation and universalization of the CCM" and held in the margins of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. Other represented on the panel included Australia, the Netherlands and ICBL-CMC. He expressed his appreciation to all those who had been involved in making the event a success.

4.2 Working Capital Reserve

The President reported that in accordance with the decision taken at the 7MSP, he had written to the GICHD Director and requested the transfer of contributions that had been carried over from 2013 to 2016 as decided by the States Parties. He, thereafter, invited the ISU Director to provide additional details relating to the CCM ISU Working Capital Reserve (WCR). The Director reminded the Committee of the decision taken at the 7MSP to maintain the WCR at a level of CHF 400'000 and informed that with the transfer of the sum of CHF 355'738 the total available funds in the WCR were approximately CHF 376'000 indicating a shortfall of close to CHF 23'000 to reach the recommended level. She informed the meeting that only 2 States Parties had made a total contribution of CHF 14'224.87 towards the working capital reserve in 2017.

The Ambassador then invited the Committee to provide any comments. The Netherlands, in contributing to the discussion, thanked the Presidency for sending out reminder letters to States Parties to contribute to the financing of the ISU and expressed its hope that every State Party would make its payment (as well as to the Convention) so to avoid potential financial issues being faced by the Convention. It also enquired if the working capital reserve was kept in a separate bank account and the Director clarified that the decision states that the WCR be kept within the ISU Trust

Fund but with restricted access. She pointed out that no interest had been earned as the decision had just been effected. The President thanked all the contributors to the topic.

5. Presentation of Concept Notes by the Thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 8MSP

Ambassador Estrada invited the Coordinators to briefly introduce their respective concept notes that would enhance the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan up to the 8MSP.

5.1 Victim Assistance (Ireland and Italy)

Italy reported that the Coordinators' concept note would be circulated by the end of that week, and that it was built upon the key objectives of the previous year which included continuing to gather information on national focal points and plans. She reported that in order to continue the strengthening of joint approaches as well as increasing coordination with other Conventions, the coordinators would continue to work the victim assistance coordinators of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Italy further reported that the Coordinators had received positive reactions to the exchange of information on challenges and lessons learned in Art. 5 implementation during the 7MSP and therefore would continue to work with the same focus, targeting countries with VA obligations but not contacted last year or that had not responded to previous information requests.

In this regard, the Coordinator further mentioned that one of its first tasks would be to organize a side event in February or March of 2018. In concluding her presentation, she expressed the intentions of the coordinators to increase coordination the CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, as there was insufficient time to achieve that objective last year and welcomed any fresh ideas and cooperation with other CCM Coordinators.

5.2 International Cooperation and Assistance (Peru and Australia)

Australia, speaking on behalf of the two thematic Coordinators, informed that they would be building upon the meetings that had been held in the past year. It reminded the Meeting of the 2 previous informal meetings organized to strengthen cooperation between donor and affected States, where affected States or States with impending deadlines under the CCM were able to verbalize the needs and challenges they faced, and donor or partner States could discuss how they were able to assist them.

Australia explained that the Coordinators were planning to hold 3 closed meetings in the coming year, where one would be only with affected States, another with only donor/partner States and the third would be to bring together the two groups. The representative said the Coordinators would continue to work to support the implementation of the "country coalitions" concept that had been introduced under the German Presidency and that the Coordinators would prepare and circulate their concept note by the end of the week.

In its contribution, Peru echoed its support for applying the country coalition's strategy in enhancing international cooperation and assistance. He concluded his report by expressing that the

coordinators would explore possible synergies with other coordinators in undertaking their mandate up to the 8MSP.

5.3 Transparency Measures (Zambia)

Coordinator for Transparency Measures, Zambia, informed the meeting that it would reinforce the work the previous Coordinator, Costa Rica, had carried out the past year, which was to increase the submission rate of initial and transparency reports, the timely submission of these reports, and improved quality of the reporting on issues. Zambia stressed that high quality information in Article 7 reports was useful to States and the Coordinators in implementing the Convention. The Coordinator further informed that it was in the process of finalizing its concept note based on the outcomes of the meetings undertaken in New York by the ISU and would circulate the document soon.

