



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Thursday 23 March 2017

at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, from 10:00 – 11:30 hours

1. Present:

Germany - 7MSP President

H.E. Michael Biontino
Mr. Toralf Pilz

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Costa Rica

Ms. Maricela Muñoz

France

Ms. Camille Guffet

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Italy

Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Mexico

Mr. Víctor Martínez

Netherlands

Mr. Mark Versteden

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly
Mr. Michael Bilodeau

Norway

Ms. Malgorzata Hauge

Switzerland

Mr. Laurent Masméjean

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munition Coalition

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Apologies not received

Chile

2. Opening Remarks by the President

President of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP), Ambassador Michael Biontino of the Federal Republic of Germany, opened the third Coordination Committee meeting of 2017 with a warm welcome to all the Committee members.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 24 February 2017

The Committee approved without corrections the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Friday 24 February 2017 as a correct record of what had been discussed and agreed to during that meeting.

4. Update from the 7MSP Presidency

Ambassador Biontino provided an update on the implementation of the activities undertaken by the Presidency since the last Meeting.

4.1 Bangkok Seminar

The President reported on the South East Asia regional seminar on “*Cooperating to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions: the country coalition concept*” which was held in Bangkok, on 16 and 17 March 2017. Ambassador Biontino highlighted that the seminar was made possible as a result of the generous financial contribution of the European Union, with the support of the French think tank organization, *La Fondation pour la recherche stratégique*, and the ISU-CCM. He further stated that it had been a good event held in the most appropriate region. The President also reported that most States in the region attended the event, with the exception of Vietnam and Singapore but noted that donor State participation had been lower than expected. In providing an insight into the dynamics of the seminar, the President explained that discussions held among participants were lively and that all who attended had engaged fully. In this regard, the President underlined that Sri Lanka and Thailand had shown great interest in joining the Convention. In continuing his update, the President explained that States welcomed the low key approach outlined in the country coalition concept and praised the Presidency’s initiative which provided visibility and created momentum for future constructive work on the Convention in the region.

In concluding the report, Ambassador Biontino informed the meeting that the Presidency envisioned holding a follow up seminar with a different thematic focus in another region. To this end, the President mentioned that it would reach out to the *Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC)* in Croatia to consider hosting such a seminar before the summer. He emphasized that the country coalition concept’s main purpose was to promote dialogue and not to “reinvent the wheel” in terms of CCM implementation.

4.2 Structured Dialogue

The President reported that he had held informal discussions with a total of 14 States that produce and/or possess cluster munitions, including Syria. The President reiterated that he did not expect much yield in the short term as this was a confidence-building exercise that would require time. It was, nonetheless, important to continue engaging in a constructive dialogue with these States. He explained that he would reach out to Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine in the following weeks.

While reminding the meeting that some States had explained that in practice the decision to join the Convention was influenced by considerations of military expediency, the President explained that he had already started thinking about a way to extend the dialogue onto a military to military level.

On this topic, the President added that the idea would be to hold an event where the military could share their perspectives on different thematic discussions such as: cluster munitions (CM) delivery systems and their reliability; military challenges related to the replacement of CM; CM and International Humanitarian Law (IHL); and CM destruction techniques. The President concluded his update on this matter by informing that he would provide more details on the initiative at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

4.3 Synergies between Conventions

The President reminded the meeting of the decision taken at the CCM First Review Conference in Dubrovnik to explore and develop proposals for possible synergies with other ISUs, in particular the ISU-APMBC, with a view to enhance efficiency and further reduce costs. The President also added that Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Switzerland, in their capacity as Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, would report more on this issue later during the meeting.

On the same theme, the President explained that a first meeting of the CCM Presidency, APMBC Presidency, CCM Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the ISU-APMBC and ISU-CCM staff had taken place on 24 February. The President explained that the purpose of the meeting was to start looking at options for possible synergies between the two ISUs. He summarized the two approaches put forward when envisaging further synergies. The first approach would consist in developing a top down model with a pyramidal structure led by one Director and composed of two units with different mandates; while the second approach would be based on a bottom up model where ISUs would share administrative matters as well as work together where tasks overlap on issues such as clearance, land release, victim assistance and risk reduction education. The President stressed that the meeting had been fruitful and had established that there already existed cooperation and coordination between the two units. It also illuminated what was practically possible or not possible given their different mandates.

