



MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 11th March 2021

from 09:00 to 10:00 hours

1. Present:

Switzerland – 2RC President

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Ms. Aline Berdoz

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

United Kingdom – 10MSP President-Designate

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

Afghanistan

Mr. Abdul Ahad Shirzad

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

Australia

Mr. Diwaka Prakash

Sweden

Mr. John Brante

Austria

Mr. Christoph Sternat

Mr. Adolf Brückler

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Ms. Erika Kawahara

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Mr. Emmanuel Camarillo

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

2. Opening remarks by the President

Ambassador Félix Baumann, CCM 2RC President, welcomed the Coordination Committee members to their second meeting in 2021 under the Swiss Presidency. He expressed his hope that the members were coping well despite the challenging health situation in Geneva and that at least the recent Spring weather would bring some relief even though they were still in semi-confinement.

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

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 28 January 2021, as an accurate record of what had transpired during that Meeting. The President thanked the ISU for the excellent and precise draft circulated.

4. Discussion on the modalities of hosting the 2RC Part 2 following the 8 March communication of the CCM presidency to States Parties

Ambassador Baumann recalled his letter to States Parties transmitted on 8 March 2021, in which he affirmed that it would be improbable to host the 2RC Part 2 on 29-30 March 2021 considering the COVID-19 situation. While restrictions had been slightly relaxed, meetings at the Palais de Nations were still restricted to 5 persons which fell far short of the anticipated 120 to 150 physical participants of the hybrid meeting. Even if new measures introduced allowed for the meeting to take place in late March, there would not be sufficient time to organize the conference on such a short notice, so the rooms were released. Therefore, the only available solution was to change the date of the room booking at the Palais. Ambassador Baumann informed that the presidency had worked with the United Nations to secure rooms for a two-day hybrid meeting with the earliest date available being 2-3 June 2021. He asserted that the presidency was committed to holding the meeting as soon as possible and should the situation improve in April, would look for possible rooms for a meeting in May.

The President reiterated that his team had been in close contact with the United Kingdom, the 10MSP President-Designate, to discuss the current meeting cycle and consider the various options on how to move the formal work of the Convention forward. These considerations would facilitate a smooth transition of the two presidencies despite the current extended review cycle. He then invited Ambassador Aidan Liddle to present the various options on the holding of the 10MSP.

The President-Designate begun his presentation by confirming that the two presidencies had been working closely together to see how the transition could be handled as smoothly as possible. Ambassador Liddle reminded the Committee that the 10MSP was due to take place in September and rooms had been provisionally booked for the week of 20th September. He noted that there were 3 options available to hosting the 10MSP assuming that the 2RC Part 2 would take place on 2-3 June 2021:

Option 1: The default option would be to proceed with the 10MSP in September 2021 which would be just 3 months after the conclusion of the 2RC. This would limit what the UK presidency could do and exclude the possibility of holding an intersessional meeting even if approved by the 2RC.

However, there were certain steps that the 10MSP could take such as considering the extension requests of States Parties with a 2022 deadline and implementing some CCM machinery decisions which the 2RC was expected to take especially around the ISU and the recruitment of the new Director when the time comes. This would also include administrative matters such as reporting on the progress on the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). He was, however, quick to note that there might not be much to report on with just 3 months between the 2RC and the 10MSP, but it was nonetheless a viable option. He added that neither the UK presidency would not be able to do much on its plans for universalization nor the thematic Coordinators on their plans.

Option 2: Delay the 10MSP until Spring of 2022 to try and give the office holders slightly longer to progress their mandates. Facilities allowing, the week before Easter in early April would be ideal. This would extend the 10MSP mandate without encroaching too much on the 11MSP scheduled for September 2022.

Option 3: Postpone the 10MSP to September 2022. While not an ideal option, it would be the most feasible one should the 2RC Part 2 be further postponed beyond the envisaged dates of June 2021.

Ambassador Liddle concluded by reiterating that the UK remained at the disposal of the CCM States Parties and the Coordination Committee and would follow whatever the stakeholders deemed to be in the best interests of the Convention.

