



*Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Ginebra*



MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 8 May 2018

in Conference Room 7A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix, from 10:00 – 12:00 hours

1. Present:

Nicaragua - 8MSP Presidency

Mr. Carlos Morales Dávila
Ms. Nohelia Vargas Idiáquez

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

Croatia

Ms. Ines Šprem Scigliano

Germany

Mr. Toralf Pilz

Ireland

Dr. Patricia Cullen
Ms. Nicola Brassil

Italy

Dr. Palma D'Ambrosio

Lao PDR

Mr. Kalamoungkhoun Souphanouvong

The Netherlands

H.E. Robbert Jan Gabriëlse
Mr. Sander Metzelaar

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Panama

Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Muniton Coalition (CMC)

Ms. Amélie Chayer

ICRC

Mr. Louis Maresca

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat - ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba
Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

France

Apologies not received

Mozambique
Peru

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua, Mr. Carlos Morales, opened the fourth Coordination Committee meeting of 2018 and the seventh under the Nicaraguan presidency by welcoming the Committee members. Thereafter, he presented the provisional 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 10 April 2018

The Committee approved, without corrections, the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 April 2018, as a correct record of what had transpired during that meeting.

4. Update from the 8MSP Presidency

Mr. Morales reiterated to the meeting that the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua was still awaiting instructions from its capital with regards to the appointment of a new Permanent Representative in Geneva. He assured the Coordination Committee members that he and his colleague, Ms. Nohelia Vargas, would continue to perform Nicaragua's presidential duties and to support the coordinators in their tasks as necessary.

5. Updates from the Thematic Coordinators on the implementation of their work plans up to the 8MSP

5.1 Universalization (France and Panama)

Panama, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, informed that the Coordinators were finalizing the particulars to the informal meeting with Signatory States that was rescheduled from 17 May 2018 to a morning during the week of 23 May 2018 as this was when the capital-based French Ambassador in charge of coordinating cluster munitions related matters would be in Geneva. The Coordinators hoped to host a half day meeting and would coordinate with the ISU to confirm the dates. Panama announced that invitations to the event would be sent out once the details of the event were confirmed.

5.2 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Germany)

Germany, on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, reported that the Coordinators had submitted the working papers on *a selection mechanism to determine and elect successive CCM Presidencies* and on *the Guidelines for CCM Article 3 and Article 4 extension requests* to the Coordination Committee for consideration and were looking forward to the discussion that would be taking place later under the dedicated Agenda item no. 4 of the Meeting.

5.3 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

New Zealand reported that its expert would shortly be travelling to Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati to follow-up with them after their participation in the Auckland Conference and that it looked forward to reporting on the outcomes of the bilaterals. The Coordinator expressed its interest in participating in the upcoming informal meeting organized by the Coordinators on Universalization so that it could make a small presentation on national implementation measures. The Coordinator further informed the meeting that New Zealand was in the process of identifying States Parties to present on their experiences with national implementation measures at the forthcoming 8MSP in September.

In response to New Zealand's update, the Presidency reminded the meeting that Nicaragua had intended to host a Latin America regional meeting in Managua but had now decided to host it in Geneva instead. In this regard, a preliminary meeting had been held with the ISU the day before to discuss the possibility of such an event before July. He hoped that the event could be held in the margins of the ATT Working Group Meetings (29 May-1 June) with a focus on promoting universalization of the Convention in that region. The Presidency invited members of the Coordination Committee to participate by making a thematic presentation in the meeting if they so wished.

5.4 Victim Assistance (Ireland and Italy)

Italy, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, shared that they were still encountering challenges in obtaining information from the national authorities of States Parties that had not fulfilled their victim assistance obligations and/or where requested to share information on lessons learned and challenges encountered so far, as only one State Party had responded to their letter. Thus the Coordinators would be keen on participating in the upcoming meetings organized by the Presidency to connect with delegates from those States.

