



*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 Wednesday 7 March 2018

in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison the la Paix, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Nicaragua - 8MSP Presidency

Mr. Carlos Morales Dávila

Ms. Nohelia Vargas Idiáquez

Croatia

Ms. Ines Sprem Scigliano

France

Ms. Camille Gufflet

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen

Italy

Ms. Palma D'Ambrosio

Mozambique

Mr. Jaime Chissano

The Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Peru

Mr. Manuel Mundaca

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

Australia

Bosnia

Lao PDR

Panama

CMC

Apologies not received

Zambia

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua, Mr. Carlos Morales, opened the second Coordination Committee meeting of 2018 and the fifth under the Nicaraguan presidency with warm greetings to all the Committee members. He then presented the provisional Agenda and enquired of the Committee if it had any additional items for discussion. There being none, he proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 25 January 2018

The Committee approved, without corrections, the draft minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25 January 2018 as a correct record of what had transpired during that meeting.

4. Updates from the 8MSP Presidency

4.1 Silence procedure for States Parties to determine continuation of Nicaraguan Presidency of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP)

Mr. Morales invited the UNODA representative to report on the silence procedure that was initiated by UNODA following the resignation of Ambassador Hernan Estrada Roman from his role as Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

At the previous Coordination Committee meeting, it had been agreed that the United Nations Secretariat would communicate to CCM States Parties that it was the understanding of the Coordination Committee that the Republic of Nicaragua represented by Ambassador Estrada had been elected as President of the 8MSP rather than the Ambassador himself in his personal capacity, and that it was also the understanding of the Coordination Committee that Ambassador Estrada's resignation as Nicaragua's representative to the United Nations in Geneva did not imply that Nicaragua was no longer the President of the 8MSP to the Convention and that it was expected that Nicaragua would appoint a representative to preside over the 8MSP.

The United Nations conducted the silence procedure in February 2018 through email communication to all States parties. A notice was also posted on the website of the 7MSP. At the Coordination Committee meeting, the UNODA representative reported to not have received any objections to the continuation of the Presidency of Nicaragua of the 8MSP. She added that the invitations to the 8MSP would be sent out shortly in New York.

Mr. Morales thanked UNODA for carrying out the silence procedure and reporting on it to the Coordination Committee.

4.2 Other updates from the Presidency

Mr. Morales disclosed that a new Permanent Representative had not yet been appointed, and therefore as Deputy Permanent Representative, he remained in charge of all affairs of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua.

He announced that the logo for the 8MSP had been finalized and it had been confirmed that the 8MSP would be held on 3-5 September 2018 in Room XVIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 8MSP

5.1 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand congratulated Nicaragua wholeheartedly on the confirmation of the continuation of its Presidency of the 8MSP, which, in its view, had never been in doubt.

The Coordinator on CCM National Implementation Measures then gave an account to the meeting on the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties that took place on 12-14 February in Auckland, New Zealand, and was co-sponsored by Australia. New Zealand expressed its gratitude to the ISU for its attendance at the Conference as it was a valuable opportunity for representatives of the Pacific Island States to establish contact directly with the secretariat of the Convention which contributed to the overall success of the conference. New Zealand reported that 12 of the 14 Pacific States invited (including New Zealand and Australia) had participated in the meeting, and it was a productive time where Pacific Island States were able to frankly discuss their government priorities and challenges with regards to conventional weapons treaties. Also in attendance were representatives from Germany, Japan, the ISU of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and civil society organizations such as Control Arms, the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction, the ICRC, NZ Red Cross, and Saferworld. New Zealand concluded its update by reiterating its recommendation to the Coordinators to have the ISU present at regional meetings that they organize.

Mr. Morales thanked New Zealand for its report and invited Germany to provide its update on its specific task as one of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention.

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

Germany, reporting in its role as one of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention, provided the meeting with the status of its task on establishing a mechanism for the selection of the Presidencies of the Meetings of States Parties (MSPs) of the Convention. It expressed its appreciation to the Coordination Committee for having deliberated at length on that matter during the last Coordination Committee Meeting and informed that it had been working on a structure that was based upon that discussion. To this end, Germany circulated a draft paper and proposed that the following measures be considered to make the process both practical and more inclusive:

- The election of the Presidencies should be an active procedure embedded in the annual MSP agenda as a dedicated agenda item;
- Presidencies should be chosen according to a rotational scheme between regional groups (Europe, Africa, Asia, Americas, Others) yet to be established for this purpose. This implies that regional groups should make recommendations for a respective candidate before an MSP and present that candidate during a dedicated agenda item during the subsequent MSP;

- The 2018 MSP would thus elect the candidate for the 2021 MSP and at the same time confirm the candidate for the 2019 MSP that needed to be identified/chosen at an earlier stage in order to provide for continuity and predictability in the run up to the 8MSP;
- The following Presidency should be gradually phased in by taking on tasks and responsibilities of the Presidency, e.g. by co-chairing events with the Presidency and substituting the Presidency in case of unexpected absences.