Ambassador Baumann expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Liddle for presenting the 3 options to the holding of the 10MSP. The President then proceeded to report that the extension requests of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Peru had been granted by silence procedure on 1 March 2021 in order to respect the Convention deadlines. He announced that since the 2RC Part 2 was now forecasted to take place on 2-3 June 2021, it would be too late to grant the extension requests of Chile and Lebanon then as their deadlines would have passed. He proposed that the remaining two requests follow the same methodology and be approved through a silence procedure as well. This constituted an exception as the rest of substantial decisions would be made during the second part of the Review Conference. He reminded the Meeting that the requests had already been considered and recommended for adoption in November 2020. The President thanked the Coordination Committee for their flexibility in moving the process forward. He then opened the floor for comments and questions.

Sweden thanked the President and President-Designate for their updates and enquired how the States Parties would deal with extension requests with 2022 deadlines if they decided to hold the 10MSP in September 2022.

In its contribution to the discussion, the Netherlands in a preliminary observation noted that the first MSP after a Review Conference was very important as its presidency had the important task of establishing benchmarks for the implementation of the new Action Plan which would be based on the annual transparency reports of the following cycle. As such, it was inclined towards Options that would allow sufficient time to set these benchmarks. The Netherlands highlighted the case of Sudan which had done an outstanding job as the first presidency to establish benchmarks for the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan of the APMBC and expressed its hopes that the CCM could

achieve that with the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). For this reason, the Netherlands proposed that Options 2 and 3 be given serious consideration.

Ambassador Baumann acknowledged the significance of the first presidency after the 2RC having sufficient time to establish the benchmarks for reporting on the LAP. He thanked both Sweden and the Netherlands for their useful comments and noted that it was important for the CCM States Parties to start considering the different options available on hosting the 10MSP and that this was only the beginning of these discussions which would be taken forward in the following weeks. He then handed the floor to the President-Designate to respond to the comments.

Ambassador Liddle conveyed his appreciation for the comments and in response to Sweden, the President-Designate explained that postponing the 10MSP to September 2022 (Option 3) would require that extension requests be considered at a further delayed Review Conference possibly in September 2021. The 10MSP being held in September 2022 would not be the best option unless the Review Conference could not be held in June 2021. In that case, the 10MSP would have more time to consider extension requests.

In response to the Netherlands, Ambassador Liddle suggested that if the 10MSP were to be held in September 2022, then one option would be to organise an intersessional meeting to discuss reporting and ideally this would be after the reporting deadline of 30 April 2022. In such an instance, a meeting in May 2022 would be appropriate to discuss the contents of the reports submitted. This Meeting would also consider any extension requests that would be submitted. He pointed out that if the 10MSP were to be held in September 2021 or in the Spring of 2022, there would not be enough time for the Meeting to establish benchmarks for the LAP and the 10MSP would thus be mostly an administrative Meeting.

To clarify the point raised by Sweden, the ISU Director informed that no extension requests were expected to be considered at the 10MSP after discussions held earlier that week with Afghanistan which had a deadline of 1 March 2022. She added that the only State Party likely to submit a request was Chile, which had submitted an extension request of only 12 months to be used to gather more information to help determine whether a longer extension would be needed.

5. Update from the Presidency on the substantial documents and remaining substantial issues in the preparation of the 2RC Part 2

The President provided a short summary and update on the substantive documents of the 2RC and the outstanding issues on each:

Review Document: No further comments had been received, expected it to be adopted in its current form.

Lausanne Action Plan: Comments had only been made on sections related to universalization, victim assistance and the indicators; consultations had been held with relevant delegations in the past weeks; document expected to be finalized soon.

Lausanne Declaration: Comments made on paragraph 8, with ongoing discussions with delegations to find a consensus prior to the Review Conference.

Document on finances: No new comments were received.

Convention machinery: Had consultation with delegations in the past weeks and the document was expected to be finalized soon with his team working on acceptable language.

Section on multilingualism in 2RC final report: Matter remained unresolved and discussions were still ongoing with the concerned delegations.

Ambassador Baumann reiterated that the presidency intended to conclude the discussions and finalize the documents by the end of the month and communicated his hope that consensus would be maintained thereafter until the 2RC where the documents would be adopted.