Italy notified the meeting that it had been confirmed that the launch of the *Guidelines on Gender and Diversity-Response Victim Assistance in Mine Action* would be taking place in the margins of the APMBC intersessionals as a lunch-time event on a date to be confirmed later.

5.5 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Lao PDR and the Netherlands)

Ambassador Gabriëlse of the Netherlands expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Coordination Committee Meeting on behalf of his colleague, who was not able to be present that day. He reported that the Coordinators were still in the process of contacting a number of targeted states, one of which was confirmed as Bosnia-Herzegovina. He further informed that he would be pleased to convey the updates reported during the Meeting to his colleague.

Mr. Morales thanked the Ambassador earnestly for taking part in the Meeting and for the continuous support of the Netherlands towards the work of the Convention.

5.6 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Croatia and Mozambique)

Croatia, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators, reported that a preliminary engagement with Bulgaria had yielded good news on the status of its destruction of cluster munitions and that they were awaiting additional details on the project. Furthermore, the Coordinators were also expecting to learn more about Spain's progress on its stockpile destruction in the near future. Croatia informed the meeting that it had recently received information from its capital that Croatia would complete its destruction process on 20 July 2018 in order to meet its Article 3 deadline of 1 August 2018 under the Convention, and that the delay of the process had been due to unfavourable weather at the beginning of the year. Croatia further reported that it would retain only a small amount of cluster munitions for training purposes.

Contributing to the update, the ISU Director notified the meeting that Spain had just submitted its 2017 annual transparency report that week, in which it reported that it planned to complete the destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles before the deadline of 1 August 2018.

5.7 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Peru)

Australia, speaking on behalf of the thematic Coordinators, reported that they were working on finalizing the details of the third of the targeted meetings on enhancing international cooperation and assistance between affected and donor States, which would be held on 7 or 8 June as a lunch-time side event during the APMBC intersessionals. The date of the meeting would be determined soon after which invitations would be sent out to the Coordination Committee. Australia encouraged their fellow Coordinators to take part in the meeting as it would be a valuable occasion to engage with States Parties. Australia concluded its update by acknowledging the support of the ISU in providing to the Coordinators up-to-date information gathered from the latest Article 7 reports as this information was helpful to them in strategizing on which States Parties to invite for their upcoming meeting in June.

5.8 Transparency Measures (Zambia)

Coordinator for Transparency Measures, Zambia, informed that more than 30 States Parties had submitted their 2017 annual transparency reports in time; and that the number of initial reports that were overdue had gone up from 13 to 14 as new State Party, Madagascar, had failed to meet its 30 April 2018 submission deadline. The Coordinator further reported that, through the ISU, a reminder had been sent out to States Parties to highlight the due date of the 2017 transparency reports. Zambia expressed its thanks to the ISU for keeping abreast of the incoming Article 7 reports and its support to the Coordinator. In concluding, Zambia stressed the importance of regular reporting by States Parties in complying with their Article 7 obligations.

In closing discussions on the Agenda item, the Presidency acknowledged the good work being done and thanked all the Coordinators wholeheartedly for their updates. He then invited the Director of the ISU to present the draft 8MSP documents that had been circulated earlier to the Committee for its consideration and approval.

6. Presentation and consideration of draft 8MSP documentation

The ISU Director presented the draft *2019 ISU Work Plan and Budget* to the meeting, and the document was approved, without comments, by the Coordination Committee. She then presented the draft *8MSP Provisional Agenda* and inquired of Germany if it would like the sub-item “Selection Mechanism for future CCM Presidencies” to be a separate item in the provisional agenda. Germany confirmed that it could remain as a sub-item as long as it would be given sufficient attention during the MSP. Contributing to the discussion, New Zealand requested that the sub-item to be renamed as “Selection Process for future CCM Presidencies”, to which Germany gave its consent.

