



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

MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday 11 August 2016

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

1. PRESENT:

The Netherlands – 6MSP President

H.E. Henk Cor Van der Kwast

Mr. Mark Verstedden

Ms. Heleen Huijgen

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Austria

H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi

Costa Rica

H.E. Marcelo Varela

Croatia

Ms. Alida Matković

Czech Republic

Ms. Markéta Homolková

France

Mr. Simon Decaux

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Mexico

Mr. Víctor Martínez

Norway

Ms. Malgorzata Hauge

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - CCM ISU

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Chile

Ecuador

New Zealand

Zambia

ICRC

2. Opening Remarks by the President

The 6th Coordination Committee meeting of 2016 was opened by CCM President, Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands with a warm welcome to all the Committee members who were able to attend the meeting in spite of the summer break and the busy humanitarian Disarmament agenda.

He then presented the 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 30 June 2016

The draft Minutes, which had been circulated in advance, were approved without comment as a correct record of what had transpired during the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 30 June 2016.

4. Update from the CCM Presidency

The President commenced with an update on matters of a general nature with regard to the implementation and performance of the Convention.

4.1 Update on the CCM ISU financial situation

The President circulated a table summarizing who had paid their contributions and how much before urging again all the Coordinators to encourage their governments to contribute to the ISU Trust fund which would assure the smooth operations of the CCM ISU.

4.2 6MSP preparation

The President informed the meeting that all official documents of the 6MSP are now available in the six official UN languages on the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs webpage dedicated to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. He added that he would provide more information later in the meeting.

4.3 6th anniversary since entry into force of the Convention

The President reminded the meeting of the 6th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 1st August 2016. He congratulated the Coordination Committee members on the work done since entry into force of the Convention and welcomed the fact that 100 States had become parties to the Convention since its adoption in 2008.

In its capacity as the President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Netherlands also congratulated France on its destruction of stockpiles as announced on 30 June 2016. The President informed the meeting that the Presidency issued a statement on the CCM website on 1st of July to officially congratulate France on this major achievement.

5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators

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

5.1 General Status and Operation (Czech Republic and Switzerland)

On behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Czech Republic informed the Meeting that the Coordinators had nothing new to report.

5.2 Universalization (Ecuador and Zambia)

Both Coordinators had sent their apologies to the CCM ISU. In his contribution to this thematic update, the President highlighted that both the Ambassadors of Ecuador and Zambia had been very active in approaching various missions in Geneva and that he had participated in some of the meetings. The Latin American and African regions had been particularly reached out to.

In going further into the subject, the President underlined three actions implemented to promote the universalization of the Convention. Firstly, the President referred to the letters sent by the United Nations Secretary General to States not parties, encouraging them to consider becoming a party to the Convention. Secondly, the President reported on the Presidency's efforts to promote universalization of the Convention through letters sent to Ministers of Foreign Affairs by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to demarches; some presented in collaboration with Coordinators and others directly. Finally, the President underlined efforts made by campaigners and NGOs in that regard. The President invited the CMC to give an overview of its recent campaigning efforts.

The CMC reported that to mark the 6th anniversary of entry into force of the CCM, its member organizations implemented activities in 24 States, thereby reminding governments and the international community of the need to eradicate cluster munitions. CMC also informed the Committee that it could find additional information on these activities on the CMC website.

5.3 Victim Assistance (Australia and Chile)

Australia, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, informed the meeting that the Draft Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance had been distributed to participants in the 18 May workshop on Victim Assistance for comments through a web-based platform. Australia also reported that a version of the document had been sent to UNODA for translation into the 6 UN languages and was now available on the 6MSP page on its website in advance of the 6MSP. The Coordinator concluded by saying that all States parties were invited to provide comments on the document ahead of the 6MSP and that the Guidance document would be finalized later in the year.

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

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction, Norway reported that the Coordinators did not have anything new to report on since the last update.