6. **Update by thematic coordinators on activities since Part 1 of the Review Conference**

Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Afghanistan & Sweden)

Afghanistan, on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, informed that the Coordinators had sent a letter to Mauritania to remind it of its Article 4 deadline of 1 August 2022. In the letter, the Coordinators requested Mauritania to provide relevant information related to the newly discovered areas suspected to contain cluster munition remnants.

The President thanked Afghanistan for the update and extended his gratitude to all the Coordinators for working together over the past year and a half.

7. **Update by the Implementation Support Unit**

7.1 Financing of the ISU

The ISU Director gave an update on the final status of the 2020 contributions to the ISU which saw 56 States Parties contribute close to CHF 515'000 which translated into a surplus of almost CHF 30'000 of the approved budget. Only 1 State Party had contributed to the Working Capital Reserve which brought its total to CHF 561'400, which was CHF 161'400 over the recommended amount.

With regard to the 2021 contributions, 26 States had already contributed CHF 147'207, which was approximately 31% of the annual budget. The Director informed that the same State that had made a contribution to the Working Capital Reserve in 2020 had pledged to contribute the same amount in 2021.

The Sponsorship Programme had a balance of just below CHF 78'000 that had not been used due to the suspension of travel in 2020. She reported that should travel be possible in 2021, these funds would be used to finance the participation of a good number of States in Part 2 of the 2RC.

7.2 Bilateral meetings on implementation of Article 3 and Article 4

The Director reported that the ISU had met virtually with several States Parties with Article 3 or 4 obligations. She gave a brief outline of the discussions held with each of the States Parties.

Guinea-Bissau: The ISU had met virtually with the new director of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre who had assured that he would investigate further on the issue of existing cluster munition stockpiles. He would request permission to check inside the armoury that the AMAT verification team had been unable to access during its January 2020 visit to ascertain whether it might contain a stockpile of cluster munitions.

Afghanistan: Had informed the ISU in an earlier meeting that it was 80% certain that it would comply with Article 4 by its deadline of 1 March 2022. Since then, following consultations with its two main donors, Afghanistan indicated that it was now more than 95% sure that it would not require an extension of its deadline and would complete clearance of its cluster munition contaminated areas in late 2021 or early 2022 at the latest.

Chad: Reported that if everything went according to plan, Chad would finish clearance of cluster munition contaminated land by the end of 2021.

Lao PDR: Informed the ISU that it would provide a quarterly update on the implementation of the work plan approved by the 9MSP as part of its extension request Laos also reported to have a form of Country Coalition was already in place and that additional information on this would be provided in its first quarterly update.

Somalia: Indicated that it would require financial support to comply with its Article 4 obligations within deadline and that it would reach out to one or two donor States, potentially the presidency or the presidency-delegate, to partner with them in a Country Coalition.

The Director notified that the ISU had scheduled further bilateral meetings the following week. She added that the ISU was still trying to organize to meet with South Africa. Furthermore, the ISU would be participating in a virtual National Mine Action Strategy Workshop hosted by Iraq the following week where Iraq would provide an update on its clearance operations. The Director highlighted that Iraq would likely be requesting for an extension of its Article 4 deadline.

7.3

2020 Article 7 reporting

The Director reported that only 5 States Parties had submitted their 2020 annual transparency reports as at that time. As in the previous 3 years, the first 3 States Parties to do report were awarded medals. The Director informed that St. Kitts and Nevis was again the gold medallist this year as it had been every year except for one. First time medallists, Nicaragua won the silver medal and Zambia the bronze.

7.4

Lausanne Action Plan booklet

The Director informed that thanks to the generous voluntary contribution of GBP 50'000 from the United Kingdom, the ISU had been able to start working with a graphic designer to produce the LAP booklet in 4 languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish. She added that the plan was to have the texts of the booklets finalized, printed and distributed right after the adoption of the LAP at Part 2 of the Review Conference.

The President conveyed his appreciation for the hard work of the ISU, the excellent news on Afghanistan and Chad's Article 4 implementation and the possibility of establishing a Country Coalition with Somalia. He confirmed that Somalia had not contacted Switzerland recently and recalled the conversation he had with Somalia on the subject the previous year. He also expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the 3 medallists of the 2020 annual transparency reports.