Zambia concluded by thanking the ISU for its coordination work in the organization of the bilateral meetings and consultations held in the margins of the First Committee in New York.

5.4 Universalization (Panama and France)

France, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, explained that they, too, were finalizing their concept note and would build on the concept note of the previous year. She informed the Meeting that the Coordinators would prioritize working with Signatory States and those states that had voted in favour of the 2017 UN Resolution. France added that the Coordinators planned to carry out more practical measures this year by developing a survey to understand the challenges faced in joining the CCM, as well as see how to improve on the ratification rate by Signatory States.

5.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Mozambique and Croatia)

Croatia, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators, told the meeting that the Coordinators had met the previous week and had agreed that they would engage the same strategies that had been employed in the past year, such as sending letters to States Parties with upcoming deadlines and holding meetings in the margins of other meetings. She further reported that as highlighted by the Director during the previous Coordination Committee Meeting, the Coordinators would also develop a concept on how to follow up on States that had retained cluster munitions. Croatia concluded by stating that their concept note would be shared with the Committee shortly.

Mozambique announced that a meeting was being organized on 27-28 November, in Maputo which Mozambique was happy to host. In its contribution to the discussion, CMC clarified that the meeting was organized in collaboration with Handicap International and other partners, and that it would be a regional conference on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

The President thanked CMC for its input and expressed his appreciation to both Coordinators for their interest and initiative, and communicated the Presidency's intent on following up with them on their activities. He requested for Mozambique and Croatia to put their ideas on paper as soon as possible, so that the Presidency and the ISU would be able to provide their assistance and support in carrying out the activities. Croatia responded that the concept note would be completed within 10 days and apologized for the unavoidable delay.

5.6 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR and the Netherlands)

The Netherlands, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, informed the meeting that they needed more time to meet up to finalize the concept note, as they had been busy preparing for other activities. It was highlighted that the Coordinator had taken part in the side event at the German Permanent Mission in New York.

The Netherlands further reported that the Coordinators were in the final stage of preparing for the technical workshop to be held in Sarajevo that would be taking place during the following week and would focus on the Balkan region. The workshop would be held in cooperation with Norway (in its capacity as the former Coordinator on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education). The Netherlands also expressed their gratitude to Bosnia and Herzegovina for its assistance in facilitating the arrangements including the organization of a field visit. It was further elaborated that the workshop would include participants from the mine action authorities in the region and would emphasize on encouraging these authorities to work on their clearance plans and share their experiences with one another. It also informed that donor States and operators would be in attendance for a technical discussion and that the lessons learnt from the workshop would be shared with the Committee and incorporated into the Coordinators' concept note. Lao PDR added by apologizing for the late submission of their concept note and stated that a draft would be circulated at the next meeting.

5.7 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Germany and Bosnia & Herzegovina)

Germany, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, said that they needed more time to come up with the concept note, as after the successful adoption of the respective financial and organizational decisions by the 7MSP there was no operational necessity for further practical steps at the moment. The Coordinators would thus work with the President and the ISU on the identification of tasks to undertake during the year. One of the focus activities would be addressing the funds shortfall faced by the WCR. In this regard, the coordinators would be meeting with the ISU to discuss their activities for the upcoming months.

Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its gratitude to the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education for organizing the Sarajevo workshop, as it considered the workshop to have been beneficial for the affected States.

Bosnia & Herzegovina also thanked the ISU for sending out the reminder letters to States Parties that still had outstanding 2017 contributions. It added that the Coordinators would like to request for some more time to deliberate on what the next steps should be in getting States to make their contributions. With regards to the remaining funds needed to meet the target of CHF 400'000 of the working capital reserve, Bosnia & Herzegovina agreed with the Netherlands' proposal that gains from bank interest might help with that.

Italy, in expressing its opinion, mentioned that bank interest rates in Switzerland were normally very low and one should not expect to profit much from them.

