



UK Mission  
Geneva



10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF STATES PARTIES  
30 AUG - 2 SEPT  
GENEVA 2022

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

in Conference Room 6, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix,

from 10:00 to 11:30 hours

### **1. Present:**

United Kingdom – 10MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Switzerland – Immediate past President (2RC)

Mr. Laurent Masmejean

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Australia

Ms. Michelle Carr

Sweden

Mr. Niklas Nilsson

Bulgaria

Mr. Iassen Tomov

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

France

Ms. Marie Chapard

UNODA

Ms. Erika Kawahara

Germany

Ms. Anna Mikeska

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Apologies received:

Namibia

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Philippines

Spain

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

Ambassador Aidan Liddle, President of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP), opened the second Coordination Committee Meeting under the presidency of the United Kingdom with a cordial welcome of the Committee members. The President also extended his gratitude to the GICHD for hosting the meeting. Thereafter, the President tabled the provisional Agenda which was adopted by the Meeting as presented.

## **3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Coordination Committee Meetings**

The Committee approved, without correction, the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meetings held on 17 and 28 September 2021 as an accurate record of what had transpired during those Meetings.

## **4. Update on the Priorities of the UK Presidency up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP)**

Ambassador Liddle reminded the meeting that the immediate task of the UK presidency had been to prepare the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA76) Resolution on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. He reported that the drafting of the Resolution had gone smoothly, and that one informal consultation had taken place in New York during which only one State had requested a slight adjustment to two parts of the document to reflect its position on the issue. Unfortunately, this adjustment had slightly weakened the text of the document. He further informed that the Resolution had already been tabled and would be voted upon that afternoon. The President also reported that he had engaged with a few states on the impending vote with one, Zimbabwe, confirming that it would again abstain though it hoped to vote YES in the future.

Ambassador Liddle noted that since there were no side events hosted in the margins of the UNGA76 sessions, it had only been possible to hold a few bilaterals. However, the presidency was able to host an ASEAN workshop at which the perceived barriers to joining the CCM were discussed.

The President then provided the Meeting with a short update on the 3 priorities of the UK presidency.

On CCM universalization, Ambassador Liddle reported that some outreach had been undertaken during the First Committee (C1) sessions but that he would provide a more detailed update at the next meeting of the Coordination Committee. Nonetheless, he was happy to report that approximately 30 UK embassies had received instructions to engage with the relevant institutions in their host countries and that already responses on how to proceed had been gotten.

Furthermore, the President reported that not much had been done on its second priority - innovative financing - but that he hoped to have more to report on after the APMBC 19MSP to be held at The Hague later in the month. He further reminded that some of the members may have already received an invitation to the Cambodia initiative on that matter.

On the third priority of undertaking CCM machinery-related tasks assigned to the 10MSP presidency, Ambassador Liddle reported that he was scheduled to meet with the GICHD Director the following week to discuss preparations for the 2022 CCM intersessionals as well as to start discussions on the recruitment process of the next ISU Director.

## 5. **Presentation of Concept Notes by Thematic Coordinators on their Work up to the 10MSP**

The President thanked the thematic Coordinators for the submission of their thematic concept notes developed to guide the work of the Committee in the period up to the 10MSP. He expressed his hope to soon receive the remaining concept notes. The President pointed out that the one observation he had made across the board and hoped to hear more about from the Coordinators was on how they could use the CCM intersessional meetings in 2022 to advance their plans. Thereafter, he invited the Coordinators to present their individual concept notes.

### 5.1 **International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Montenegro)**

On behalf of the Coordinators, Montenegro outlined that the focus of their work in the year ahead would be on the enhancement of International Cooperation and Assistance within the context of the Convention. He highlighted that while implementation of the Convention provisions was the responsibility of the State Party, Article 6 played a significant role in the timely and full implementation of these obligations. He further noted the importance of dialogue between affected States Parties and partners, and the value of Country Coalitions which are driven by national ownership. He informed that the Coordinators planned to facilitate targeted meetings to enhance cooperation and assistance and would serve as a point of contact to address questions in this regard. He further highlighted the main activities of the Coordinators such as targeted meetings with affected States and other partners; participation in the Analysis Groups considering the deadline extension requests of States Parties and the hosting of a joint event with the APMBC to exchange best practices on extension requests and on Country Coalitions.