Ambassador Baumann thanked the ISU Director for having shared with the presidency, the draft LAP booklet which was an excellent initiative and extended his gratitude to the United Kingdom for its generosity for sponsoring the project. He added that the booklets would be useful in outlining the challenges and objectives of the Convention and how these would be addressed over the next five years.

Regarding the Sponsorship Programme, the President communicated that he was in favour of sponsoring representatives to participate in the upcoming CCM hybrid meetings. However, he cautioned that the travel restrictions in Switzerland that tended change from week to week could make it challenging to sponsor participants in the near future. He affirmed that as presidency of the Convention and host country of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland would do its best to assist sponsored participants to attend CCM meetings.

8. Any other business:

8.1 Contract of the ISU Director

The President reminded the Committee that the current contract of the ISU Director would expire on 30 April 2021 and that following discussions and comments made on the floor during the First Preparatory meeting, the presidency had amended the draft decision on the CCM machinery to include the extension of the Director's contract by 2 more years. He stated that while the decision of the 2RC could not be pre-empted, he was confident that the decision would be adopted at Part 2 of the 2RC. However, since the second part of the Conference would be after April, the President had requested the GICHD to extend her contract by 3 months to the end of July by which time he hoped that the formal decision would have been taken. The President concluded his update by informing that he would circulate a letter to all CCM States Parties regarding the issue by the end of the week.

8.2 Farewell to Special Advisor of the 2RC President

Ambassador Baumann informed that this would be the last Coordination Committee Meeting for Ms. Aline Berdoz, in her role as Special Advisor to the Swiss 2RC Presidency, as her career with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs would require her to begin working with Bern in the upcoming months in preparation for her first diplomatic posting abroad this summer. The President took the opportunity to express his gratitude to Ms. Berdoz for her engagement and all the hard work in support of the presidency. He was particularly appreciative of the tremendous support extended to him personally when he had just arrived in Geneva in 2019 to take up his current appointment as well as the CCM presidency. He added that Ms. Berdoz had contributed significantly to all the progress the presidency had made in preparing and finalizing the substantial documents of the Review Conference.

In response, Ms. Berdoz thanked the Committee members for the good cooperation with the Swiss presidency team despite it having been a complicated year due to the global pandemic. She noted that the Convention had still achieved a lot even under the extraordinary circumstances. She expressed her sadness at leaving her current position before the conclusion of the Review Conference but hoped that she would be permitted to attend the 2RC Part 2. She assured the Coordination Committee that she would send them an email with the details of her replacement as soon as the decision was taken.

8.3

Update by UNODA

The UNODA representative announced that UNODA had migrated its entire website including its CCM and financial webpages. She informed that an email had been sent to States containing a link to the password-protected webpage on SharePoint. To be able to access the page, representatives had to accept the email invitation from invite@microsoft.com. She indicated that the financial dashboard was available on the public website, where a link to the password-protected page could also be found.

The UNODA representative informed that all the CCM documents had been transferred to the new website but noted that there were still a few technical glitches on the website. She informed that her colleagues in New York would be fixing the broken links shortly. She invited the Coordination Committee to explore the new CCM Article 7 report database and provide their feedback on the webpage.

In the ensuing discussion, Spain informed that it was unable to access these types of platforms with their email addresses because their official servers are protected. Spain advised that this could be the reason why many UN member States had not accepted the invitation to access the password-protected financial webpage. Spain proposed that before the UN launched such services to hold consultations with member states to address such options and explained that the ICT department of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation considered such platforms as potentially insecure. The representative also wanted to know if UNODA was considering an alternative way to access this data as it seemed that over the years access to financial information was getting more complicated.

The UNODA representative thanked Spain for its useful feedback. She indicated that she was aware of accessibility issues and that they were being addressed by the technical teams with every permanent mission. She invited delegations to visit the webpages and provide feedback. Ambassador Baumann thanked the UNODA representative for the illuminating briefing and for all its support and assistance to the presidency.

9.

Next Coordination Committee Meeting

Ambassador Baumann thanked the Committee for the informative and fruitful Meeting and suggested that the next Coordination Committee Meeting take place in early May. The President indicated that this would likely be a good time to make further statements on the health situation and to further reflect on the options considered during the Meeting on the way forward.

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