As there were no additional comments on the concept notes presented, the President expressed his sincere thanks to all the Coordinators for their work and notified the meeting that New Zealand had sent its apologies for missing the meeting but would submit its concept note at the following one. The Ambassador concluded the session by reminding all Coordinators to submit their concept papers, which would be compiled and circulated with the help of the ISU, and that operational steps would be identified at the next meeting.

6. Implementation of the ISU-CCM Financial Decision

The 8MSP President gave the floor to the ISU Director to provide an update on the financial situation of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM.

The Director informed the meeting that since the last update, 3 States Parties had made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund for both 2017 and 2018; however, as they were all small amounts, adding up to less than CHF 100 for their 2017 contribution, they had not shifted the percentage of the total contributions for the year. She reported that, therefore, the total budget received stood at 84%, which was lower than was previously reported as there had been a need to reimburse one State part of its contribution, due to an error in the exchange rate it had used for the contribution. She informed that to date, only 46 out of 100 States sent notifications to make contributes, had contributed a sum of CHF 384'479.13 out of the 2017 budget of CHF 455'511, resulting in a budget shortfall of CHF 71'031.87. The Director pointed out that the shortfall was due to a few key States not having contributed. She also informed that the ISU had not yet received Italy's pledged contribution. In addition to that, the Director disclosed that 21 States Parties had already made contributions towards the 2018 budget amounting to just over CHF 14'300.

Italy responded to the Director by explaining that the delayed disbursement of its 2017 contribution was due to a procedural problem and assured that the payment would still be made as previously confirmed. It also inquired of the ISU's expenses thus far in 2017, as compared to the total contributions received. The Director replied that the expenditure had not exceeded the contributions, as there was some leeway due to savings from the deferred recruitment by four months of the third ISU staff member. She also reported that the ISU staff's travel expenses had been less than budgeted. The President thanked the ISU-CCM Director for the update and expressed his satisfaction that the ISU's financial situation was reasonably positive.

7. Any other business

7.1 8MSP dates and venue

Ambassador Estrada informed the Meeting that he was still consulting with his capital on the possible dates and venue of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (8MSP). He stated that there was a possibility for the Meeting to take place in Managua, but that was yet to be confirmed. In contributing to the discussion, the Netherlands commented that if the Meeting were to take place in Managua, it would be good to know soon as this could be taken into consideration in its budget planning for 2018. The Ambassador responded by stating that there were still a couple of months left to finalize the MSP budget. Germany, in its capacity as President of the 7MSP, echoed Nicaragua by confirming that it finalized its MSP budget in late January 2017.

7.2 Regional Meeting in the Caribbean on CCM Universalization

The President informed the meeting that he was still consulting with his capital on the holding of a regional meeting on CCM universalization in Managua in July 2018, with the goal of reaching out to small Caribbean States that were free from cluster munitions but that had not joined due to a lack of clarification of legal issues related to the Convention. This was with an ultimate aim of creating a zone free of cluster munitions. He further said that consultations with other countries in the region for information would be required on this matter. In its contribution, Australia highlighted a parallel situation with the Pacific Island states and reminded that as such a cross-convention workshop was being organized by New Zealand scheduled to take place in February 2018.

The ICRC enquired of the ISU whether the cost associated with the Meetings of States Parties would affect the decision of small island States joining the CCM. The ISU Director responded by clarifying that the invoices for the MSPs were issued by UNODA, and only sent to States that formally attended the MSP while the ISU only managed the financial contributions specifically intended for the ISU. She however, stated that the costs for potential Caribbean and Pacific Island States would be near negligible, in accordance with the prevailing UN scale of assessment.

In the ensuing discussion, the ICRC noted that some small States had raised the cumulative effect of having to contribute to multiple treaties. Ireland, in its contribution, commented on the excessive costs related to bank charges in Switzerland that significantly reduced the contribution amounts of States, something that particularly impacted the smaller contributions which often found themselves dwarfed by the concomitant high bank charges; and asked if the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention could look into requesting banks to waive these fees. The Director notified the Meeting that the ISU normally advised States with small contributions to consider making multi-year payments to avoid the high transaction costs for small amounts every year. Additionally, the President asked the ISU if it were possible to reduce bank charges by asking States with low contribution amounts to pay cash to the ISU. He concluded that, however, this option would probably be a decision that would need to be addressed during the 8MSP.