To augment the presentation of Montenegro, Germany further clarified on the joint CCM-APMBC event and informed that the aim of the meeting would be to seek the best practices on extension requests and on Country Coalitions and that it would take place at the beginning of December. The exact date of the meeting and number of participants would be specified later. A second event would be held in the first quarter of 2022 to collaborate with the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Education to identify States Parties with Article 4 obligations and ideal for a possible Country Coalition event. The Coordinators also hoped to share the outcomes of both events at the forthcoming CCM intersessional meeting.

In its contribution to the ensuing discussion, the CMC commended the priorities of the Coordinators and noted that it was beneficial to have Germany serve in the same thematic

position on both the CCM and APMBC committees as this would enhance synergies between the two Conventions. She hoped that this would result in the submission of better-quality extension requests in both Conventions. She further underscored the critical importance that Country Coalitions played in implementation. She expressed her readiness to support the Coordinators and highlighted the importance of following up with the countries with obligations and making sure that they would be on track to completion.

The President thanked the Coordinators and inquired whether they had prepared a list of countries to be engaged with in the context of country coalitions and which of these they would target from that. In response, Germany clarified that the Coordinators would likely focus on states that could avoid requesting deadline extensions if timely assistance was provided. The decision would also depend on how the meetings would be organized and which states would participate.

In contributing to the discussion, Mexico outlined the importance of the Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators also collaborating with the Victim Assistance (VA) Coordinators and not only with the Article 3 and 4 working groups as the needs of States Parties with Article 5 obligations were equally important. He reported that the VA Coordinators were planning to organize some events to share the best practices of countries that had done a good job with implementation and to relay this information to the 11 CCM States Parties with Article 5 obligations. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to have the Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators in these meetings to hear from these States what their needs and challenges were.

The President echoed the need for engagement on VA implementation matters and assured that he would keep this in mind as the presidency considered into innovative finance.

## 5.2 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Australia and Bulgaria)

On behalf of the Coordinators, Australia thanked the ISU for its support in the development of its thematic concept note. She reported that the Coordinators would focus on the 4 States Parties with outstanding obligations under Article 3 as well as on Guinea-Bissau which was still in the process of verifying the existence of cluster munition stockpiles. She outlined the five main objectives of their work in the year ahead which included encouragement of timely implementation updates; follow up with Guinea-Bissau; encourage the declaration of compliance using the template adopted by the 8MSP; facilitate the exchange of best practice among relevant States Parties; and encourage detailed reporting on retained cluster munitions, for purposes permitted under the Convention, in accordance with the Convention's provisions.

To supplement Australia's presentation, Co-coordinator Bulgaria, emphasized that the Coordinators would work closely with States Parties that had outstanding Article 3 obligations and would build upon the collected information to inform on their work going forward.

The President thanked the Coordinators and underscored the importance of the CCM intersessional meetings for bilateral engagement as States Parties drew closer to their

implementation deadlines. Regarding Guinea-Bissau, the President informed that he had contacted the UK Ambassador in Dakar, Senegal, which covered Guinea-Bissau, to follow-up on the outstanding official declaration on its implementation of Article 3. Ambassador Liddle also undertook to engage with the Halo Trust which worked in the country to see if it could also help with the outreach. He further wondered if there was a possibility of a Country Coalition in the Guinea-Bissau situation.

### 5.3 Clearance and Risk Education (Guyana and Sweden)

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported that they would base their work on Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) Actions 18 to 30 which detail the relevant activities to be undertaken to fully implement Article 4 of the Convention. Sweden underscored that the focus of their work in the year ahead was to engage with States Parties with Article 4 obligations with an objective to avoid the request for deadline extensions but if unavoidable to ensure these were of a high quality. He further informed that the Coordinators would aim to identify and facilitate the establishment of Country Coalitions for States Parties that might need assistance to comply with their obligations. In reaction to the remark made by the President on opportunities to engage during the 2022 CCM intersessional meeting, Sweden stated that it had taken this point into consideration and would incorporate that element into its concept note. Sweden ended the intervention by thanking the ISU for its support in the preparation of the concept note.

The President welcomed the new representative of Sweden to the Coordination Committee and thanked Sweden for agreeing to step in for Afghanistan which had had to withdrawal from the Committee.

