



UK Mission
Geneva



10TH MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES
30 AUG - 2 SEPT
GENEVA 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday 28th September 2021
at Hotel d'Angleterre, from 12:30 to 14:30 hours

1. Present:

United Kingdom – 10MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Mr. Simon Cleobury

Ms. Amanda Oeggerli

Iraq – President-Designate (11MSP)

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Switzerland – Immediate past President (2RC)

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Mr. Lukas Eberli

Australia

Ms. Michelle Carr

Bulgaria

Mr. Iassen Tomov

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

France

Ms. Inès Mensah

Germany

Ms. Irmgard Adam

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

The Philippines

Mr. Jonelle John Domingo

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received:

Guyana

Sweden

2. Opening Remarks by the President

Ambassador Aidan Liddle, President of the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP), opened the welcome lunch meeting which was also the first Meeting under the presidency of the United Kingdom by thanking members of the Coordination Committee for their attendance. He introduced the other presidency team members, Mr. Simon Cleobury, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament, and Ms. Amanda Oeggerli. He informed that Ms. Eleonora Saggese, also a member of his team, was unable to attend the meeting and had sent her apologies. The President expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to work closely with the Committee up to the 10MSP.

3. Introduction of Key Priorities of the United Kingdom Presidency

The President began with an outline of the priorities of the UK presidency up to the 10MSP.

3.1 Universalization of the Convention

Ambassador Liddle commended the efforts of Switzerland to promote the Convention in its role as 2RC Presidency. He highlighted that the UK presidency intended to focus the promotion of the CCM amongst Commonwealth states in the Caribbean, Pacific, and Africa, and amongst the South East Asian nations.

3.2. Innovative Finance

The President explained the need to explore alternative models of finance over traditional ones in order to bridge the gap between the funding that currently exists for mine action and the needs of affected states. He reported on a research project funded by the UK on such an approach which pointed out the importance of models that could bridge the funding gap in an innovative way. He emphasised that this had become even more critical following the COVID-19 pandemic and that synergies between the CCM and APMBC in this area should be explored.

3.3. CCM Machinery

Ambassador Liddle informed that with regard to the machinery of the Convention, the focus of the presidency would be on three main areas: -

- a) Convene an intersessional meeting, back-to-back with the APMBC intersessional meeting, in mid-2022. He noted that the meeting would be an opportunity to consider upcoming extension requests and monitor progress made on the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP).
- b) Continue to consult on finances with regard to implementation of Article 14 of the Convention.
- c) Develop a timeline and selection procedure for the recruitment of future ISU Directors to be considered at the 10MSP.

Thereafter, the President invited the immediate past president, Switzerland, to make some remarks. Ambassador Baumann congratulated Ambassador Liddle on his election as 10MSP President and expressed his appreciation to the Coordinators and the ISU for their support during Switzerland's presidency. He reiterated that the 2RC Presidency had planned to undertake several activities to promote CCM universalization in different regions, many of which were hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. He pointed out that he had visited Harare, Zimbabwe, in February 2020 with the ISU Director and was accompanied by representatives of Germany and the United Kingdom based in Harare to meet with the government of Zimbabwe. He added that the Swiss Presidency had also participated in the CARICOM Regional Workshop organised by the ISU and funded by Canada that was hosted by Grenada in March 2020. He expressed the availability of Switzerland to continue to work on CCM universalization in collaboration with the 10MSP Presidency. Ambassador Baumann also welcomed the hosting of an intersessional meeting particularly with more deadline extension requests being submitted.

4. Thematic Coordination Priorities up to the 10MSP

The President invited the thematic Coordinators to share their views on how best to implement the Convention in the period up to the 10MSP.

4.1 Universalization (The Philippines and Spain)

The Philippines congratulated the United Kingdom on the assumption of its role as President of the 10MSP and expressed eagerness to work with Spain as the new Co-Coordinator. The representative began with an outline of priorities from a national perspective. He assured that the Philippines would continue striving to make the CCM more visible in South East Asia through diplomatic engagement as well as military-to-military dialogue to encourage States to join the Convention as well as to promote its norms.

The Philippines conveyed its full support to the priorities of the presidency and the work of the CCM Informal Working Group on Universalization to identify low-hanging fruit for further outreach. In this regard, the Philippines highlighted that the Coordinators would benefit from the Universalization Matrix prepared by the ISU that facilitated for a tailor-made approach in advancing CCM universalization which remained an important strategy.