5.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (France and Mexico)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, Mexico reported that since the last Coordination Committee meeting, there had only been one response from Germany to the targeted letters sent to States that needed to provide updated information in their current Article 7 Report and/or States that had completed stockpile destruction and could share experiences and best practices. France also informed the meeting that it would

organize, in collaboration with Italy, a side event on the subject of stockpile destruction during the 6MSP.

5.6 International Cooperation and Assistance (Austria and Iraq)

On behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Iraq reported that the Coordinators did not have anything new to report on since the last update.

5.7 Transparency Reporting (Costa Rica)

The Coordinator on Transparency Reporting, Costa Rica, informed the meeting that they were ready to step down from the role and provide an opportunity for another State to take over as Coordinator. The Coordinator, however, mentioned that Costa Rica was also willing to stay for another term.

5.8 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

The Coordinator on National Implementation Measures had sent her apologies to the CCM ISU. The CMC and CCM ISU provided a short summary on the *Africa Regional workshop on universalization of the CCM* that was held in Addis Ababa from 4 - 5 August 2016. It was reported that 17 African States had met to discuss challenges and solutions faced in ratifying/acceding to the CCM and on how boost efforts to reach a cluster munitions free Africa. It was highlighted that the workshop had brought together representatives from non-signatory States, Signatory States and States parties to the Convention. Participants of the workshop adopted the *Addis Ababa Commitment on universalization and implementation of the CCM*, thereby reiterating their commitment to free Africa from cluster munitions and to strengthen the global norm against these weapons.

6. Looking ahead to the 6th Meeting of States Parties (6MSP)

The President shared a general overview of the 6MSP with the Coordination Committee and elaborated as follows:-

- 6.1 That all the official documents of the meeting were available in the six official UN languages on the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs webpage.
- 6.2 That 9 side events were already indicated with more requests expected to arrive prior to the closing date of 19 August.
- 6.3 That one extra room for side events has been reserved in addition to the two rooms already pre-booked. He thanked the UNODA for its assistance in this regard.
- 6.4 That the GICHD would make a presentation in plenary on Survey & Mapping. The President informed the meeting that he would formally ask Ambassador Toscano to provide such input during the clearance session of the 6MSP. The President highlighted the vast experience and expertise of the GICHD in the Mine Action Sector which would benefit the meeting delegates.
- 6.5 That the Presidency was still working on getting a high level delegate from the Dutch government, notwithstanding the long scheduled visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights taking place at the same time in the Netherlands.

- 6.6 That the Presidency continued to work on the proposal to provide an opportunity for States to submit overdue their initial and annual Article 7 Reports during the 6MSP. With the support of the Implementation Support Unit, a side room would be set up to receive these reports. The proposal was that each State that submitted its report would have its flag moved from the side room to the plenary with the aim of stimulating an increase in the transparency reporting rate. He informed the meeting that practical details on how this would be done concretely would be discussed further with the Implementation Support Unit.
- 6.7 That the Presidency would hire Ms. Laila Rodriguez, who has worked in the past with the APMBU ISU, to help with social media coverage and drafting of contents during the 6MSP.
- 6.8 That the Presidency had drafted and circulated to the Coordination Committee a Political Declaration for possible adoption at the 6MSP. The President informed that so far he had received comments from the CMC and was informed by New Zealand that they would also provide written feedback. He encouraged Coordinators to provide their input during the following two weeks in order to resolve any contentious issues prior to the 6MSP. He further highlighted that the idea of adopting a Political Declaration was to move CCM implementation forward and show tangible progress. Finally, he informed the meeting that the Presidency intended to organize an informal consultative meeting prior to the 6MSP to present and discuss the draft Declaration in more detail with a wider group.

In the ensuing discussion, France asked if the meeting felt it was relevant to single out two countries (Syria and Yemen) as described in paragraph 6 of the draft Political Declaration. The President gave the floor to the CMC who clarified that while the Dubrovnik Declaration specifically mentioned 7 States, Syria and Yemen were the only two States with confirmed use of cluster munitions since the First Review Conference (1RC). CMC mentioned there was also credible evidence of use in the not internationally recognized area of Nagorno-Karabakh, and a report of use in Somalia that did not reach the threshold of certainty that would allow confirmation of use.