In its contribution to the discussion, the ICRC pointed out that the LAP had incorporated the impact of clearance on the environment which was a new element. She emphasised that further attention should be given on how to mitigate any negative environmental impacts of clearance operations, including through good practices. Concerning risk education, she elaborated on the importance of having good work plans as part of the Article 4 extension requests.

In supporting the intervention of the ICRC, the CMC underscored the importance of including a risk education work plan. She then inquired whether any States Parties had expressed intentions to submit an extension request in 2022.

In response, the ISU Director clarified that though no States Parties had indicated such an intention, there were 3 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, and Chile likely to do so if their current circumstances changed. Nonetheless, the ISU intended to set up meetings with all the States Parties with outstanding Article 4 obligations in the coming weeks to get more clarity on their implementation status.

The President concluded the thematic discussion by expressing his hope to have more Article 4 compliance declarations in the near future.

#### **5.4 General Status and Operation of the Convention (France and Namibia)**

France, on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, presented their concept note which has a focus on gender mainstreaming as articulated in the LAP. France outlined that their work would be based on 3 principles: - 1) lessons learnt from other disarmament Conventions and Treaties; 2) collection of gender-related data from CCM annual Article 7 reports; and 3) development of guidance for reporting on gender mainstreaming to help States Parties in their implementation of the LAP. The Coordinators would also promote the sharing of best practices to enhance implementation.

The President noted that the concept note was very practical and invited comments from the other Committee members. In its contribution to the discussion, Australia asked whether States were currently providing gender-desegregated data in their Article 7 reports, thereby providing the Committee with a baseline.

The President inquired whether the Coordinators had contacted other disarmament Conventions concerning their experience in gender mainstreaming to which France promised to provide a response at the next meeting of the Committee.

The ISU Director noted that gender mainstreaming was a new element in the CCM context, therefore the ISU and the Coordinators would continue to interact with specialized institutions to learn more on how best to implement the LAP actions. In this regard, she informed that the Gender Working Group had extended an invitation to the Coordinators to attend an event on the subject at The Hague during the APMBC 19MSP.

The CMC pointed out that it would be happy to support the efforts of the Coordinators in this regard.

#### **5.5 Transparency Measures (Iraq)**

Iraq presented the Transparency Measures concept note which was based on the provisions of Actions 43 to 46 of the LAP. Iraq outlined the 3 main objectives of its work in the period up to the 10MSP: 1) facilitate an increased submission of initial and annual Article 7 reports by the 10MSP; 2) in collaboration with the Presidency and other thematic coordinators, engage with the States Parties that had not reported for two consecutive years; and 3) assist in the adaptation of the CCM reporting template. The Coordinator thanked the ISU for its assistance in the preparation of the concept note.

The President underscored the crucial role that Article 7 reports played in the establishment of a baseline for measuring implementation progress. He queried which States Parties with Article 3 or 4 obligations had not reported for two consecutive years. He also asked which of the States Parties with overdue initial reports were most likely to submit their reports by the 10MSP. In response, Iraq stated that it was hopeful that the two newest States Parties – Niue and Sao Tome and Principe - would comply with the reporting obligation soon.

## **5.5 Victim Assistance (Chile and Mexico)**

Mexico, presenting on behalf of the Coordinators, pointed out that the Victim Assistance (VA) concept note was based on LAP Actions 31 to 38 which would guide them on how to engage with the national focal points on the current database representing the 11 States Parties with obligations under Article 5. He highlighted that they would work with these States Parties through the national focal points, missions in Geneva, and embassies abroad, as appropriate, to follow up on the needs and processes to implement the actions established under the LAP. Furthermore, the Coordinators would work to update documents developed prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference to bring these up to date in accordance with the LAP.

The Coordinators intended to prepare a working paper on VA that would help to identify synergies with other legal and policy frameworks which share victim assistance objectives (e.g., APMBC and CCW Protocol V). This document could be used as a guideline for integrated synergistic approaches. The consultations with national focal points would identify some specific challenges to fulfilling the indicators as well as be clear on which would require International Cooperation and Assistance. In this context, the Coordinators would organize an event on VA in the margins of the CCM intersessional meeting. The Coordinators looked forward to working with other thematic Coordinators, the ISU, the APMBC and the GICHD in organising the event to identify the best practices and constructive experience among the 11 States Parties with VA obligations.

