



---

**MINUTES OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Friday 24 February 2017**

**at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, from 11:00 – 12:30 hours**

**Present:**

Germany - 7MSP President

H.E. Michael Biontino

Australia

Mr. Hugh Watson

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Asim Dorović

France

Ms. Camille Guffet

Iraq

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Italy

Dr. Silvia Cattaneo

Mexico

Mr. Víctor Martínez

Netherlands

Ms. Sachi Claringbould

New Zealand

Ms. Katy Donnelly

Zambia

Mr. Samson Lungo

Cluster Munition Coalition

Ms. Amélie Chayer

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Secretariat ISU-CCM

Ms. Sheila Mweemba

Mr. Matthieu Laruelle

Apologies received

Costa Rica

Croatia

Norway

Switzerland

ICRC

Apologies not received

Chile

## **1. 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 second Coordination Committee meeting of 2017 and wished a warm welcome to all the Committee members. The provisional Agenda was adopted as presented by the Meeting and the President proceeded with the deliberations.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of 27 January 2017**

The Committee approved, without corrections, the draft Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on Friday 27 January 2017 as a correct record of what had been discussed and agreed during that meeting.

## **3. Update from the 7MSP Presidency**

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

### **3.1 Structured Dialogue**

The President reported that the German team had started the first round of informal discussions with a set of States that produce and/or possess cluster munitions. The President explained that the response to his invitation to meet with these States had been positive with most of them exhibiting openness to dialogue and willingness to continue with the talks. In providing a summary of the key outcomes of the bilateral discussions held to date, the President highlighted that some States had voiced their desire to pursue discussions on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) from a military to military perspective while others had expressed that as an intermediate goal they would consider attending meetings of the Convention as observers.

The President added that while providing clarity on their various positions regarding the CCM, some States explained that in practice the decision to join the Convention was primarily influenced by considerations of military expediency. In acknowledging that the humanitarian imperative clearly outweighed the military value of these weapons, the President proposed to make a push on such militaries highlighting the humanitarian rather than the security considerations. In this respect, the President asked for the meeting's views on extending the dialogue to a military level.

In concluding his update on the strategy, Ambassador Biontino reported to the meeting that he would soon finish this first round of discussions with approximately 11 States and that in the second phase he would consider reaching out to another 6 States. The President informed the meeting that in the second phase of the strategy he would reach out to European Union (EU) member States that had not yet joined the CCM.

In contributing to the discussion, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) welcomed the President's idea to start a dialogue between the militaries of non-States Parties with those of States Parties. The CMC added that some of its campaigners were former military personnel and that they would be available to support the Presidency's efforts if deemed useful.

While reiterating its support to the President's structured dialogue involving the military, the Netherlands asked the Presidency what such discussions would entail since the military were traditionally involved with the Convention primarily when dealing with clearance.

In response, the presidency informed the meeting that it had no clear answer yet as to the format or content of these discussions. The President however clarified that the dialogue would certainly have to go beyond the clearance aspect since cluster munitions were still perceived by some militaries as an effective weapon with strategic value. In that regard, the President added that it would be interesting to have the military of a CCM State Party explain to the military of a non-State Party how the humanitarian consequences caused by the use of cluster munitions had prevailed in their decision to join the Convention over the military value that these weapons may have.

The President thanked the meeting for sharing their thoughts on this approach and concluded the discussion by stating that although no objections had been raised by the Coordination Committee, this proposal still required further analysis on how to effectively implement it.

### 3.2 Country Coalitions Concept

Reporting on the implementation of the Country Coalitions initiative, the President confirmed that the presidency would be proceeding with the tentative agenda for the Bangkok regional seminar. Ambassador Biontino promised to circulate the Agenda to the Committee members that had still not received it. He further explained that while most States in the region had responded positively to the invitation, he was hoping that more donor States would also confirm their attendance. In this regard, the President kindly asked the Coordinators to pass on the invitation to their embassies in Bangkok.

### 3.3 Synergies between Conventions

The President informed that a first meeting with the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the CCM Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and CCM ISU would be held after that Coordination Committee. 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. The President explained that the purpose of the meeting would be to start looking at options for possible synergies between the two ISUs, in particular on common Convention thematic areas such as land release, clearance and victim assistance. The President further proposed to the meeting that another cost efficient measure could be to have the two Convention MSPs back to back.