New Co-Coordinator, Spain, congratulated Ambassador Liddle on his election as 10MSP President and expressed enthusiasm to collaborate with the Philippines to promote the universalization of the Convention. Spain would continue to support the work of previous presidencies and coordinators and assured the President of its support for his regional approach to advance CCM universalization. The representative highlighted that Spain had diplomatic representation in the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa and that this network could be useful in this endeavour. Spain echoed the Philippines in its backing for the tailor-made approach to promote the Convention.

The President thanked the Coordinators for their perspectives and noted the previous collaboration between the Universalization Coordinators and the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, New Zealand, in advancing the work of both thematic areas.

In its contribution to the discussion, New Zealand informed that it would continue to focus on outreach to Pacific States and highlighted that it had an ongoing workstream on universalization of conventional arms treaties in the region. New Zealand acknowledged that certain obstacles, such as the lack of capacity for some of the States, hindered its work in this regard. New Zealand pointed out that promoting the adoption of national implementation measures needed to begin at the ratification stage and that it was committed to support the universalization efforts of the President.

Spain conveyed its appreciation for New Zealand's informative side event on the Pacific in the margins of the 2RC Part 2 and underlined that New Zealand's model of universalization of the Pacific was worth emulating in other regions.

The President thanked New Zealand for its show of support and underscored that the presidency would be targeting Pacific and Caribbean countries at the 76th UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) First Committee sessions.

In contribution to the discussion, the ICRC representative expressed her support to the President's evaluations and approaches to universalization. She reported that the ICRC had in 2020 worked with the Swiss Presidency to organise regional workshops such as the African Union workshop, the majority of which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. She pointed out that the planned activities could be revived and highlighted that hard work was needed in South East Asia due to its geopolitical environment and also in Africa. The ICRC reminded of its field presence worldwide which could be valuable support to the Presidency's universalization efforts. The ICRC informed that its biennial Commonwealth International Humanitarian Law (IHL) symposium and other regional IHL seminars could be used to support the efforts of the Coordination Committee. Concerning the Convention's national implementation measures, the ICRC indicated that it had developed tools (model law and checklist) to assist States Parties to fulfil their obligations under Article 9. The ICRC expressed its intention to continue to support the work of New Zealand in the Pacific.

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) representative offered her congratulations to Ambassador Liddle on his election as 10MSP President and pledged the full support of the CMC to the work of the Convention. She restated that universalization required a concerted effort and that it had a good ground network to assist in advancing such efforts. The CMC conveyed its readiness to work with the UK Presidency and informed that based on its longstanding exchanges, it had identified Jamaica and Kazakhstan as States that had shown interest in the CCM, with Jamaica probably quite close to ratification. The CMC further encouraged the President to pursue dialogue with States that were not likely to accede to the Convention soon to at least encourage them to undertake some interim steps in the meantime.

The President thanked the CMC for its support, in particular for the publication of the Monitor which was a useful source of information.

4.2 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand acknowledged that the efforts to advance national implementation measures (NIM) were particularly difficult and had been exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. The representative also informed that the last regional workshop it co-hosted was in 2019 in Manila, Philippines, targeted at the Asia-Pacific region. New Zealand announced that it was currently developing a video with a simple message on NIM to inform and remind States Parties of their Article 9 obligations.

In contributing to the discussion, the ICRC reiterated its determination to continue to support the NIM outreach effort. It highlighted the need to support states that lacked the capacity to review existing legislation or to draft new legislation in the implementation of the CCM. The ICRC reported that it had presented at a virtual drafting workshop for APMBC States Parties in May 2021 and recommended that a similar workshop be held for CCM States Parties.

4.3 Transparency Measures (Iraq)

Iraq congratulated Ambassador Liddle on his election as 10MSP President. Iraq reported that it had been serving as Coordinator on Transparency Measures since 2018 with the goal to increase the timely submission of initial and annual reports. The Coordinator reported that, with the support of the ISU, Iraq had regularly conducted outreach activities to remind States to submit outstanding initial reports. With regard to annual reports that were due on 30 April annually, the Coordinator informed that he sent a reminder to States Parties in February every year to encourage timely submissions. He also reported that only 64 States had submitted their 2020 annual report. The Coordinator added that he had sent individual reminder letters to all States Parties with overdue annual reports and informed of the difficulty in the identification of disarmament focal points of States with no representation in Geneva.

