



# 6TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

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## MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday, 3 March 2016

at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

### 1. PRESENT:

#### The Netherlands – 6MSP President

H.E. Henk Cor Van der Kwast

Mr. Mark Verstedden

Ms. Dorien de Keyzer

#### Croatia – Immediate Past President

Ms. Zlata Penić-Ivanko

#### Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

#### Austria

H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi

Thomas Zehetner

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ivica Dronjic

#### Costa Rica

Mr. Norman Lizano Ortiz

#### Czech Republic

Ms. Markéta Homolková

#### Ecuador

Mr. Leon Aviles Salgado

#### France

Ms. Marie-Gaelle Robles

#### Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

#### Mexico

Mr. Victor Martinez

#### New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

#### Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masmejean

#### Zambia

H.E. Encyla T. C. Sinjela

Mr. Samson Lungo

#### Cluster Munition Coalition

Ms. Amelie Chayer

#### UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

#### Secretariat - CCM ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Ms. Liliana Mota

#### APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Norway

ICRC

#### APOLOGIES NOT RECEIVED

Chile

## **2. Opening Remarks by the President**

The second Coordination Committee meeting of 2016 was opened by CCM President, Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands. He began the meeting by referring to the APMBC Pledging Conference held the day before and commending APMBC President, Chile, for having hosted the event successfully.

## **3. Approval of the Minutes of 21 January 2016**

As there were no corrections to be made, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of what had transpired during the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2016. Bosnia and Herzegovina apologized for not having sent notification of its absence at previous Coordination Committee Meetings which was due to the Mission being managed by only one delegate during the period.

## **4. Update from the CCM Presidency**

The President gave the meeting an update of the activities that the presidency had undertaken since the last Coordination Committee meeting.

### **4.1 6MSP Logo**

The President unveiled the 6MSP Logo which would be used for the duration of the Dutch presidency. Costa Rica commended Netherlands on the attractive and colorful logo.

### **4.2 Statement on Syria**

The President informed the Meeting that the presidency had issued a statement expressing its concern on the reported use of cluster munitions in Syria on 18 February 2016. He clarified that though the statement had mentioned concern on use in populated areas it also condemned use in unpopulated areas. The statement was merely placing emphasis on the horrifying nature of using cluster munitions in populated areas.

### **4.3 Update on ISU Financial Contributions**

Further to the President's letter to all States Parties to contribute towards the ISU budget, he was happy to report that States had started to send in their contributions. He informed the meeting that 4 States - Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco and Zambia - had met with their obligations under the financial decision.

The President singled out Zambia which had contributed more than double its assessed contributions and had also made a contribution towards the Working Capital Reserve. He requested Ambassador Sinjela to convey his gratitude to the government of Zambia for having set a good example for others to follow. In response, Ambassador Sinjela affirmed that though Zambia could only make modest contributions, it nonetheless would continue to demonstrate ownership and commitment in supporting the operations of not only the CCM ISU but also the APMBC ISU.

## **5. Updates from the Coordinators**

The President then invited the Coordination Committee members to share any updates on their thematic mandates since the previous Meeting.

## 5.1 Universalization (Ecuador and Zambia)

The Coordinators reported that they had held bilateral meetings with two States – Thailand and Namibia.

Regarding Thailand, it was reported that Thailand had indicated that it would be interested to join the Convention once the challenges of accession were fully understood. In particular, they wanted to understand what CCM Article 2 on Definitions covered. In addition, they wanted clarity on the obligations under National Implementation Measures. The Geneva Mission however, promised to report back to their capital whatever had been discussed. The Coordinators also informed the meeting that the CMC had shared with them a website that could assist Thailand better understand which cluster munitions were being referred to in the Convention.

The meeting with Namibia was also fruitful with it declaring that as a State that was not affected, the process of ratification was merely an administrative one rather than one of priority. The Coordinators were further informed that the Namibian government only needed to decide which ministry (Defence or Foreign Affairs) would take the lead in the ratification process though the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was already in favor of ratification. These consultations would take place in July.