### 3.4 Review of the CCM ISU Hosting Agreement

The President thanked the ISU CCM Director for bringing to the Presidency's attention to the fact that the Agreement between States Parties to the CCM and the GICHD on the hosting of the ISU-CCM had to be reviewed at the 7MSP. To that effect, the President informed the meeting that he had tasked Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Switzerland, in their capacity as Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, to assist the presidency in the review process. The President concluded by stating that the revision of the agreement was expected to be straightforward.

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

### 4.1 Victim Assistance (Chile and Italy)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Italy explained that in line with its action plan it had sent out letters to targeted States Parties with victim assistance obligations. Italy also informed

the meeting that it would soon start making courtesy calls to permanent missions to follow up on the letters.

The President offered to be of assistance, if required, in the implementation of the action plan of the Coordinators.

#### 4.2 International Cooperation and Assistance (Australia and Iraq)

Australia, speaking on behalf of Coordinators this thematic, informed the meeting that they had hosted a closed informal meeting on *Enhancing International Cooperation and Assistance under the CCM* in the margins of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN20) on Wednesday 8 February 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to start a conversation on amongst other matters; what obstacles affected States face in implementing their obligations, how these could be addressed, the priorities of donor States regarding cooperation and assistance, and how to enhance communication between affected and donor States on these issues.

The Coordinators reported that the meeting, which was a frank and productive one, was attended by approximately 26 representatives from 16 affected and donor States. They also reported that the 2 hours allocated to the meeting had not been sufficient for the exchanges. It was further highlighted that a number of affected and donor States noted the utility of the country coalitions approach.

The meeting was informed that the Coordinators had produced a summary of the views exchanged at the meeting and had already circulated a draft among participants. The Coordinator concluded his update by saying that it was hoped that the summary report would be shared on the Convention's website and possibly a follow-up meeting organized in the margins of the APMBC intersessional meetings later in the year.

The President thanked the Coordinators for their detailed update and positive feedback. He ended the session by congratulating them on a successful meeting.

#### 4.3 Universalization (France and Zambia)

Zambia, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on universalization, informed the meeting that with the support of the presidency, it would organize a half day *South East Asia Regional Workshop on universalization of the CCM* in Bangkok on 17 March. It was highlighted that the workshop would be held at the same venue immediately after the Country Coalition workshop on Friday afternoon, 17 March 2017.

The Coordinators further explained that the aim of this regional workshop would be twofold: to provide an opportunity for signatory States and non-States Parties in South East Asia to have an interactive discussion on the challenges and possible solutions to facilitate their joining the CCM; and to provide an opportunity for participants to get a better understanding of the CCM from the ISU and other resource persons as well as to seek clarification on any matters related to the accession or ratification process of the Convention.

The meeting was further reported that the ICRC and CMC would be participating in the workshop to highlight the type of support they could provide in the region to enhance universalization. The meeting was also informed that invitation letters had already been drafted and that these were in the process of being sent.

In continuing its update on activities undertaken, Zambia reported that since the last Coordination Committee it had come to the attention of the Coordinators that over the previous nine months

Cambodia had been requesting information from various organizations including ISU-CCM, ICRC, CMC and the GICHD on whether acceding to the Convention would require it to dispose of its BM21 multi-rocket launchers. Zambia suggested that it would appear that this was one of the main reasons Cambodia had not joined the Convention as its military possessed an undisclosed number of BM21 multi-rocket launchers. In this context, the Coordinator explained that in an effort to encourage Cambodia, Zambia had reached out in its national capacity as a State Party to the CCM in addition to its role as Coordinator on universalization to inform that at the time of its own CCM ratification it had in its arsenal a similar rocket delivery system and had not had been required to destroy it. In this regard, Zambia had since written a letter to Cambodia clarifying that joining the CCM did not require the disposal of their stock of the rocket delivery system. Zambia concluded by stating that it would continue to engage Cambodia bilaterally.

With regard to its timeline, concept note and matrix, it was reported that letters to 8 signatory States would soon be sent encouraging them to ratify the Convention in the near future. Consequently, the Coordinators had on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 engaged bilaterally with one signatory state, Madagascar, to get an update on its ratification process.

