



MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Held on Friday 11th June 2021

from 16:00 to 16:30 hours

1. Present:

Switzerland – 2RC President

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Mr. Lukas Eberli

United Kingdom – 10MSP President-Designate

Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Afghanistan

Mr. Abdul Ahad Shirzad

Australia

Mr. Diwaka Prakash

Austria

Mr. Christoph Sternat

Mr. Adolf Brückler

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Iraq

Ms. Suha Al-Gharrawi

Mexico

Ms. Mariana Roa

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Namibia

Ms. Xungileni Chitundu

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

Sweden

Mr. John Brante

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Nkole

CMC

Ms. Diana Prado

ICRC

Ms. Melina Fidelis-Tzourou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Ms. Erika Kawahara

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

2. Opening remarks by the President

President of the 2nd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2RC), Ambassador Félix Baumann, warmly thanked the Coordination Committee members for being available on a Friday afternoon and welcomed them to the fourth meeting of the year under the Swiss Presidency.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Coordination Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10 May 2021, were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings that had taken place during that Meeting. The President thanked the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for its usual preparation of the Minutes.

4. Update from the Presidency on the modalities of hosting Part 2 of the 2nd Review Conference (2RC)

The 2RC President reminded the Meeting that in the letter sent on 21 May 2021 to CCM States Parties and other interested international organisations, he had informed that Part 2 of the 2RC would not be held on 2-3 June 2021 because the COVID-19 restrictions put in place by the host country, Switzerland, at that time did not allow for a hybrid meeting with a physical participation of approximately 120 to 150 people as desired.

Ambassador Baumann explained that while the new rules which came into effect on 31 May 2021 only authorized a maximum of 100 participants for indoor gatherings, this limit did not apply to conferences organized by permanent missions and international organizations. Nevertheless, this exemption still required that certain conditions had to be met, such as that only a maximum of half of the available seats could be occupied and a distance of 1.5 metres between each seat must be respected.

Given these parameters, the President reported that his team had explored three options of concluding the 2RC before the summer break of the disarmament community. The first option, in agreement with the informal meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), was to hold the 2RC Part 2 in the mornings of 28 and 29 June 2021 while GGE-LAWS would be held in the afternoons. In considering this option, the presidency confronted several obstacles including on the concept of how and when such meetings could be held as the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) had not yet come to a decision on certain aspects of conference management in light of the new conditions introduced by the Swiss Federal Council. In consultation with UNOG, the presidency was informed that the only conference room available on 28 and 29 June was Room XX which only had a capacity of 106 seats given the new conditions. This would not accommodate sufficient in-person participation of States, civil society and other stakeholders required for a formal meeting allowing for the adoption of the procedural documents and decisions. Additionally, the cost of organizing a half-day meeting was the same as that of an all-day meeting, which presented as an additional financial obstacle to this option.

The second option explored by the presidency was to organize a two full-day Conference at the Palais des Nations on either 23-24 June or 24-25 June 2021. However, either of those dates would coincide with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Intersessional Meetings, which would render this option impracticable.

The third option would be to convene the meeting after the dates of option 2, but there was no availability until after 5 July 2021 when the Conference on Disarmament meetings would be over. This option was also not feasible as the disarmament community would have already begun its summer holiday.

Ambassador Baumann acknowledged that after considerable assessment, there was no realistic option that allowed for the conclusion of the 2RC before the summer break under the conditions introduced by the host country. He, therefore, proposed for the meeting be held on two out of the four days (20 to 23 September 2021) originally foreseen for the 10th Meeting of States Parties (10MSP) and for the meeting not to be postponed any further. He highlighted that Room XIX had already been secured for those dates which, under the new conditions, would allow for the participation of up to 175 persons. Therefore, this option presented the best opportunity to hold the hybrid meeting in the ideal manner. Furthermore, these dates would give the presidency more time to conclude final consultations on the Conference documents.

The President notified that he and his team would identify when the best dates to hold the 2RC Part 2 would be, which would then be proposed to the States Parties through a silence procedure. He further informed that he intended to communicate this proposal to States Parties through a letter soon after the Coordination Committee Meeting and hold a short virtual briefing the following week to provide an update on the status of documents of the Review Conference and to outline the approach he had just presented regarding the hosting of the meeting in September.

President Baumann indicated that the 2RC presidency had continued working closely with the 10MSP presidency-designate and that he had informed Ambassador Liddle of his assessment and proposal the previous day. He then invited the representative of the United Kingdom to take the floor to make any additional comments.

The UK representative conveyed Ambassador Liddle's apologies for not being able to participate in the Coordination Committee Meeting. She acknowledged the efforts of the 2RC President in attempting to conclude the Review Conference as soon as possible and shared his regret that circumstances had made it impossible to do so before the summer break. She agreed that holding the meeting in September was the most reasonable option and assured the President that he had the support of the UK regarding his approach.

Ambassador Baumann thanked the United Kingdom for its unwavering support and cooperation and opened the floor for additional comments and questions.

In its contribution to the discussion, Spain expressed its regrets that the CCM community would not be able to meet in person at the end of the month. However, Spain expressed its appreciation to the 2RC presidency for the effort it had made in organizing the Review Conference and the 10MSP presidency-designate for its flexibility. Regarding the 2-day meeting planned for

September 2021, Spain enquired whether it would be financed by the budget already approved for the 10MSP to cover a 4-day meeting, or by the country contributions collected in 2020.

The UNODA representative, in response to Spain, indicated that the cost of the 2-day meeting would be covered by the funds collected in 2020. While there was still a deficit of approximately USD 30,000 in the 2020 contributions, UNODA expected the funds to be sufficient to cover the cost of interpretation and meeting services for those 2 days. The UNODA representative informed that she would provide an update with the exact figures as soon as these were available. Regarding the contributions received in 2021, UNODA advised that if they were to be used to cover the cost of the 10MSP in 2022, then UNODA would work with the UNOG finance department to find the appropriate language to be reflected in the final report of the Review Conference.

The Netherlands, in its contribution to the discussion, assured the 2RC President of its delegation's support to his proposal and reiterated that holding the 2RC Part 2 in September was the only realistic option. The Netherlands then asked if the decisions to conclude the 2RC in September 2021 and to move the 10MSP to September 2022 would simply move back the cycle of the Convention by a year or shorten the review cycle.

The President thanked the Netherlands for raising this issue and expressed his opinion largely based on the effect the delayed conclusion of the 2RC would have on the Convention's 5-year Action Plan especially given the moving back by one year of the 10MSP to 2022. He reminded that a shorter cycle for the 10MSP had been previously considered but with the 2RC further postponed, the 10MSP President-Designate had proposed for the meeting to be held in September 2022 to return the Convention to its established annual meeting cycle. This would mean that the Third Review Conference (3RC) would therefore be held in 2026 rather than 2025.

Ambassador Baumann concluded the discussions with a reiteration that he would issue a letter to States Parties after the Coordination Committee Meeting and invite them to a virtual briefing on Friday, 18 June 2021, to update them on the situation and propose to hold the 2RC Part 2 between 20 and 23 September 2021. He expressed his appreciation to the Committee members for their positive feedback and steadfast support.

5. Next Coordination Committee Meeting

The President informed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would take place in late August or early September. He expressed his expectation to finalize formal consultations with the relevant delegations prior to holding the second part of the Review Conference. He thanked all the Committee members for their support and wished them a good summer break ahead.

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