The Coordinators further reported that they were exploring the use of their embassies in targeted States to pursue ratifications and accessions. They also proposed to the Committee that a standing mechanism be developed in accordance with Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) Action 1.3 to ensure an immediate reaction to any reports of use or alleged use of cluster munitions. This automatic response could be issued either by the Presidency or the ISU. This was especially needed in light of the continued use of cluster munitions in Syria.

The President thanked the coordinators for their report and promised to follow-up with Thailand and Namibia using the Dutch embassies in the two capitals to maintain the momentum.

## 5.2 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (France and Mexico)

The Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention informed the Committee that as planned, they had met to strategize on the way forward in the execution of their mandate. The Coordinators reported that they had agreed to send out two categories of letters to States with obligations under Article 3 of the CCM. The letters had already been drafted and would be sent out soon after.

The first letter would be sent to States which had not completed destruction but had yet to provide updates on any progress being made and to share whatever challenges they might be facing in this process. The second letter would be sent to States that had completed stockpile destruction. These States would be requested to share both the challenges they had faced in fulfilling their obligations and good practices developed in the process.

The Coordinators also highlighted that the main objective of this exercise was to gather information which, when used in collaboration with the Coordinators on International Assistance and Cooperation, would enhance support to States Parties with such obligations and increase their ability to comply with the core obligations under Article 3.

### 5.3 Victim Assistance (Australia and Chile)

Australia reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, informed the meeting that as reported during the last CC Meeting, letters had been sent out to follow up on the implementation of the DAP priorities to all the selected States and their responses were being awaited.

It was also reported that work on guidelines to integrate victim assistance into national plans was continuing in collaboration with the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance. In this regard, questionnaires had been developed and would be sent out later that week to all the States invited to participate in the workshop. The workshop was scheduled to take place the whole day on 18 May 2016, a day ahead of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) intersessional meetings.

It was further reported that the Coordinators had held an informal meeting with the Victim Assistance coordinators of the APMBC and CCW Protocol V and hoped that this cooperation would lead to enhanced collaboration between the Conventions. It was highlighted that cross-Convention collaboration was desirable as the objective of the work on integration of victim assistance into national plans was the development of universal guidelines on victim assistance that are applicable to each Convention.

### 5.4 Clearance and Risk Reduction (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Norway)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction, Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the Committee that the Coordinators had intended to hold a meeting with the main mine action operators on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors (19NDM-UN) but that this had worked out, so the Coordinators were trying to find another suitable date to organize such an event.

### 5.5 International Cooperation and Assistance (Austria and Iraq)

Austria on behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance reported that their main focus was the preparatory work on the workshop on victim assistance guidelines. They had attended the meeting already mentioned by Australia and looked forward to a fruitful outcome of the workshop.

The Coordinators also reported that since the last Coordination Committee meeting they had had bilateral meetings with affected States Croatia and Afghanistan and also with the CMC and that these had focused on the following issues:-

- a. the importance of transparency on the part of affected States in their relations with donor States;
- b. the need for affected States to enhance cooperation between themselves especially those located in the same region;
- c. the need for more support to the matter of victim assistance

The Coordinators informed the Committee that they would look into developing a Platform for Partnerships such as the web tool already established by the APMBC. Furthermore, that they intended to send out letters requesting donors clarify their priorities in the provision of assistance so as to better provide this information to States requiring assistance.

In summing up the discussion, the President supported the initiatives proposed by the Coordinators and offered to assist in any way if necessary to ensure that they succeeded.

## 5.6 Reporting

Coordinator on Reporting, Costa Rica, informed the meeting that since the First Review Conference a total of 22 Initial Transparency Reports were overdue. After sending out reminder letters, only one report from Saint Kitts and Nevis had been received. Paraguay, a new State Party, had as of the previous week, also missed its deadline for the submission of its initial Report. He reported that a reminder letter had already been sent to remind them of this important Convention obligation.

