



UK Mission  
Geneva



10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF STATES PARTIES  
30 AUG - 2 SEPT  
GENEVA 2022

## MINUTES OF A HYBRID MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

in Conference Room 6, Tower 3, Maison de la Paix,

from 10:00 to 11:30 hours

### 1. Present:

#### United Kingdom – 10MSP President

Mr. Simon Cleobury  
Ms. Eleonora Saggese

#### Iraq – President-Designate (11MSP)

H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa  
Mr. Sabah Al-Janaby  
Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

#### Switzerland – Immediate Past President (2RC)

Mr. Laurent Masméjan

#### Australia

Ms. Michelle Carr

#### Chile

Ms. Pamela Moraga

#### France

Ms. Inès Mensah

#### Germany

Ms. Anna Mikeska

#### Guyana

Ms. Kerrlene Wills

#### Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

#### Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

#### Namibia

Ms. Xungileni Chitundu

#### Philippines

Mr. Jonelle John Domingo

#### Spain

Mr. Juan Manglano

#### Sweden

Mr. Kajsa Aulin

#### CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

#### ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

#### UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Ms. Erika Kawahara

#### Implementation Support Unit

Ms. Sheila N. Mweemba

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

#### Apologies received:

Bulgaria

New Zealand

## **2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency**

Representing the President of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP), Mr. Simon Cleobury, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at the UK Mission to the UN in Geneva warmly welcomed Committee members to the third Coordination Committee Meeting under the UK Presidency, which was held in hybrid format. He conveyed to the Committee the apologies of Ambassador Aidan Liddle, who was unable to participate and had requested him to chair the meeting on his behalf.

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

The Committee approved, without correction, the Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held on 2 November 2021 as an accurate record of what had transpired during that meeting.

## **4. Update on Implementation of the Priorities of the UK Presidency up to the 10MSP**

Mr. Cleobury reported that the First Committee had approved the draft 2021 Resolution on the *Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* by a vote that was one of the best results since the first resolution tabled in 2015. He reminded that the Resolution still had to be voted on in the General Assembly for it to be adopted, and therefore his colleagues in New York had been meeting with states to boost support for the Resolution.

Regarding possible upcoming CCM universalization workshops, Mr. Cleobury informed that one of the two ideas of the UK Presidency was to hold a Commonwealth workshop in London as outreach to Commonwealth member states that had not joined the Convention. However, to avoid a conflict of dates with upcoming Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings, the CCM Commonwealth Workshop would be held in the later part of 2022. The other workshop envisioned would likely take place in Nigeria in February 2022, which was originally planned by the Swiss Presidency for 2020 but cancelled due to the pandemic. The UK Presidency hoped to revive the workshop and would be writing to the Nigerian government to enquire if it was still willing to co-host the event. Mr. Cleobury assured that the UK Presidency would keep the Committee members updated on its plans.

Mr. Cleobury further reported that the UK had carried out outreach activities and delivered demarches to capitals through approximately 30 of its diplomatic missions to enquire on the position of these countries on joining the CCM. He informed that there had been varied responses to the outreach which ranged from regions being occupied with the surge of COVID-19 cases and preparations for COP26, regional security concerns, and lengthy internal procedures amongst others as the reasons that hindered their joining the Convention.

The UK representative also informed that Ambassador Liddle had met with Azerbaijani officials virtually in the sidelines of the 19MSP of the APMBC to encourage Azerbaijan to join the CCM, APMBC and CCW. Following the exchange, the UK was considering holding military-to-military talks with Azerbaijan to further discuss the matter. Furthermore, the Presidency was in contact with New Zealand regarding its outreach to the Pacific States.

In continuing with the update of the presidency, Mr. Cleobury reported that the UK had, during a side event in the margins of the APMBC 19MSP on the topic, promoted the report on innovative finance developed as a result of its collaboration with HALO Trust and Social Finance. He also highlighted that the workshop in Cambodia had taken place the previous day to explore if some of the alternative finance models could be implemented in the country. He assured that he would follow up with his colleagues on the outcome of the workshop.

On the CCM machinery tasks, Mr. Cleobury informed that the Presidency had begun consultations with the GICHD on the recruitment procedure for the next ISU Director and that the matter would be further discussed with CCM States Parties during the 2022 CCM intersessional meeting. He also reported that discussions with the GICHD on convening the intersessional meeting had also commenced. However, with regard to the likely dates of that meeting, it would seem impractical to hold it back-to-back with the APMBC intersessional meeting in June as the 10MSP was scheduled to begin not long after on 30 August. While it would be ideal to convene the meeting in March, another possible option would be to have it back-to-back with the 25<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN) which could potentially be held in May though the dates had not yet been confirmed. Furthermore, another factor to be considered was the availability of a venue for the meeting.