In continuing with the presentation, Chile pointed out that the rationale behind their concept note was to work closely with all thematic coordinators as national ownership was a key element in common. This would also avoid duplication of work. She added that exploring synergies and learning from other instruments would advance a pragmatic approach to VA implementation especially as the CCM had a comprehensive provision on the subject. She underscored the need to help States Parties with VA obligations and to encourage them to use the focal point database.

The President took note of the areas of overlap and the importance of not duplicating efforts.

## **6. Update by the CCM Implementation Support Unit**

### **6.1 Financing of the ISU**

The ISU Director reported that 45 States had to date contributed to the ISU 2021 budget, an amount of approximately CHF 340,000 which was just over 72% of the annual budget. She added that in response to the letter of the 10MSP President sent out the previous week reminding States Parties to meet their obligations, 1 State had pledged to make a contribution of EUR 20,000.

## **6.2 LAP Booklet**

The Director reported that 500 copies of the English version of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) had been printed. Distribution had started with some copies already distributed in New York during the bilateral meetings held by the ISU. She further informed that the Arabic, French and Spanish versions would be finalized once the official UN translations were made available online. She then gave copies of the booklet to the Committee members present.

## **6.3 Bilateral Meetings with various States in New York**

The Director gave a report on the week-long ISU mission undertaken two weeks prior to conduct outreach in the margins of the session of the First Committee of the United Nations 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. She reported that the ISU had met with approximately 20 States and had followed up on various issues including on universalization, CCM Resolution and transparency reporting. She briefed the Coordination Committee on the bilateral meetings held with various States not Party such as Kazakhstan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and South Sudan. She highlighted that some States had lamented that the internal processes to join the Convention took a long time while others elaborated different domestic challenges. She promised to circulate the detailed ISU Mission Report once it had been approved by the Presidency.

In the ensuing discussion, Australia asked what challenges to CCM accession/ratification were mentioned by the States engaged with. The Director reported that several reasons were advanced including that the CCM was not a current priority for some countries, that there was a lack of awareness at decision making levels of the key provisions of the Convention, internal bureaucratic bottlenecks, and other reasons such as regional security concerns. The ISU Director pointed out that from the previous outreach, it was also clear that the other reasons behind not ratifying or acceding to the Convention were dependent on different elements such as regional dynamics and some compliance concerns for those that might possess cluster munition stockpiles or had contaminated areas.

## **6.4 Follow up with States with Article 4 Obligations**

The Director reported that the ISU together with the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators had met virtually the previous week with Bosnia and Herzegovina to get an update on the implementation of its extension request workplan. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it was on track to comply with its Article 4 obligations by mid-2022 ahead of its September 2022 deadline. She further reported that it was agreed that if the State Party was not on track in February it would have to submit another extension request. She informed that an in-person meeting had been arranged for the following week and to which the Article 4 and 6 thematic Coordinators had been invited to further discuss Bosnia and Herzegovina's Article 4 implementation and the status of its Country Coalition with Germany.

The Director reported that the ISU intended to similarly meet with Iraq during the APMBC 19MSP in The Hague to discuss Article 4 implementation and its extension request. The ISU would also arrange a meeting with Afghanistan to follow up on the implementation of its extension request workplan.

**7. Any Other Business**

The President thanked Ms. Charlotte Skerten of New Zealand, whose tour of duty in Geneva had come to an end, for her work on the Coordination Committee and wished her bon voyage and all the best in her next assignment.

Ms. Skerten thanked the President for his kind words and expressed her gratitude for the great opportunity for her to serve in the Coordination Committee throughout her stay in Geneva. She also thanked the Committee members for their cooperation in the past years. She informed that her successor, Mr. Nicholas Clutterbuck, would arrive in December and would submit the National Implementation Measures (NIM) concept note as he would have to implement it. She further reported that a video to promote the implementation of NIM had been finalized and would be sent to the ISU soon after to be uploaded onto the Convention website.

**8. Next Coordination Committee Meeting**

The President thanked the Committee for the interactive and fruitful Meeting and informed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would take place on 1 December 2021. He hoped at that meeting to have a full discussion on CCM universalization and elaborate more on the preparations for the 2022 CCM intersessional meeting.

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