After following up States with overdue Annual Reports, a total of seven reports had since been received from Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Ghana, Nicaragua, Samoa and Zambia. Thus far, two reminder emails had been sent with the assistance of the ISU and the Coordinator commended the ISU Director for the instrumental role the ISU was playing in following-up the States on its behalf.

Costa Rica, also reported that two States – Democratic Republic of Congo and Palau had submitted voluntary Transparency Reports. The President asked if there was a way of assisting the States in submitting the reports and the Coordinator informed that the ISU was readily available to support and was already assisting States that had requested assistance in this regard.

## 5.7 National Implementation Measures

The Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, New Zealand, reported that it was continuing to work on its Africa Project but noted some challenges in connecting with appropriate contacts in the targeted States. New Zealand appreciated the assistance of the ICRC and the CMC in sharing information about relevant contacts.

She further offered to follow up with Thailand regarding its enquiry about National Implementation Measures in advance of a decision to join the CCM.

## 5.8 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Switzerland and Czech Republic)

The Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Czech Republic and Switzerland, informed the Meeting that they had met with the CCM Presidency and the ISU Director to exchange views on the various activities that could be undertaken by the Coordinators. They highlighted the four main tasks that they would be undertaking during their mandate up to the 6MSP.

### a. CCM Annual Progress Report

The Coordinators reported that they would commence work on the Progress Report and would focus on ensuring that it was as concise as possible while providing States Parties with all the necessary metrics to demonstrate the advancements made in the implementation of the Convention during the reporting period.

b. CCM Sponsorship Programme

The Coordinators highlighted the usefulness of the programme in particular in the quest for universalization of the Convention through increased participation of formal meetings, as well as for implementation efforts. They emphasized that there would be value in developing guidelines for the sponsorship programme to ensure that it is as effective as possible. In this regard, the Coordinators would look at best practices from more established Conventions such as the APMBC and CCW.

c. Closer Cooperation with Similar Treaties

The Coordinators reported that they would develop a matrix on how to promote cooperation between similar treaties to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in their implementation with the focus on specific issues. They commended other coordinators such as the Coordinators on Victim Assistance and on International Cooperation and Assistance who had already started to do this in their sector.

d. Reinforcement of the CCM Norms

The Coordinators reported that they would look into the best possible way of implementing DAP Action Point 1.3 which calls for States Parties to reinforce the norms being established by the Convention. In particular, they would see value in exploring further points (b) and (c) under this action for discussion at a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

**6. Matter of Syria and Cluster Munitions**

The President introduced the subject of the reported continuous use of cluster munitions in Syria and opened the floor for Committee members to express their views on how the CCM community in general and the coordination committee in particular could react to such occurrences.

In the ensuing discussion, Ambassador Hajnoczi of Austria started by commending the presidency for having swiftly issued a statement on Syria at a very crucial moment when the Convention has been violated. He supported the idea of joint statements from the Coordination Committee on the occasion of each and every allegation of use of cluster munitions. He also stated that it was not enough that the statements should be only on the CCM website but that they should also appear in mainstream media for increased publicity. He reiterated that it was a collective effort from all of the Coordination Committee Members and proposed that such statements be circulated to all Missions in Geneva. He further suggested that civil society could assist in this effort. In agreeing with the Austrian proposed, Ambassador Sinjela further proposed that the statements could also be sent to capitals to raise awareness at the national levels through local media. New Zealand also supported the concept of joint statements from the Coordination Committee, which had originally been proposed by Ecuador in its presentation on universalization. She emphasized the need for consistency in the expression of concern on allegations of use so that the Committee was not seen to pick and choose which incidences to react to. The early development of a generic statement would be ideal to maintain such consistency.

In contributing to the discussion, the CMC highlighted to the meeting that the media tended to be more interested in proactive rather than reactive press releases. In this regard, the CMC was available to States to devise a methodology of increasing media attention to use of cluster munitions.

