



MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 5th November 2020

from 15:00 to 16:00 hours

1. Present:

Switzerland – 2RC President

H.E. Mr. Félix Baumann

Ms. Aline Berdoz

Mr. Maxime Weber

United Kingdom – 10MSP President-Designate

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Afghanistan

Mr. Abdul Ahad Shirzad

Australia

Mr. Diwaka Prakash

Austria

Mr. Christoph Sternat

Mr. Adolf Brückler

Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Iraq

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Namibia

Mr. Colin Namalambo

Netherlands

Mr. Reint Vogelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Charlotte Skerten

Philippines

Mr. Jonelle John Domingo

Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

Sweden

Mr. John Brante

Zambia

Ms. Chileshe Nkole

CMC

Ms. Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer

ICRC

Ms. Giulia Carlini

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

Ambassador Félix Baumann, President of the 2nd Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2RC), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, opened the special meeting of the Coordination Committee with a warm welcome and thanked the Committee members for their attendance in spite of the short notice.

3. Follow-up discussion on the exchanges the previous week regarding possible options on the hosting of the 2RC

The President thanked everyone for the open and productive conversation the previous week. He reiterated that there was consensus to proceed with the work of the Convention by holding a virtual Conference but there were still a number of challenges to overcome. Some of these could be resolved through creative solutions and a measure of flexibility, while others were more complicated, such as the negotiation process on contentious issues and major decisions to be taken. He informed that he had engaged in consultations with a number of States Parties the previous and that a compromised solution along the lines of the United Kingdom's suggestion during the previous Coordination Committee meeting held on 30 October 2020 had emerged.

Ambassador Baumann announced his plans to split the 2RC into two parts, the first would be an entirely virtual meeting for 3 days held on 25 to 27 November 2020, where participants could follow the meeting on UN WebTV and participate through *Interprefy*, with simultaneous interpretation available in all 6 UN languages. He informed that there would be 3 two-hour sessions each day: 10:00-12:00 hrs, 13:00-15:00 hrs and 16:00-18:00 hrs. Delegations would be able to give their presentations, but no substantial decisions would be taken other than to approve the 2RC agenda that was adopted at the First Preparatory Meeting in June; the programme of work which would be circulated the following week; the estimated costs of the 10MSP to enable UNODA to invoice States and collect payment for the meeting; and the ISU work plan and budget for 2021 to allow it to continue operating. The President clarified that these decisions would be made through a written procedure after the virtual meeting. He added that decisions on the extension requests would not have to be made before 1 March 2021.

Ambassador Baumann informed that the second part of the 2RC would convene as soon as the situation allowed for a hybrid meeting at the Palais des Nations and that the meeting was tentatively planned for 4-5 February 2021. He explained that if conditions did not permit for the meeting to take place then, the earliest possible dates would be sought after. The hybrid meeting would be the appropriate setting for the remaining documents to be adopted and decisions to be made. The President expressed his intention to conclude the Conference as soon as possible in a realistic manner. Due to the highly symbolic nature of the Review Conference, the President advised that the high-level segment would be convened during the second part. Even if the interventions were pre-recorded, showing it to a live audience was important for the sake of visibility.

Ambassador Baumann outlined that one disadvantage of concluding the 2RC at a later date was that the five-year cycle of the Convention would be disrupted as it begins at the end of the Review

Conference. He acknowledged that while this compromise was not an ideal solution, it could be the best way to move forward with the work of the Convention while respecting the formal decision-making process. The President notified that he had not been advised on how much the two-part 2RC would cost and indicated that the second part of the Conference might have to be shortened in order to keep to the budget. He then opened the floor for comments and questions.

In the ensuing discussion, several matters were raised and discussed. These have been summarized below as follows:

- a. Should the 2RC agree to reinstate intersessional meetings during the new 5-year cycle, there could be logistical challenges to convene these meetings between the 2RC and the 10MSP. Possible solutions needed to be explored and early preparations undertaken even though a decision on this matter had not yet been taken;
- b. Article 12 of the CCM stipulates that the interval between Review Conferences should be no less than 5 years, therefore it needed to be made clear that the 3RC could not be held before February 2026 (if the 2RC were to be concluded in February 2021);
- c. Discussions on substantive topics would begin during the first part of the conference in November 2020, but decisions on those matters would only be taken during the second part to be held in February 2021;
- d. Efforts had to be made to make the most of the meeting days in November 2020 and in order to leave only what could not be finalized to the second part of the 2RC. Furthermore, holding the 2RC in two parts would provide the Presidency additional time to conduct more informal consultations in between the two sessions.
- e. The 2RC programme of work would be finalized and circulated in the following week to provide clarity on when each agenda item would be covered.
- f. Given how the COVID-19 situation was evolving, the second part of the 2RC would most likely be a hybrid meeting with at least one participant per delegation attending in-person and the extended delegation participating through Interprefy.
- g. Virtual side events could be held anytime in the margins of the 2RC, either in November 2020 or February 2021. However, side event organizers had to take note of the change in the times the plenary meeting would be in session from 25 to 27 November 2020. More guidance on this topic would be provided by UNODA in the coming week.
- h. The Action Plan for the upcoming 5-year cycle would still be called the Lausanne Action Plan with a footnote on how the 2RC was convened.

The Coordination Committee conveyed its appreciation for the President's thoughtful and creative approach. The Committee members commended and expressed their support for President's plans to hold the 2RC in two parts as a way to preserve the momentum of the work of the Convention as well as to ensure that the decision-making process was as inclusive as possible.

Ambassador Baumann thanked the members for their constructive engagement and support of the Presidency. He reminded the meeting that both flexibility and pragmatism were needed in those unpredictable times. He assured that the Presidency would be working closely with UNODA to determine the earliest possible dates to hold the second part of the 2RC, but there was no guarantee that the situation would return to normal in 2021.

In other matters, the President and Committee members welcomed Mr. Christoph Sternat, the new representative of Austria to the Coordination Committee.

In closing the meeting, the President outlined that he would be hosting a virtual meeting the next day to inform all States Parties on his plans for the 2RC. The meeting would be followed by a silence procedure to confirm the new dates of the Conference. He added that the Presidency would continue holding bilateral consultations to resolve all outstanding substantial and organizational issues.

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