Adding to the Coordinators' report, France explained that Madagascar was waiting for its President's final signature which would probably be done at the same time as that of the prioritized Arms Trade Treaty in September. France further mentioned that it would follow up with Madagascar through a demarche in capital.

In contributing to the discussion, the President informed the meeting that a similar demarche had been delivered jointly by France and Germany to the Sri Lankan authorities to encourage them to accede to the CCM. In this vein, France asked the President if a similar joint demarche involving France and Germany could be replicated with Madagascar. The President stated that the Presidency would gladly participate in joint demarches and thanked both Coordinators for sharing this valuable information.

#### 4.4 Stockpile Destruction (Croatia and Mexico)

Mexico, speaking on behalf of the two Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction, reported to the meeting that in line with its action plan, the Coordinators had had bilateral meetings with some States in the margins of the 20<sup>th</sup> NDM-UN meeting. Against this backdrop, Mexico explained that Coordinators had met with State Party Botswana to discuss its Article 3 implementation. Mexico highlighted that Botswana had provided updated information on the challenges it was facing, including on the lack of technical expertise for its stockpile destruction process, during the informal seminar on *Enhancing international cooperation and assistance* organized by Australia and Iraq on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Mexico further reported that the Coordinators also had a bilateral meeting with Bulgaria to seek additional information on its Article 3 obligations. Bulgaria informed the Coordinators that it was on track as indicated in its 2015 annual transparency report. Mexico concluded its update by reporting that the Coordinators would continue following up on outstanding commitments by States Parties with upcoming deadlines under Article 3.

The President thanked Mexico for the update and expressed his satisfaction with the approach taken to implement the concept note.

#### 4.5 Clearance and Risk Reduction Education (Netherlands and Norway)

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, reported that the Coordinators had met with operators NPA and MAG and the Lebanese Mine Action

Centre (LMAC) in the margins of the 20<sup>th</sup> NDM-UN meeting to follow up on the outcomes of the Lebanon workshop.

The Coordinator highlighted that the revision of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) by the LMAC had been delayed due to unforeseen changes in its management structure. The Netherlands informed that once the NMAS were ready, operators would be invited by LMAC to comment on the updated version. The Coordinator further reported that however, an improvement had been reported on the use of survey and land release.

The Netherlands also reported to the meeting that the Coordinators had met with the ISU-CCM Director during the 20<sup>th</sup> NDM-UN meeting in February to identify States parties with small or medium contamination levels to devise approaches to address their particular challenges in attaining completion. It was further reported that the Coordinators had had a similar meeting with operators in highly affected States Parties with obligations under Article 4 to obtain clarity on the challenges therein.

#### 4.6 Transparency Measures (Costa Rica)

The ISU Director through a written statement reported on behalf of Costa Rica, Coordinator for Transparency Measures, who apologized for not being able to attend the meeting and stated that it would continue with the support of the ISU to reach out to countries in accordance with its concept note/work plan and would be able to present progress during the next meeting.

#### 4.7 National Implementation Measures (New Zealand)

In its role as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, New Zealand, reported that it was preparing for bilateral meetings with States Parties it had written to in order to follow up on the status of their legislation. With regards to the two drafts mentioned during the previous Coordination Committee (one guidance document for how States could address the financing of cluster munitions and a two paged document aimed at helping all of New Zealand's posts to promote the CCM in all relevant bilateral and regional engagements in 2017), New Zealand informed the meeting that it was still waiting feedback from capital and would report back at the next meeting.

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina, reporting on behalf of the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, explained that the Coordinators had started working on the tasks assigned to them by the presidency; namely, the revision of the ISU-CCM financing model; the exploration of possible synergies between ISUs; and the revision of the ISU-CCM Hosting Agreement with the GICHD.

Regarding the first task, it was reported that the Coordinators had already met with the ISU-CCM to get its views on the implementation of the current financial model/contributions. He added that the Coordinators would continue to thoroughly analyze the model taking into consideration both legal and practical aspects, including the exploration of possible systems to establish the working capital reserve. To this end, the Coordinators would primarily engage with the States Parties that had expressed reservations on the current model as well as with major contributors. He emphasized that the interpretation of the financial procedures could have an adverse effect if a big contributing State did not pay. Regarding the working capital reserve, he indicated that not much time had elapsed in the implementation of the procedures to allow for good recommendations to be made.