A careful examination and exchange on these proposed measures took place, where general consensus was reached on the following matters:

- The division of regional groups would have to be done in an equitable and proportional manner;
- Having a rotational system would shift the burden of responsibility significantly to the obligated regional group to seek a Presidency, even if it meant that the region were to procure a Presidency from another regional group (therefore it could be helpful to select regional coordinators also);
- Flexibility would have to be integrated into the structure, in order to allow regional groups that have more capacity and/or enthusiasm to take up the Presidency, if it so required;
- A troika of Presidencies could be formed where 2 potential Presidency candidates could be selected at the same time to work with the current Presidency: one as the main candidate, the other as a backup candidate (possibly to become the following Presidency); both appointees would be able to begin to get involved in the work of the Convention before their official appointment;
- This structure would not be employed for the appointment of the Presidency of Review Conferences, as it would be more judicious to allow for that to be taken up on a voluntary basis on the grounds that the Review Conferences are significant milestones and customarily held at the capital of the State of the Presidency;
- Female presidential candidates would be encouraged to take up the Presidency;
- This process would be itemized in the agenda of the 8MSP for States Parties to discuss and agree on the final structure;

Germany reminded the meeting that the current practice for approaching eligible Presidency candidates for the 9MSP is done in an ad-hoc manner, and Nicaragua would need the help of the Coordination Committee to share the burden of carrying out this task in the upcoming months. It concluded its update to notify that it would be submitting a draft proposal to the Presidency and Coordination Committee shortly thereafter and looked forward to the feedback, with the final proposal to be submitted to the 8MSP.

The Nicaraguan Presidency thanked Germany and the meeting for the dynamic and constructive dialogue and proceeded to invite the Coordinators on Universalization to present their update.

5.3 Universalization (Panama and France)

France, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, noted that progress had been achieved in this area in that Sri Lanka had recently acceded to the Convention to become the 103rd State Party of the CCM. France informed the meeting that the Coordinators had been in contact with

several signatory States and States not Party to follow up on their status of ratification or accession. The Coordinators noted that some of the States needed to become more aware of the Convention and its scope. France suggested that in order to address this issue, Coordinators on Universalization intended to organize an informal meeting with signatory States in Geneva in the near future, where Coordinators, with the support of the ISU, would have the opportunity to present their work to these States.

France reported that the Coordinators had been carrying out démarches with Cambodia, following a recent meeting with it, as there were indicators of willingness of the State to become Party to the Convention. It added that the Coordinators were planning to carry out more follow-up work with States during the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly that would be held in Geneva later that month.

Mr. Morales showed his appreciation to the Coordinators for their work and asked for comments from the meeting. There being none, he called upon the Coordinators on Victim Assistance to take the floor.

5.4 Victim Assistance (Ireland and Italy)

Italy, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported that as per their concept note, they had been following up with States Parties that had not yet designated a national focal point and/or developed a national disability or victim assistance national plan, and also with States Parties with specific challenges in fulfilling their victim assistance obligations in order to facilitate these States sharing their challenges and lessons learned. They had written to all these States, but had so far not received any reply. However, bilateral meetings held with a few States Parties during the 21st International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors (NDM21) in February had proven to be fruitful and national authorities had provided them with plenty of information on their work in victim assistance; the Coordinators had informed these authorities that it would be important for them to share this information in their Article 7 reports.

Italy announced that the Guidelines on Gender and Diversity-Responsive Victim Assistance in Mine Action had been finalized and that its Ministry of Foreign Affairs had given the approval to the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) for the Guidelines to be launched. It reported that GMAP was in the process of getting the Guidelines translated into other languages in preparation for the launch to take place in the margins of the APMBC intersessional meeting in June 2018.