4.4 International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Montenegro)

Prior to inviting the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance to share their priorities, Ambassador Liddle introduced the thematic with an observation from the UK tenure on the APMBC Committee on Cooperation and Assistance concerning the considerable gap in mine action funding, which had only increased during the ongoing pandemic. Mr Cleobury briefed the Committee that the United Kingdom, in collaboration with the HALO Trust and Social Finance, had explored innovative finance to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action, and identified several models of mixing government and investor funding. During the research, interviews with representatives of the government, mine action centres and operators were conducted, which informed the outcome of the report. The research received a lukewarm response initially, but the report concluded that this innovative financing could also be done in the impact bond sector. The Presidency noted that there was potential to apply that knowledge to the work of the CCM, however, this would ultimately depend on the level of commitment of States Parties and donors or investors.

Ambassador Liddle added that the United Kingdom was in the process of implementing innovative finance in the context of mine action in Cambodia. He informed that the United Kingdom would explore this subject further at the Wilton Park conference and during the CCM intersessional meeting, both scheduled for early 2022, and potentially also collaborate with the APMBC on this.

On behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Montenegro offered its congratulations to Ambassador Liddle on assuming the role of 10MSP President and expressed its gratitude to Ambassador Baumann and the ISU for their hard work up to the conclusion of the 2RC. Montenegro expressed its support for the President's views on the role of international cooperation and assistance supporting states with limited capacities and made reference to Montenegro's own experience as a recipient of assistance in implementing its Article 4 obligations. Montenegro commended the efforts of the Netherlands as previous Co-Coordinator and expressed its enthusiasm to work with Germany in the coming year. Montenegro reported that the Coordinators had worked closely with States Parties that had impending Article 3 and 4 deadlines that required to be extended and emphasised the need for cooperation and assistance for states with these obligations.

Montenegro underscored the importance for the current Coordinators to continue to support States Parties with forthcoming deadlines which require assistance, such as Mauritania, Somalia, and Afghanistan. The representative stressed that the role of the Coordinators was significant in achieving concrete outcomes in CCM implementation. He informed that the Coordinators would endeavour to organize a meeting to bring together affected and donor States to better understand the challenges faced by both parties. Montenegro announced that the Country Coalition booklet had recently been developed to inform States Parties with timebound Article 3 and 4 obligations on the practicalities of establishing such partnerships.

Germany, the new Co-Coordinator on International Cooperation and Assistance, highlighted the crucial role of the thematic area in enabling States Parties to fulfil the Convention's obligations. Germany expressed its readiness to continue the work that had been achieved and its anticipation of moving it forward.

In contributing to the discussion, the ICRC informed of its experience in innovative financing with the "Humanitarian Impact Bond" for physical rehabilitation programmes and that Cambodia was one of the showcase projects.

The CMC highlighted that the Article 6 Coordinators played a vital role in the consideration of Article 3 and 4 extension requests and commended the Coordinators for their persistence in engaging with requesting States and for setting the bar high for extension requests. She noted that this would be a good model for the APMBC to adopt in its own extension request processes.

4.5 Victim Assistance (Mexico & Chile)

Mexico congratulated the 10MSP President on his election and Iraq as 11MSP President-Designate. On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Mexico highlighted the importance of the start of a new cycle for the Convention and the emergence of new priorities and updated approach on the thematic area found in the LAP. Mexico pointed out that there was a lot of convergence and that synergies between CCM and the APMBC in this area was mutually reinforcing. Mexico reminded the meeting of the victim assistance database developed with the previous Co-Coordinator, Spain, which was designed to increase information exchange between the national focal points of States Parties with VA obligations. Mexico outlined that the current Coordinators would build on what had been achieved through the identification of one or two most developed victim assistance programmes to showcase as success stories for others to emulate. The Coordinators also planned to engage with relevant States Parties, either virtually or in-person during the upcoming CCM intersessional meeting, to discuss challenges faced by States such as survey and reporting. Mexico further highlighted the need to translate the actions in the LAP that would broaden VA efforts into the implementation of VA obligations on the ground. Mexico pointed out that VA needed to be integrated into the framework of international cooperation and assistance that went beyond international aid.

Chile also congratulated Ambassador Liddle on his election as 10MSP President and expressed its deepest appreciation to Ambassador Baumann for having successfully concluded his role as 2RC President. Having served on the APMBC Committee on Victim Assistance, Chile recommended that the Coordinators went beyond the identification of VA focal points to assist in the improvement of inter-agency communication to achieve more successful implementation. Chile reiterated the need to integrate VA funding into the general framework of the Convention to increase its visibility, and highlighted the opportunity to explore synergies between CCM, APMBC and CCW Protocol V in tackling issues such as VA financing and bringing together different national authorities that deal with this thematic area.

