



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE
held on Monday 16th January
in Conference Room 6A, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix
from 14:00 to 15:00 hours

1. Present:

Republic of Iraq – 11MSP President

Ms. Raghad Hasan

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Mexico – President-Designate (12MSP)

H.E. Ms. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

Mr. Alonso Martínez

United Kingdom – Immediate Past President
(10MSP)

Ms. Eleonora Saggese

Ms. Sylvia Osoba

Austria

Mr. Andreas Bilgeri

Belgium

Mr. Vincent Bodson

Bulgaria

Mr. Nikola Yakov

Chile

Ms. Montserrat Fuentes

France

Ms. Inès Mensah

Mr. Robin Masson

Germany

Ms. Anna Mikeska

Guyana

Mr. Colin Luckie

Lebanon

Mr. Ahmad Soueidan

Netherlands

Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Apologies received

Gambia

ICRC

Malawi

Spain

UNODA

2. Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Raghad Hasan, Deputy Permanent Representative for Disarmament, and representative of the 11MSP President, Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, welcomed the Coordination Committee to its third meeting under the Iraqi presidency and first in 2023. Ms Hasan apologized on behalf of Ambassador Hashim Mostafa, who could not attend the meeting.

The Committee approved the provisional Agenda of the Meeting as tabled by the presidency.

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

The Committee considered and approved, without correction, the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 03 November 2022 as an accurate record of what had been discussed during that meeting.

4. Update on the Priorities of the Iraqi presidency up to the 11MSP

4.1 Universalization of the Convention

Ms. Raghad reported that in the margins of the 20th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Presidency team and the ISU held bilateral meetings with the delegations of Yemen and Nigeria to follow-up on their progress toward ratification of or accession to the Convention. Nigeria confirmed that it was in the last stages of the ratification process, while Yemen informed that their competent authorities would evaluate the possibility of acceding to the Convention. She further reported that pursuant to the Arab Regional Roundtable held in New York the previous October, Iraq planned to meet with the Ambassador of Djibouti in Geneva to follow on the Signatory State's progress towards CCM ratification. She further informed that the Francophone Africa CCM Universalization workshop would be held from 15 to 16 February in Cameroon and that the presidency would also be participating in the event.

4.2 Selection Process of the Next ISU Director

Ms. Raghad informed the Committee that in line with the calendar set out in the decision of the 10MSP, the selection panel had shortlisted the best 5 candidates to be interviewed. The selection panel would thereafter prepare the list of possible questions and consolidate the evaluation grid for interviews based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) by the end of January. Ms. Raghad reiterated the appreciation of the presidency of the Selection Panel and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for their valuable efforts in undertaking the task.

4.3 Adaptation of the CCM Article 7 Reporting Forms

The Presidency informed that the Coordinator on transparency measures, the Gambia, had circulated a letter to the members of the Coordination Committee for possible inputs on the current Article 7 report form. Additionally, the Presidency, ISU and the Coordinator had had

a meeting with the representative of the Mine Action Review, who proposed some inputs on the current reporting template. The Presidency undertook to continue engaging with the coordinator on Transparency Measures to finalise the task of adapting the report template.

5. Update on implementation of their workplans by thematic Coordinators up to the 11MSP

The Presidency invited the Coordinators present to provide updates on the implementation of their thematic workplans up to the 11MSP.

5.1 General Status and Operation of the Convention (Belgium and France)

Belgium reported that the Coordinators had bilaterally approached each of the Convention's 13 Signatory states, in order to get a clearer idea of the place of gender issues in the CCM ratification process. As a reminder, the Coordinators would like to be able to provide States Parties with an overview of the place of gender in the ratification process at the next MSP. The Coordinators therefore would plan to hold a bilateral meeting with each of these States. They would use the occasion to ask several questions including whether their national legislation included explicit references to gender requirements in the ratification process; whether it was in line with the language adopted on gender in the Lausanne Plan of Action, the Final Report of the 2nd Review Conference; the country's definition of gender issues; and whether the country has already been involved in gender issues in other disarmament conventions.

Belgium further reported that in December 2022, the Gender Focal Points (GFP) were approached by Palestine to assist that State Party in strengthening gender issues in its demining teams. Palestine informed the GFPs of the recent introduction of women into its demining teams and reported that it had noted many positive changes in its activities as a result. In order to continue on this path, Palestine had requested that the Gender Focal Points organise a training workshop for its leadership teams. This workshop should take place in the spring and could take the form of a joint training between the two humanitarian conventions. At such an event, the Gender Focal Points would approach the other thematic Coordinators to consult on the opportunity for focused discussions on issues such as victim assistance.

France further informed that the Coordinators were considering organising a side event at the Meeting of States Parties which would provide an opportunity to consider how their work could be adapted, following the 3rd Review Conference. France further assured that the Gender Focal Points would remain at the disposal of the other Coordinators in order to provide them with assistance on topics of interest to them.

5.2 Victim Assistance (Austria and Chile)

Chile reported that the thematic Coordinators on VA were working on a plan on how best to update the existing *Guidance on Victim Assistance* in accordance with the Lausanne Action Plan. Furthermore, they were still in discussion with civil society to discuss the issue further. The Coordinators would also be meeting with the ISU to discuss the prioritisation of activities for the year.

In contributing to the discussion, the President-Designate, Mexico, expressed its readiness to support the VA Coordinators on any activity that would help people with disabilities.

5.3 Clearance and Risk Education (Guyana and Norway)

Guyana reported that the Coordinators had met in December 2022 with the Article 4 Analysis Group to discuss the extension request that was submitted by Iraq. He further informed that Mauritania was also expected to submit its extension request.