While acknowledging that the machinery and membership of the two Conventions are largely different, the President explained that he would consider making the most of an already planned GICHD organizational audit to also look at the structure of the ISUs. The President concluded by saying he would follow up on this idea in order to get a better view of what was a viable way forward.

4.4 Land release workshop

The President reported to the meeting that the APMBC and CCM Presidencies, with the technical support of the GICHD, would jointly organize an event across Conventions on land release in the margins of the APMBC intersessional meetings on 7 June 2017. The President informed that the purpose of the workshop would be to further forge practical examples of synergies between the two similar Conventions. The President encouraged Coordination Committee members to attend the event and actively participate in it. He concluded by saying that the event was in line with the workshop on Article 4 implementation organized by CCM Coordinators on clearance in Beirut, Lebanon, in November 2016.

5. **Presentation by the Coordinators on implementation of operational plans based on approved thematic concept notes of their work up to the 7MSP**

5.1 Victim Assistance (Chile and Italy)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Italy explained that Coordinators were on track with the implementation of their action plan. Italy informed the meeting that it had sent out generic letters and more specific ones to a list of target States Parties with victim assistance obligations. Italy added that it had received answers from Albania and Croatia and that it would start making courtesy calls to permanent missions to follow up with other States.

The Coordinator also reported having identified 7 countries that indicated needing assistance for the implementation of victim assistance obligations in their 2015 national reports. Together with the Coordinators on cooperation and assistance, Chile and Italy will discuss the best way to convey such requests to potential donors.

In continuing its submission, Italy stated that it envisaged organizing two events on victim assistance in the months ahead, in cooperation with Austria in its capacity as President of the 16MSP of the Convention on anti-personnel landmines. The first would be held during the APMBC intersessional meetings in June, most likely in the form of a panel discussion while the second would be a side event at the CCM 7MSP in September. The Coordinator further explained that both events would most probably address the question of gender in victim assistance. To conclude its update, Italy told the meeting that Coordinators would reach out to partners such as the ICRC, the CMC and the 2 ISUs in order to discuss the possible specific issues to be addressed during the two meetings.

The President thanked the Coordinator for the detailed update and concluded this section emphasizing the importance of gender as highlighted during Handicap International's presentation on gender mainstreaming at the Bangkok workshop.

5.2 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Iraq)

Australia, speaking on behalf of the two thematic Coordinators, reminded the meeting that they had hosted a closed informal meeting on *Enhancing International Cooperation and Assistance under the CCM* at beginning of February 2017. The Coordinator further mentioned that they were waiting for the final go ahead from some States in order to publish the meeting's final report.

Iraq added that Coordinators had already received feedback from some States and that the final version would be shared soon.

In concluding the update on activities undertaken, Australia explained that it had delivered a presentation during the Bangkok seminar highlighting the key outcomes of the February informal meeting and how these could be applied in the implementation of the country coalition concept. It was also reported that the Coordinators were conducting ongoing consultations on a follow-up meeting of a similar nature during the June APMBC intersessional meeting.

5.3 Universalization (France and Zambia)

Zambia, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on universalization, commended the President for the successful seminar it held in Bangkok. It was reported that the workshop on universalization scheduled to have been held immediately after the Bangkok Seminar on 17 March 2017 had to be

cancelled due to the poor response to invitations sent out. While acknowledging that the Bangkok seminar focused on the Country Coalition Concept, the Coordinator explained that he was confident that the meeting would also contribute to general universalization efforts in the region.

In continuing its update on activities undertaken, Zambia reported that the Coordinators were in the process of translating some of the letters that would soon after be sent to Signatory States encouraging them to ratify the Convention.

The Coordinators further explained that they were still considering holding a ratification seminar for African Signatory States in late April with the financial support of New Zealand. In this regard, Zambia mentioned that it had reached out to Uganda as a possible host for the event.

Adding to the Coordinators' report, France explained that Canada, Germany, Japan and France had all delivered demarches to the Sri Lankan authorities encouraging them to accede to the CCM. To this end, France mentioned that States should step up efforts to get the Ministry of Defense on board as there had been good feedback on Sri Lanka's ratification of the APMBBC and accession to the CCM.