7.3 2017 UN First Committee CCM Resolution

Germany updated the meeting on its UN Resolution regarding implementation of the CCM, which had been a smoother process than anticipated - many States had collaborated and there had been no major pushback. It reiterated that the 2017 resolution made reference to initiatives; the country coalition concept, the structured dialogue and the military-to-military dialogue; that were initiated by the German Presidency of the 7MSP. It added that it was satisfied with the votes, and that the results were similar to that of the previous year.

Germany reported that the side event organized by Germany in the margins of the UNGA 72 on 26 October had taken place a day before the voting of various UN resolutions, which probably led to the slightly reduced attendance. It, however, communicated that the event had still been successful and that the Presidency and the panel speakers provided great input to the event. Germany expressed its appreciation to the Presidency, the Netherlands, Australia and CMC for their contribution to the event. He also added that the side event had kept the momentum on the discussions on cluster munitions, even though the focus of the First Committee this year was not on conventional weapons but on nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

The President thanked Germany for its update, and commented that while it was apparent that there was significant continuous support for the Convention UN Resolution, the results would have been better if the 10 States that had voted for the resolution in 2016 had been present during the vote this year.

7.4 Inclusion of GICHD on the CCM Coordination Committee

Ambassador Estrada informed the meeting that the Director of the GICHD had approached him to indicate that the GICHD was interested in participating in the Coordination Committee Meeting. The President said that in the interest of transparency, he was inviting the Coordination Committee members to share their views on the matter. A member enquired if the GICHD had formally written to the President to request to be part of Coordination Committee. The Ambassador informed that the GICHD Director had made the request verbally twice and once in his statement at the 7MSP.

In their contribution to the discussion, some members expressed the opinion that as the GICHD was already participating in the Coordinating Committee Meetings of the APMBC, they so saw no reason why the GICHD could not participate in the CCM Coordination Committee Meetings. Some members also mentioned valuable contributions GICHD already made to the work of the Convention, as another reason to include GICHD. One member added that since no voting takes place during the CC Meetings, granting the GICHD participation would be equivalent to giving them an observer status.

The Director reminded the Meeting that the matter had been raised both by the 6MSP and 7MSP presidencies and that both times the Committee had not been in full agreement on the matter. As such, the issue had not been pursued by either Presidency.

Another member suggested that it might be useful for the Committee to look at the reasons why the GICHD had not been approved to take part in the Meetings the previous 2 years before making a decision on it. It was enquired if including the GICHD would be similar to including the other organizations already on the Committee, like the ICRC. The ISU Director clarified that the participation of the ICRC, the CMC and the UN as observer institutions had been included from the initial establishment of the Coordination Committee. This, however, did not prevent the attendance of the GICHD by invitation to meetings of the Committee to which its expertise was relevant.

The President thanked the Committee wholeheartedly for considering the matter and added that the deliberations would continue as a decision did not have to be made right away.

7.5 Report on recent use of cluster munitions in Syria

The CMC mentioned that the use of cluster munitions in Syria was ongoing, with the latest instance of use confirmed by the Cluster Munition Monitor and Human Rights Watch in mid-September in Idlib, where the weapon was used by the joint Russia - Syria operation. The President asked the CMC whether this use was confirmed. The representative of the CMC emphasised that the CMC ensures that a threshold of certainty is reached before confirming use, and that this threshold had been reached in the case of Idlib in mid-September. The representative of the CMC further noted that in cases where the threshold is not reached, the situation would be labelled as an “allegation” or “unconfirmed report” of use. Ambassador Estrada thanked the CMC for the clarification.

8. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on **Tuesday, 12 December 2017** at 09h30.

The President closed the meeting by reiterating that the concept notes would need to be submitted before that date, so that they could be discussed in detail during the next meeting.