The third document presented by the ISU Director to the Coordination Committee was the draft *8MSP Provisional Annotated Programme of Work*. She pointed out that as it was still unconfirmed who would preside over the 8MSP, the document would be submitted later with the name of the Nicaraguan representative appointed to carry out that function. Mr. Morales advised that he would consult with his capital on the finalization of the decision on the representative of the Nicaraguan Presidency at the 8MSP as soon as possible. The ISU Director reminded the meeting that, as per established practice, the vice-presidents elected for the 8MSP would be the previous four MSP presidencies; that is - Germany, the Netherlands, Croatia, and Costa Rica.

Regarding the *8MSP Progress Report*, which would only be submitted at the end of June, the ISU Director informed the meeting that the ISU had begun to work on the summaries for the Coordinators, which would be updated as the Article 7 reports continued to be received. She added that the ISU would send out the report templates the following day with all information received as of that day, so that the Coordinators could start working on their respective reports.

The Presidency thanked the Director for preparing the draft documents, and called upon Croatia to present to the meeting the draft *Article 3 Declaration of Compliance* prepared by the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction. In presenting the proposed template, Croatia expressed the gratitude of the Coordinators to the ISU for its assistance in drafting the document. In its contribution, ICRC offered a few suggestions to improve on the document so as to make it clearer and more concise in several sections. It was also agreed that space should be provided at the bottom to allow the relevant State authority to sign and attach an official stamp to the document. The CMC thanked the Coordinators for the draft and noted that as States might destroy stocks that were not initially reported the Declaration should probably not refer to the initial transparency report. The CMC also suggested that the footnoted section about the discovery and destruction of stockpiles after a declaration of completion should be moved to the body of text.

Mr. Morales showed his appreciation to the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention for their work, and invited Germany to present on the draft working paper on the *establishment of a process for the selection of the CCM Presidency*.

Germany reiterated that a clearer mechanism to select successive CCM Presidencies was necessary, and that States should be informed of the repercussions of not having an effective process. It stated that as a result of the discussions on this matter with the Coordination Committee, it had been agreed upon that the selection process would be an affirmation of the existing process with

increased enforcement action. Germany highlighted that the selection process that was proposed comprised of 2 options for action. *Option 1*: the encouragement of under-represented regions to take up the Presidency; and *Option 2*: the formation of ad-hoc regional groups to assist in selecting a Presidential candidate. It was envisioned that the two options outlined in the working paper would facilitate constructive discussion during the MSP and hopefully emphasize the need for States Parties to assume the responsibility of electing the successive Presidencies. Germany indicated that while Switzerland had formally expressed its interest in presiding over the Second Review Conference (2RC) in 2020, the Convention still lacked a President designate for the 9MSP. Germany encouraged the Coordination Committee to take advantage of upcoming disarmament meetings before the summer holidays, such as the APMBC intersessionals and ATT Meetings, to approach suitable candidates for the role of the Presidency of the 9MSP.

In contributing to the discussion on the draft working paper, New Zealand thanked the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention for taking its concerns on board and noted that it thought the presentation of 2 options for consideration by 8MSP was a good compromise. The Presidency thanked the Committee for its constructive discussion on the draft working paper presented by Germany. He then called upon Bosnia-Herzegovina to present the draft *Article 3 and Article 4 Extension Request Guidelines*.

Bosnia-Herzegovina commenced its presentation by restating that while it was necessary to provide guidelines for extension requests with regards to Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention, it would be preferable that no State Party ever applied for an extension in order to fulfill its obligations under the CCM. It summarized that the guidelines had been drafted based on the requirements of the Convention as well as guidelines set by the APMBC (and adapted to the CCM). After presenting the contents of the draft document to the meeting, Bosnia-Herzegovina solicited the Coordination Committee members' comments and opinions, and notified that they could also be sent in written comments to him before the next Coordination Committee meeting. An extended and constructive discussion ensued with CMC, ICRC, Zambia, Italy and Lao PDR providing their observations. The following topics were discussed and agreed upon:

- An analysis group would be formed for each extension request with the main variant being the external experts / operators (the core group would be maintained);
- External experts / operators would be sought after by the core group for each extension request through a broad invitation to implementing organizations;
- The analysis group would be issuing the draft decision of the extension request;
- There would be a 6-month period for the State Party to continue providing additional information to the analysis group, before the draft decision is made;
- It would be made clear that the Convention required that the extension request be made at least 9 months prior to the Meeting of States Parties (MSP) or the Review Conference (RC); and
- The timeline in the document would be made clearer, specifying the months when specific actions would be taken by each relevant stakeholder.