Italy informed the meeting that as part of its efforts to strengthen synergies and cooperation with relevant actors on victim assistance of other Conventions, the Coordinators had participated in a 'Victim Assistance Retreat' organized by the Victim Assistance Committee of the APMBC on 22 February at the Permanent Mission of Belgium. Italy explained that the main objectives of the retreat were to look for ways to increase overall visibility of Victim Assistance across Conventions and identify opportunities to enhance Victim Assistance coordination between Conventions. Italy made mention that the retreat was attended in the morning session by Victim Assistance Coordinators of the CCM and AMPBC as well as the Presidency of the CCW and ISUs of the CCM and APMBC. CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance and the APMBC Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Ottawa Convention joined the event for the afternoon session.

Italy reported that participants agreed to the following:

- To share a calendar of events to give more visibility to VA and coordinate activities;
- To relaunch the Victim Assistance Parallel Programme with victim assistance experts from affected states in the margins of the APMBC intersessionals in June and rename the event '*VA experts gathering*';
- To organize targeted/tailor-made events across conventions with States Parties with VA obligations during side events in the margins of the CCM 8MSP;
- CCM VA Coordinators to propose two States Parties with VA obligations and also a State Party to the APMBC to be prioritized by the EU Council Decision project managed by the APMBC ISU in its first phase.

The Presidency thanked the Coordinators on Victim Assistance for their work and thorough update and invited the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education to present their update.

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

The Netherlands, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, notified the meeting that the Coordinators were not able to achieve as much as they would have liked to during the NDM21 as some of the targeted States Parties were not represented at the event. Hence, they proceeded to follow up with those States through their permanent missions in Geneva. The Coordinators further informed that Norway was providing the funding for Montenegro to complete its final stage of clearance. The Coordinators would be updating their concept note to include their plans for the next quarter of the year.

As there were no comments on the update, Mr. Morales thanked the Coordinators for their work and gave the floor to the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention.

5.6 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Mozambique and Croatia)

Croatia, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators, commenced the update by informing the meeting that the Coordinators were not able to meet up with Botswana and Guinea Bissau at the NDM21 to obtain information on their respective progress as they were not represented at the event. In addition, the Coordinators had been attempting to establish contact with States Parties that had Article 3 deadlines in 2019 via email and phone, but had not had any success obtaining the relevant information. Croatia also mentioned that it would soon share with the meeting a draft template on the Declaration of Completion of Stockpile Destruction to be used by States.

Mozambique continued with the update by saying that the Coordinators would explore the best way to address the issue of not being able to reach some States Parties. It added that the Coordinators had not also heard back from the 4 States that they had sent out letters to requesting them to provide information with regards to their retention of submunitions; nevertheless, it was noted that they were still within their reporting schedule as Article 7 reports were not due until 30 April.

The President thanked the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention for the update and invited Peru to report to the meeting on International Cooperation and Assistance.

5.7 International Cooperation and Assistance (Peru and Australia)

Peru, speaking on behalf of the two thematic Coordinators, reported that the Coordinators had also participated in the 'Victim Assistance Retreat' with the APMBC Victim Assistance and Cooperation and Assistance Committees, where the Coordinators had the opportunity to share with the other participants an overview of their work for 2017/2018 and the key points that had been raised from their informal meetings with donors and affected States. The objective of the Coordinators was to engage with the Coordination Committee of other Conventions in collaborative efforts. As an outcome from the VA Retreat, it was agreed upon to work on a collaborative country coalition/individualized approach, with a focus on victim assistance, at the informal meeting in the margins of the APMBC intersessionals in June. To conclude its update, Peru stated that the summary of the informal meeting hosted by the Coordinators in December in Vienna had been uploaded to the CCM website.

The Presidency conveyed his thanks to the Coordinators for their good work and update.

5.8 Transparency Measures (Zambia)

Since the Coordinator for Transparency Measures was not present, the ISU Director gave an update and informed the meeting that a reminder had just been uploaded on the CCM website to remind States Parties that the 2017 Article 7 reports deadline was coming up on 30 April. She further reported that there had been a significant increase in reporting: there were only 14 States left with overdue initial transparency reports as 8 States had submitted their initial report since the 7MSP (bringing submission rate to 86%), and 60 States had submitted their 2016 (bringing submission rate to 79%). Only 8 States had so far submitted their 2017 annual reports, and the Director indicated that States would be reminded of the annual report deadline in the first quarterly newsletter to be released at the beginning of April.

6. Update on the financing of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

The Presidency invited the ISU Director to provide an update on the current financial status of the ISU.

The ISU-CCM Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, 7 additional States Parties had made a financial contribution amounting to CHF 17'668, bringing the number of States Parties that had paid their 2018 ISU budget contribution to 37. The Director further elaborated that States Parties had contributed a total of CHF 108'422 and that this amount was slightly under a quarter of the 2018 ISU budget.