4.6 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Australia & Bulgaria)

Bulgaria expressed its excitement to join the Coordination Committee and share its national experience in stockpile destruction. Bulgaria thanked the ISU for its support and assistance in the implementation of its Article 3 obligations and reported that Bulgaria was on track to complete the destruction of its cluster munition stockpile by its extended deadline of 1 October 2022. Bulgaria reiterated that universalization was one of the main challenges of the Convention and assured of its support towards overcoming this challenge.

Australia, as Co-Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, highlighted that transparency was important in the work of the thematic area as well as exploring synergies between various disarmament conventions in addressing issues such as mine action funding and advancing CCM universalization. Australia also expressed its pleasure to continue in its role as Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction.

4.7 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Namibia and France)

France shared its enthusiasm to serve as a Coordinator on General Status and Operation of the Convention in the coming year. France assured that it was ready to avail itself to support the work of the presidency.

The President then invited the 11MSP President-Designate, Iraq, to make some remarks. In his contribution to the discussion, Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa of Iraq offered his warm congratulations to Ambassador Liddle on his unanimous election as 10MSP President and thanked Ambassador Baumann for his leadership in presiding over the 2RC. The President-Designate assured that Iraq shared the priorities of the 10MSP Presidency and would support the presidency in its work. He noted that CCM universalization was the priority of Iraq and all CCM States Parties. Ambassador Mostafa observed that many States in the Middle East and North Africa region were not party to the Convention and a regional approach would be needed to promote CCM norms amongst these countries. He highlighted the use of regional tools and perspectives as well as available regional fora and organisations to enhance CCM universalization. He also supported the strategy of encouraging the adoption of interim positions on cluster munitions by States not Party. He further pointed out that many countries in the region were affected States and recipients of mine action funding. He concluded with an expression of his gratitude to the President and Coordination Committee and stressed that his term as 11MSP President-Designate would give him the opportunity to learn more about the different aspects of the work of the Convention.

5. Discussion on the Draft 2021 UNGA First Committee Resolution

The President reported that the draft Resolution with some technical updates had been circulated by the ISU the previous week. He hoped that all Committee Members had had the opportunity to look at the draft and opened the floor for comments on the draft Resolution and its sponsorship.

Ambassador Baumann thanked Ambassador Liddle for providing the draft and expressed Switzerland's readiness to support and sponsor the Resolution as circulated.

New Zealand commended the President for the excellent draft and confirmed that it would be happy to sponsor the Resolution.

The Mexican representative commended the practice of seeking the joint sponsorship of the Resolution by the Coordination Committee members. He reported that he had shared the draft document with his capital and was awaiting instructions. Nevertheless, he expressed his intention to provide some preliminary comments. Mexico expressed its preference to retain the preambular paragraph (PP) 14 on the initiative of the UN Secretary-General as well as PP 10 that highlighted Central America as being the first cluster munitions-free region in the world.

Ambassador Liddle thanked Mexico for its comments and affirmed that he intended to avoid controversial discussions related to PP 14. He added that the presidency would consider the retention of PP 10 as it would inspire other regions to follow the example of Central America.

Spain, Australia and Montenegro also expressed their readiness to support and co-sponsor the Resolution.

Chile informed that it shared the view of Mexico on PP 10 and would also confirm its position as co-sponsor of the Resolution once instructions were received from its capital.

In contribution to the discussion, the ISU Director reminded the meeting of the need to engage with States that had previously voted No on the Resolution to ensure that they would not vote against the Resolution in the current year. In response, the President reported that he had already begun a conversation with one of the States that had formerly voted against the Resolution, but it had not expressed a clear indication on how it would vote in this cycle.

Ambassador Liddle conveyed his warm appreciation to all who had contributed to the discussion and informed that he might invite the Coordination Committee to meet virtually to further discuss the Resolution should the need arise.

6. Thematic Concept Notes

The President tasked the thematic Coordinators with the preparation of concept notes to specify which activities they would undertake in the period up to the 10MSP to facilitate increased application of the provisions of the Convention as well as to monitor and evaluate its implementation. It was agreed that the thematic concept notes would be considered at the next meeting of the Coordination Committee.

7. Closing Remarks by the President

The President thanked the members of the Coordination Committee for their active engagement in the discussions held and looked forward to the next meeting of the Committee.

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