The President reiterated the Presidency's availability to participate in joint demarches and thanked both Coordinators for sharing this valuable information. He also noted that the willingness of Uganda to host the African workshop would be most useful in achieving the objectives of the event.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction (Croatia and Mexico)

Mexico, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, reported to the meeting that following bilateral meetings held between the ISU-CCM and operators in the margins of the 20th NDM-UN meeting, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) had indicated that it was in a position to assist Botswana destroy its stockpile of cluster munitions. The Coordinator concluded by reporting that Botswana had been requested as a first step, to submit an official letter to NPA requesting an assessment and verification mission.

5.5 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Netherlands and Norway)

Norway, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, reported to the meeting that they were currently identifying issues and/or opportunities for a new project. In this regard, Norway explained that the Coordinators looked forward to reading the final report of the Bangkok Seminar and to learning from the Land Release workshop that would be held in June. Similarly, Norway explained that the Coordinators had followed up on the discussions held in the margins of the 20th NDM-UN with both operators and capital-based representatives and in this context, they had held a productive meeting with Lao PDR. Additionally, Norway reported that operators had shared interesting information on new initiatives and that the Coordinators might decide to support an already existing project.

In adding to the update, the Netherlands reminded the meeting of the imperative to focus on both low and high contaminated States Parties in order to reach the 2030 completion deadline. In this regard, the Netherlands highlighted that given the strong involvement of the United States of America in the country, implementing a project in Lao PDR would require a lot of preparation.

The President thanked Norway and the Netherlands for the update and emphasized that South East Asia was a region where concrete mine action interventions could be applied. He added that there was great value in moving from bilateral to multilateral approaches in dealing with the challenges of mine action. He highlighted that the dynamics in South East Asia were good and concluded this thematic section by encouraging Coordinators to consider focusing on that region.

5.6 Transparency Measures (Costa Rica)

Costa Rica, Coordinator for Transparency Measures, started by apologizing for not being able to participate fully at the CCM coordination meetings due to its role of presiding over the Nuclear Ban Treaty negotiations. Costa Rica also indicated that it had not been possible to personally engage with as many countries as it would have envisioned. However, Costa Rica informed the meeting that it had sent letters in English, French and Spanish to 21 targeted countries with overdue initial or annual transparency reports as outlined in its action plan. The Coordinator further reported that it had made courtesy calls to some States in order to follow up on the letters sent and explore ways of cooperating on this important issue. Following these phone calls, Costa Rica explained that some Permanent Missions had committed to reaching out to their capitals. Costa Rica concluded by thanking the President and the Coordination Committee for their understanding.

The President thanked the Coordinator for the update and expressed its full support for Costa Rica's multiple responsibilities in the broader disarmament agenda.

5.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

In its role as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, New Zealand, reported that there had been little uptake of its offer/request to meet with those targeted States Parties still in the process of drafting and adopting national implementing legislation. Only Lebanon had agreed to meet and, although the meeting was constructive, it was clear that a range of domestic challenges had prevented progress from being made in recent years. Lebanon indicated an interest in moving things forward and undertook to stay in touch with the Coordinator in the event that assistance could be provided.

New Zealand conveyed to the meeting that it was hopeful it would have funding for the organization of a regional seminar for African signatory States on ratification and implementation of the CCM. The Coordinator further highlighted the importance in its view of addressing possible challenges to national implementation of the Convention during or prior to the ratification process.

With regards to the two drafts mentioned during the previous Coordination Committee (one guidance document on how States could address the financing of cluster munitions and a short briefing document aimed at facilitating promotion of the CCM by New Zealand posts in all relevant bilateral and regional engagements in 2017), New Zealand informed the meeting that it was still consulting capital and that it would report back at the next meeting.

The President thanked New Zealand for its efforts and concluded this section by acknowledging how difficult of a task it was to follow up on States Parties' obligations to implement provisions domestically.

5.8 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Switzerland)

Switzerland, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, explained that the Coordinators had started working in parallel on the three tasks assigned to them by the presidency; namely, the review of the ISU-CCM Hosting Agreement between CCM States Parties and the GICHD; the exploration of possible synergies between ISUs; and the review of the ISU-CCM financing model.

a. *ISU Hosting Agreement*

Regarding the first task, Switzerland reminded the meeting that the Agreement between the States Parties to the CCM and the GICHD on the Hosting of the Implementation Support Unit for the Convention was signed in 2014 and endorsed by the Fifth Meeting of States Parties. The Coordinator further clarified that Paragraph 7 of the Agreement indicated that the agreement would be reviewed every three years by a Meeting of States Parties.