The Director reminded that the carry-over from 2017, which was reported during the last update, had allowed the ISU to continue its operations during the first quarter of the year. She further reported that no State had contributed towards the Working Capital Reserve in the recent months and the reserve remained at CHF 23'033 less than the recommended level of CHF 400'000.

Mr. Morales thanked the Director for the financial reporting and inquired if anyone wanted to discuss this topic further. There being none, he called on the Director to provide other updates on the work of the ISU.

7. Update from the Implementation Support Unit on other matters

The ISU Director reminded the meeting that 2018 was a significant year for the CCM: 30 May would mark 10 years of the adoption of the CCM and 3 December its signature. In this regard, the ISU had acquired 1000 personalized balloons to be used at CCM events of the year, including the 8MSP. She encouraged the Coordinators to use these balloons at any forthcoming events they would be organizing. She then invited the Implementation Support Specialist to provide an update on the social media plan regarding the promotion of the 10th year anniversary.

The Implementation Support Specialist presented the plan which consisted of announcements on the homepage and additional pages on the website to highlight substance and achievements of the Convention thus far; an average of two tweets a week between 23 February to 30 May with specific hashtags and in different languages, which included tweets on substance of the Convention (the latest one being on stockpile destruction); and posts on Facebook that were similar to the tweets. He reported that the response to the tweets and Facebook posts had been positive so far, and that most of the tweets/posts had been retweeted/shared by CCM followers. In addition to that, he highlighted that, with courtesy of the GICHD, the CCM universalization map had been updated to reflect Sri Lanka as a State Party and that the latest map would be uploaded to the website soon after the Coordination Committee Meeting. He stated that the ISU had received positive feedback on the map as it provided an easy visual of the universalization status of the Convention.

The ISU Director thanked the Specialist and resumed the update by notifying the meeting that with the logo of the 8MSP finalized, the 8MSP dates and venue would be officially announced and that a calendar of events of the year would be posted on the website. The Director expressed her appreciation to Germany for engaging a graphics designer to streamline the Convention's logo for its own presidency as well as for succeeding presidencies, making it more recognizable. Lastly, as tasked by the last meeting, the ISU had produced a brochure on the role of the Presidency of the Convention to be used by the Presidency and Coordination Committee as promotional and informational material when approaching potential future CCM presidency candidates.

The Presidency thanked the ISU for the update and thanked the ISU wholeheartedly for its work.

8. Any other business

8.1 Military-to-military dialogue

Germany informed the meeting that it was ready to proceed with the military-to-military dialogue started during its presidency, but would need more time than it had previously projected to organize the next meeting; it aimed to hold a meeting in August, before the 8MSP. While Germany would facilitate the meeting, the invitation would have to be issued by the Presidency and depending on the response rate, would determine if the meeting would take place or not. Germany reiterated that

it would need a minimum of 4 countries to respond in the affirmative in order for it to organize the proposed meeting.

8.2 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CCM - 30 May 2008

The ISU director enquired if the Coordination Committee had come up with ideas on commemorating the 10th year anniversary of the adoption of the CCM on 30 May 2018. In its contribution, Germany responded by saying that it would like for the Committee to discuss ideas with the CMC as a civil society that had a wide outreach. The Director stated that she had recently met with the CMC for a brainstorming session and encouraged the Coordination Committee to also seize the opportunity to organize events during this period. Germany informed that it would be organizing a side event during the United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament in New York in May.

In response to the Director’s invitation, the ICRC representative stated that it would be valuable to also hold an event in Geneva, and suggested that the Presidency should organize it. He added that the date of signature of the CCM (3 December) coincided with that of the APMBBC and with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Germany reminded the meeting that the UN Secretary-General had recently mentioned that “disarmament saves lives” in his speech at the Conference on Disarmament, and that the CCM was a good example of that remark.

8.3 Inclusion of the GICHD on the Coordination Committee

One of the Coordination Committee members wanted to know what the position was regarding the inclusion of the GICHD on the CCM Coordination Committee. The ISU Director explained that the Presidency had the authority to invite the GICHD to attend a Coordination Committee Meeting on an ad-hoc basis to discuss a particular issue, but could not issue a standing invitation as that would require a formal decision to be made by States Parties at a Meeting of States Parties. Another member of the Committee pointed out that it saw value in the GICHD being included in the membership of the Coordination Committee.

9. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on **Tuesday, 10 April 2018 from 10:00 to 11:30 hours.**

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