Bosnia-Herzegovina took note of all the suggestions and promised to circulate the amended guidelines for further discussion at the following meeting of the Committee.

7. Update on the 9MSP presidency

The Presidency reported that Nicaragua had approached at least five States Parties to discuss the possibility of their assuming the role of the 9MSP Presidency but that most were still making consultations, so there had not been any confirmation of interest from any of those States. Nevertheless, none of these States had rejected the proposition. Mr. Morales reminded the meeting that September was fast approaching, and it would be desirable to have the 9MSP President-designate who could begin to get involved in the work of the Convention in the near future. He inquired if any of the Coordinators had begun this outreach.

Responding to the Presidency's query, Germany informed that it had spoken to one State Party preliminarily on the matter. Ireland also reported that it had suggested to its capital that it might consider taking up the Presidency of the CCM, at a future date, if not that of the 9MSP. The representative of Ireland had highlighted to their capital that the CCM had encountered difficulties from the outset in finding countries willing to take on the CCM Presidency and that the burden to do so fell too heavily on the incumbent.

Mr. Morales suggested that the Coordinators could testify to the work done by the ISU in providing commendable support and advice to the Presidency such that even a team as small as the Nicaraguan Permanent Mission in Geneva could successfully perform its presidential duties. He also expressed his appreciation to Germany and Ireland for having begun outreach in search of a new Presidency and encouraged the other Coordinators to do the same. In its contribution, the ISU Director reminded the outgoing Coordinators to also look for new Coordinators to replace them.

8. Update on the financing of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

The ISU Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, 3 States Parties had made their contributions to the ISU Trust Fund though these were very small amounts. This brought the number of States Parties that had made their contributions to the 2018 ISU budget to 41. These contributions amounted to just over CHF 169'140 against a budget of CHF 465'440; which was just under 40% of the annual budget. Nonetheless, 2 countries had indicated that they were in the process of transferring their contribution funds to the ISU.

The Director further elaborated that the amount that had been collected, so far, this year was more than it was at the same time the previous year. She reported that the ISU had recently sent out a reminder to those yet to make a contribution, which had resulted in positive responses from some of the States Parties. However, the Working Capital Reserve remained at a deficit of approximately CHF 23'000.

9. **Update from the Implementation Support Unit on other matters**

8.1 **CCM 10th anniversary celebration**

The ISU Director announced that the ISU had met with the CMC to brainstorm on how to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, which would be on 30 May 2018. The outcome of that meeting was an agreement for a convivial event to be held perhaps at a local Irish pub to commemorate the adoption that took place at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference in 2008. The ISU had requested Ireland to host a commemorative event, and had also developed an alternative plan for the entire Coordination Committee to share the financial burden of hosting the event. Contributing to the discussion, Germany said it would like the event to be an opportunity for team building and outreach for the Coordinators.

Ireland informed the meeting that it had been attempting to pursue some funding towards the event and ideally so as to be able to bring representatives from its capital that had been involved in the drafting of the CCM in Dublin ten years ago to be present at the Geneva event. For logistical reasons Ireland suggested that the commemorative event be postponed to September, to the margins of the 8MSP. It was agreed by the Coordination Committee for the event to be deferred and held as an evening event during the 8MSP.

The Presidency thanked the ISU Director for her updates and also those that had contributed to the discussion.

10. **Date of the Next CC Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would be held on **Monday, 4 June 2018 at 10:00 hours.**

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