In adding to the report, the ISU Director informed that the Article 4 Analysis Group had sent its feedback to Iraq requesting additional information in December. Iraq had submitted its responses to the ISU which had forwarded them to the Analysis Group members for further action.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Bulgaria and the Netherlands)

Bulgaria informed that based on the invitation of the 11MSP Presidency, the Coordinators had joined it to meet with the ISU to discuss the implementation of Article 3 by South Africa with regard to the submission of its annual Article 7 reports. Following-up on that meeting, Bulgaria had met bilaterally with the representative of South Africa who was leaving Geneva but promised to follow-up with his capital. Unfortunately, he had not yet reverted with an update.

In its national capacity, Bulgaria reported that its own implementation of the Article 3 extension request work plan was progressing well and informed that the last convoy delivering cluster munitions for destruction had already left for Italy.

In contributing to the discussion, the 11MSP Presidency reported that it had a meeting with the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and the ISU to come up with a plan to ensure compliance by South Africa of its Article 3 obligations as it had not submitted an Article 7 report since 2017. It pointed out that such issue presents a particular concern as the deadline for the destruction of its cluster munitions stockpiles would be on 1 November 2023. It further informed that consequently, the previous Friday, the President had sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of South Africa in Geneva, reminding of the obligation to report annually. The Presidency would continue its engagement with the thematic Coordinators and the ISU in that respect.

5.5 Universalization (Malawi and Spain)

The Presidency informed that the Universalization Coordinators sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, but they had sent a written update. Iraq requested the ISU Director to read the update on behalf of the Coordinators.

In the update, the Universalisation Coordinators reported to have conducted a series of consultations in New York and Geneva in October 2022. Through these consultations, the coordinators had gathered information on the possible reasons behind the non-ratification of some countries. However, these consultations could not manage to reach wider targeted

countries and specific policymakers (who were mostly based in capitals) due to time constraints and also the unavailability of the targeted states. In order to cover that gap, the coordinators had developed a survey which would be distributed to States not party. They reported that the survey had been developed in the most simplistic form and was straightforward taking approximately a minute to answer. The objective of the survey would be to better understand the actual reasons behind these States not joining the Convention. From the survey, the Coordinators would then be able to assess how to approach these states and move forward. The survey would be submitted to the ISU before distributing to States for comments.

In contribution to the discussion, the United Kingdom in its role as immediate Past President, reported that in order to continue its previous universalisation efforts, the 10MSP President was trying to organize a universalisation visit to South-East Asia. The representative reported that while the list of countries to be visited had not yet been firmed up, it had received two confirmations on their interest to meet and were still awaiting a third one to confirm. The date of the visit would likely be in the week of 13 March 2023. The 10MSP presidency would update the Committee on the plan in the next meeting.

5.6 International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Lebanon)

Lebanon reported that the International Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators had hosted a lunch to discuss the country coalition between France and Mauritania. The Coordinators hoped that the meeting would get a good result and anticipated for other similar meetings to take place.

6. Update of the Implementation Support Unit

6.1 Financing of the ISU

The ISU Director commenced her report with an update on the status of the 2022 contributions and reported that as on that day, 59 States Parties representing just over 53% of the total membership, had contributed CHF 462,072 of the 2022 approved budget of CHF 486,194 or close to 95% of that budget. This represented a financial contribution shortfall of approximately CHF 24,133. This would be the 2nd year in a row that the ISU annual budget had not been covered in full. She, however, noted that the situation had not been catastrophic to date because the ISU expenditure had not exceeded the amounts collected and as a result of the significant carryover amounts of the previous years.

Regarding the 2023 contributions, she reminded that the 2023 assessed contribution invoices had been sent to all States Parties in mid-September 2022 and that only 26 States Parties had made their contributions so far. These States had contributed a total of just over CHF 83,000 or approximately 16% of the approved annual budget of CHF 518,057.

6.2 Annual Reporting

The Director announced that the first 3 annual reports covering calendar year 2022 had been received and the annual early reporting medals awarded to Australia (Gold), Saint Kitts and Nevis (Silver) and Guinea-Bissau (Bronze).

6.3 Universalisation

The Director reported Thursday the ISU had met with the Cameroonian Permanent Mission's focal point to finalise preparations for the CCM Workshop in Yaoundé the following month. Seven States are expected to participate though only 5 states had responded at the time. The Director reported that the workshop was being funded by Switzerland and the United Kingdom and that the 11MSP presidency would participate in the workshop as well.

The States that had been invited were three States Parties (Cameroon, Chad, and Mauritania), two Signatory States (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Djibouti) and two States not Party (Equatorial Guinea and Gabon).

6.4 Follow up with States with Article 4 obligations

The Meeting was informed that the ISU had supported the Analysis Group in its consideration of the extension request of Iraq on 1 December 2022. Thereafter, the ISU sent the feedback of the Analysis Group to Iraq by 20 January 2023 requesting clarification and additional information. In response to the request, Iraq provided the additional information ahead of the deadline set which was then been forwarded to the Analysis Group just before at Coordination Committee meeting.

Additionally, the ISU had reached out to Mauritania which confirmed that it would also be submitting an extension request for consideration at the 11MSP.

6.4 Quarterly Newsletter

The Director reported that the 2022 fourth quarter newsletter which highlighted the key activities that had taken place from October to December 2022, was circulated on 9 January 2023 to the usual ISU mailing list.

7. Conclusion of the Meeting

As there was no other business, Ms. Raghad concluded the Meeting and informed that the Coordination Committee would likely meet again in late February. She added that the date and details of the next meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the day.