Switzerland proposed that the Coordinators could look into ways of developing a validated generic statement to facilitate timely reactions to incidences of use, taking into account that there are political sensitivities linked to the issuing of such communications. Bosnia & Herzegovina supported the proposal. France expressed that caution needed to be observed in using generic statements due to political sensitivities but rather deal with situations on a case by case basis. The President underlined the importance of ensuring that the facts of each report of cluster munition use were verified otherwise a bad precedent would be set which would be counter-productive to the cause of the CCM.

In concluding discussion, it was agreed that the CCM President would prepare and circulate to the members of the Coordination Committee a draft generic condemnation statement template to be discussed further at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

## **7. Update on ISU Staff Recruitment**

The President invited the CCM ISU Director to provide the meeting with an update on the process of recruitment of staff for the ISU. The Director reported that a total of 94 applications had been received and that of these 55% were women, 40% male and 5% did not declare. She further reported that the interview panel would compose of herself, the Head of CCW ISU, a representative of APMBC ISU and a representative of the GICHD Human Resources department.

She elaborated that the GICHD HR was providing the requisite logistical support for the recruitment process as well as the technical advice on Swiss recruitment laws. The Director further informed the meeting that she intended to complete the interview process by the following week with the aim of introducing the new employee at the next meeting. When asked for the geographical representation of the shortlisted applicants, she reported that the five candidates were located in China, Colombia, Finland, Switzerland and Ukraine.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Participation of Croatia in the Coordination Committee Meetings**

The Croatian delegation expressed its intention to follow the Coordination Committee Meetings and enquired whether it was possible to adapt the CCM machinery in future so that it included the immediate past, current and incoming presidencies. The President warmly welcomed the Croatian delegation to be part of the Coordination Committee Meetings to ensure continuity following the decisions on machinery taken in Dubrovnik. In addition, Switzerland, as Coordinator on General Status and Operations, reminded the Committee that the composition of the Coordination Committee body could be amended during a Meeting of States Parties. The proposal to adopt the practice of having a troika of the immediate past, current and incoming CCM Presidents as part of the composition of the Coordination Committee was not objected to by the Meeting.

### **8.2. 7MSP Presidency**

The CCM President informed the meeting that since the last Coordination Committee meeting he had met with an Asian State which might be interested in taking over from the Dutch presidency. He reported that he was awaiting feedback from the State regarding this matter.

### 8.3 Cluster Munition Coalition Informal Meeting

The CMC informed the Meeting that it was planning a half day informal event on 17 May 2016 to discuss with a small group of States Parties and other stakeholders from the ban community to advance the DAP in regards to CCM universalization and stigmatization of the use of cluster munitions. The meeting would be held under Chatham House rules to encourage the candid exchange of views.

### 8.4 Consultative meeting with the major operators

Further to the President's announcement in the previous meeting that his presidency would engage more with implementing NGOs to enhance cooperation and further the successes already achieved in areas such as mapping and target setting; he reported that he would be hosting a meeting on 18 April 2016 to discuss with selected NGOs how to improve effectiveness and efficiency at the field level.

### 8.5 World Humanitarian Summit

New Zealand enquired whether the CCM would be highlighted during the forthcoming May 2016 UN World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Turkey. She emphasized that this would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of the Convention.

In response, the President confirmed that he was already considering the possibility to use this forum to further raise awareness of cluster munitions and the harm they cause.

### 8.6 UN SG Notification on 6MSP

UNODA announced that during the previous week, the UN Secretary General had sent to all States (UN Member and Observer States) a note verbale convening the 6MSP in September 2016. The note verbale also referred to the text of the Resolution and the need for States to submit their annual national reports to UNODA by 30 April 2016. She reported that the announcement would be on the UNODA website in the following days. It was further reported that the letter from the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs inviting international and non-governmental organisations to attend the 6MSP would be sent out shortly.

## 9. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, at 10:00 hours on the Thursday, 28 April 2016.

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