On the task to explore possible synergies between the APMBC and CCM ISUs, the Coordinator stated that they would have more information to report after the working lunch scheduled for later that day with the two Convention Presidencies, the ISUs and the GICHD.

In the ensuing discussion, the President mentioned that he hoped that documents related to these three matters would be ready by the summer to avoid these issues taking up too much time during the 7MSP.

In its contribution, Italy asked if the coordinators would also look into contributions other than those of the ISU. In response, Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the meeting that it would look at overall CCM financing, but that its primary focus would be on the ISU's financing model and contributions under 7a, 7b and 7c.

In contributing to the discussion, New Zealand asked whether the Coordinators already had an idea on the operation of the working capital reserve. New Zealand reminded the meeting that it had expressed reservations on this issue under similar discussions under the APMBC.

In thanking the contributing Coordinators for their comments, Bosnia and Herzegovina explained that it was still too early to have clear answers on all the issues raised. The Coordinator concluded by reassuring the Committee members that they would all be consulted in the review process and therefore have a chance to provide feedback on the draft recommendations.

On its part, the Netherlands reminded the meeting of the efforts led by the United Kingdom to improve the financial situation of the Conventions, with a particular focus on structural arrears. The Netherlands stated that while it recognized that this effort was mainly regarding the United Nations contributions, there was an interlinkage between the financing of the two entities.

## **5. Update on the search for 8MSP President**

The President informed the meeting that it was actively engaging with a country in Latin America to preside over the 8MSP. He added that a second option was also being considered in Africa and that he would keep the Coordination Committee informed as the situation developed.

## **6. 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. The Director further pointed out that the Committee had agreed during its last meeting to inform the ISU-CCM of any documents to be included in the forecast. The Director sought confirmation that the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention would submit a report on the implementation of the ISU financial procedures as a pre-session document as it had already be included in the preliminary forecast document list.

Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed that the documents related to the various review processes they were undertaking would be submitted by the Coordinators as pre-session documents and that these would be ready by mid-June and should therefore be included in the forecast.

The Presidency also informed that it would include two documents in the forecast: one on synergies between ISUs and one on the Country Coalitions.

In response to the Director’s request for the Committee to provide information on any documents to be included in the forecast, New Zealand requested a placeholder for a document entitled *National Implementation Measures report*.

The Director clarified to the meeting that there was no need for the individual thematic Coordinators to request for a placeholder for their annual reports, as in accordance with previous years, the work since the 6MSP would be compiled and highlighted in the annual Progress Report submitted by the presidency. She clarified that the placeholders would be for specific documents such as the one produced on victim assistance at the 6MSP.

**7. Update on ISU-CCM finances**

The ISU-CCM Director reported to the meeting that since the last update, an additional 9 States Parties had paid their contributions, bringing the total of States Parties that have paid their 2017 annual contributions to 22. She also informed that a few states had also paid their outstanding contributions for 2016 in response to the reminders sent out on behalf of the 7MSP President during the previous month. The Director further elaborated that as at that date, the 22 States Parties had contributed a total of CHF 153’473 broken down as CHF 31’273.67 towards 7a; CHF 46’838.65 towards 7b and CHF 75’360.68 towards 7c.

The Director highlighted that the current total amount represented approximately 25% of the 2017 budget. The Director added that it was still early in the year to draw conclusions on whether or not the full 2017 budget would be adequately met. To conclude this segment, the Director also reported that she had been informed by 2 States Parties that they would pay their contributions by April.

**8. Any other business**

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 closing date for applications was on that day - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The intention was for prospective interview candidates to be shortlisted the week after with the aim of having the new staff member report for duty on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Director further explained that the duration of the contract would be initially until 31 December 2017 to allow for a reassessment of the ISU’s financial situation. To conclude her update, the Director added that the decision on continuing with the position would be reconsidered in December.

The President thanked the Director and concluded this section by saying that this issue was interconnected to the Presidency’s mandate to look further into the question of synergies.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would be held on Thursday, 23<sup>th</sup> March 2017 from 10:00h to 11:30h in the conference room of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

-----