In this context, the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention had been tasked by the 7MSP Presidency to undertake the necessary steps for the review to be taken forward. To facilitate this process, the meeting was informed that letters had been sent to the two most concerned parties: the GICHD and ISU-CCM. The letters sought to ascertain first, whether the ISU had received the support as per the agreement and second; what step the GICHD had taken to implement the Agreement. Switzerland explained that it expected to hear back from both entities by the end of March and this feedback would determine what further steps are required, if any.

b. *Exploration of Synergies between ISUs*

Reporting on the second task, the Coordinator reminded the meeting of the decision taken at the CCM First Review Conference in Dubrovnik to explore and develop proposals for possible synergies with other ISUs, in particular the ISU-APMBC. The Coordinator further explained that at the 15MSP of the APMBC it was resolved that the APMBC Presidency was also required to report on this issue. Switzerland reiterated that a first meeting with both Presidencies, the CCM Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the GICHD and the two ISUs was held on 24 February upon invitation of the CCM-Presidency. He further described two potential approaches: a structural approach which would consist in developing a top down model and a thematic approach which would aim at strengthening joint work on issues such as land release, clearance and victim assistance. Against this backdrop, Switzerland informed the meeting that Coordinators had sent a letter to all States Parties inviting those that may have considerations regarding the issue of synergies between the ISUs to transmit these by the end of March.

c. *Review of ISU Financing Procedures*

Regarding the third task, it was reported that the Coordinators had already started conducting bilateral meetings with States Parties that had expressed reservations on the current financing model/contributions as well as with other interested parties. He emphasized that the coordinators hoped to conclude their consultations by latest mid-April. Finally, he indicated that States Parties approached would be consulted on the working capital reserve as a decision needed to be taken regarding its structure and function.

The president acknowledged that incremental changes would probably be the best way to approach the review of the current ISU financing model.

Finally, regarding the document forecast for the 7MSP, Switzerland informed the meeting that the Progress Report's structure and timeframe for submission of Coordinators' input would be discussed at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

6. Update on the search for 8MSP President

The President informed the meeting that he had approached one country with a request that it presides over the 8MSP and was expecting a response soon.

7. Update on ISU-CCM finances

The ISU-CCM Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, an additional 7 States Parties had paid their contributions, bringing the total of States Parties that have paid their 2017 annual contribution to 28. The Director further elaborated that as of that date, the 28 States Parties had contributed a total of CHF 143'935.07 broken down as CHF 31'437.17 towards 7a; CHF 47'084.18 towards 7b and CHF 65'413.72 towards 7c. She pointed out that the slight discrepancy in figures being reported was due to the fact that only money actually received and not just announced was being reported unlike at the previous meeting where pledged amounts had been included.

The President thanked the Director for the update and suggested sending reminder letters to States Parties that did not contribute by May 2017. He concluded by stating that more time would be dedicated discussing the financing model of the ISU at the next Coordination Committee meeting.

8. 7MSP Documentation forecast

The ISU-CCM Director reminded the meeting that the ISU-CCM had to provide a documentation forecast to UNODA before the end of March to ensure that all 7MSP documents were translated on schedule. In this regard, the Director informed the meeting that the ISU had sent the preliminary forecast document list to ODA as planned.

9. Any other business

9.1 ISU-CCM Staff recruitment

The ISU-CCM Director provided an update to the Coordination Committee on the recruitment process of the 50% position for an implementation support assistant. The Director informed the meeting that the ISU-CCM had received a total of 67 applications and of those, 54% were from women, 40% from male and 6% did not specify the sex. The Director further explained that out of these 67 applications, 39 passed the first screening and 5 candidates were finally shortlisted and interviewed on Monday 20 March (3 female candidates and two male candidates). The Director specified that shortlisted candidates were from the Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Europe regions.

Since it was a local hire, the Director further explained that all the candidates interviewed were Geneva-based with a valid residence permit. Additionally, she told the meeting that the interview panel was composed of the Director and the Implementation Support Specialist and that the GICHD HR department had provided the logistical support for the recruitment process. In conclusion, the Director informed the meeting that the successful candidate - a female from the Asia Pacific region - was contacted by the GICHD Human Resources Manager on March 21st and offered the position on Wednesday 22nd March with a start date of Monday 3rd April 2017.

10. Date of the Next CC Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held on Tuesday, 25th April 2017 from 10:00h to 11:30h in the conference room of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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