In contributing to the discussion, Austria noted that it understood some of the concerns expressed and that care needed to be taken not to mention uncertain cases as this would have severe consequences on credibility. Austria also mentioned that it was important to stick to the formulation of the Dubrovnik Declaration on the condemnation of any use of cluster munitions. Based on this, Austria expressed support towards naming Syria and Yemen in the Political Declaration.

In its contribution, Australia thanked the Presidency for taking forward this Declaration. In Australia's view it was important to have a consensus document. The coordinator further clarified that Australia had no problem naming countries and that it agreed with France's previous comments. The coordinator thanked the CMC for providing clarifications on the issue. Australia further stated that it was important to re-use the language of the Dubrovnik Declaration at the least. He reminded the meeting that, as had been the case in Dubrovnik, Australia and a number of other countries would likely have difficulty with unqualified condemnation of "any use, by any actor" because of the provisions of CCM Article 21. He asked for flexibility in the wording on this issue. He had not yet received instructions from capital but would be happy to provide alternative language in due course.

In concluding remarks, Australia mentioned that it also had comments on the Declaration in its capacity as Coordinator on Victim Assistance and that the Coordinator would provide written input in that regard.

In concluding discussions, the President agreed that it was not necessary to repeat the names of the countries already mentioned in the Dubrovnik Political Declaration. However, the President reminded the meeting that it was important to highlight fundamental cases for which reliable information was available. The President therefore strongly supported the idea of naming Syria and Yemen in the Political Declaration for the 6MSP. Furthermore, the President mentioned he would take note of Australia's suggestions to include a stronger paragraph on Victim Assistance and most importantly to consider use of the Dubrovnik Declaration language to avoid any politicization of the process. Finally, the President strongly encouraged the meeting to provide comments on the document during the following two weeks.

Iraq acknowledged the importance of issuing a Political Declaration and emphasized that it was still studying the draft document.

7. Updates on the consideration of 2016 – 2018 Thematic Coordinators

The President thanked the States that had come forward to take up the positions that would be falling vacant. In this regard, he reported that the following States had expressed their interest to oversee the under listed thematic working groups:

- General Status and Operation: Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Universalization: since the last meeting, France had expressed its interest in universalization. However, the position had already been taken by Germany.
- The President said he would get in touch with France to see if they would be interested in any of the remaining positions: victim assistance, stockpile destruction and retention or clearance and risk reduction education.

Australia asked the Presidency if it was compulsory under the Convention for a Coordinator to leave after a two year term. The President gave the floor to the CCM ISU Director who confirmed that States were encouraged not to stay longer than 2 years but that the issue of continuity had been managed differently in practice due to only a few countries being actively engaged in the work of the Committee. The CCM ISU Director promised to share the document with the guidelines with the Presidency.

8. Update on the search for 7th MSP President

The President reported to the Coordination Committee that prior to the summer he had a meeting with a potential candidate State to preside over the CCM and 7MSP. The candidate State promised it would provide a reply after the summer break.

The President announced to the meeting that in the meantime, a third State had shown interest in taking over the Presidency. The President stressed that preference would be given to an affected State to preside over the Convention in 2017 with the possibility for a non-affected state to take over in 2018. The CCM President informed the meeting that he would report back to the Coordination Committee as soon as he heard back from candidate States.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Sponsorship for the 6 MSP

The President reported on his idea of approaching a number of major airlines with big corporate social responsibility programmes to request their assistance in supporting the participation of affected and low income States in the 6MSP. The President informed that KLM had responded negatively though other letters had been sent to three more airlines (Emirates, Lufthansa and Swiss).

The President also informed that New Zealand was planning to provide sponsorship to five targeted African countries.

10. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee, which would focus on the preparations for the 6MSP, be held at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, 4th Floor Conference Room, at 10:00 hours on Thursday, 1st September 2016.

The President encouraged Coordinators to send any matters to be raised during the next Coordination Committee meeting beforehand as this would be the last meeting prior to the 6MSP.