In its contribution to the discussion, Spain enquired if the workshop planned for Nigeria would be a regional one. In response, the ISU Director clarified that the workshop was planned to be a ratification workshop for the 9 African Signatory States. Nevertheless, targeted States not Party from the region could also be invited, along with a few States Parties, to discuss challenges and possible solutions to hurdles in joining the Convention.

To contribute to the discussion, Mexico pointed out the importance of military-to-military dialogues in promoting CCM universalization and suggested for a more structured approach to link targeted states with States Parties that previously had military concerns regarding joining the Convention. Mexico highlighted that a document could be created based on previous outreach activities so that the Coordination Committee could analyze how to move forward in this regard.

In its contribution to the discussion, the CMC enquired if the CCM Presidency could use next year's Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings to reach out to ministers travelling from capitals to London to promote CCM universalization. The CMC further expressed its readiness to support the Presidency in its outreach efforts. In response, Mr. Cleobury acknowledged that this was a good suggestion and would take this into consideration during its planning.

In response to Mexico's suggestion, the ISU Director explained that the first military-to-military dialogue was organized by Germany, in its capacity as 7MSP Presidency, and the ISU had only been present during the first part of the discussions to provide clarification on the provisions of the Convention when necessary but was not present during the ensuing exchanges. She further alluded to the possibility of developing a brochure on military-to-military dialogues. Mr. Cleobury suggested that the Coordinators on Universalization consider organizing a military-to-military dialogue.

To contribute to the discussion, Switzerland highlighted that his colleagues had attended the military-to-military dialogue organized by Germany and might be able to provide insight on what was discussed during the meeting. Mr. Cleobury suggested that Switzerland share that information with the ISU Director for the matter to be taken forward.

In its contribution to the discussion, the ICRC highlighted that a military-to-military dialogue took place during the Southeast Asia *Regional Seminar on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Explosive Remnants of War* in 2019 that was co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and the ICRC. The ICRC representative further clarified that that dialogue was not always easy and could be controversial due to various factors including the cultural and political dynamics of the region. Nevertheless, she indicated that she would be happy to share the concept note of the military-to-military dialogue with the Committee. In response to the UK's plan to organize a regional workshop in Nigeria, the ICRC reminded the meeting that it had been at an advanced stage of organizing a workshop on conventional weapons with the African Union (AU) which was supported by the Swiss presidency in 2020, but the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The ICRC reaffirmed its commitment to support the UK Presidency in upcoming regional workshops.

In contributing to the discussion, the Philippines pointed out that with the support of the Swiss Presidency and the ISU, the Philippines had organized a virtual military-to-military dialogue with ASEAN States the previous year in its capacity as Co-Coordinator on Universalization. The Philippines informed that one takeaway from the webinar was that stakeholders in that region were more ready to discuss matters openly only amid other ASEAN countries. The Philippines further highlighted the need to continue the activities of the Informal Working Group on CCM universalization.

In closing the discussion, Mr. Cleobury reiterated the importance of taking cultural sensitivities into account and learning from previous experiences in holding military-to-military dialogues. He thanked the Committee for its efforts in consolidating its expertise and strategies as well as for continuing to revive plans that had been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **5. Presentation of outstanding Concept Notes by thematic Coordinators on their work up to the 10MSP**

Mr. Cleobury thanked the thematic Coordinators for the outstanding concept notes that had already been submitted through the ISU and invited the Coordinators on Universalization, the Philippines and Spain, to formally present their concept note.

The Philippines thanked Co-Coordinator Spain for developing the initial draft of the Concept Note and on behalf of both Coordinators, reported that their objective was not only to increase the number of new CCM States Parties but to further universalize the norms of the Convention. The Philippines listed some of the activities planned, which included engagement with States not yet party in Geneva in the margins of disarmament meetings, identification of target states, outreach through embassies, and meetings and workshops at regional level including through the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting.

The Philippines expressed the Coordinators' plans to increase cooperation with civil society and other international stakeholder organizations, and to invite States Parties to exchange lessons learnt with States not Party. Furthermore, the Coordinators intended to assist in facilitation of regional workshops in coordination with the Presidency and the ISU. The Coordinators would also promote the ICRC's Ratification Toolkit and New Zealand's Model Law for small states with no cluster munitions. The Philippines informed that the Coordinators would collaborate with the CMC and ICRC in their outreach to "low-hanging fruit" which included states that vote in favour of the CCM Resolution, States Parties to the APMBC not yet party to the CCM, Signatory States, and States not Party that had issued unilateral declarations in support of the Convention's norms. The Philippines also conveyed its support towards the ISU Director's suggestion on developing a brochure on military-to-military dialogue.

Spain outlined that the Coordinators would update their Concept Note to include universalization activities during the CCM intersessional meeting and remove those planned to be held in the margins of the APMBC 19MSP in November as that date had already passed prior to the circulation of the document.

In its contribution to the discussion, Mexico highlighted the need to further publicize the video created by New Zealand, the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, as it was a useful tool to promote the CCM.

Mr. Cleobury thanked the Coordinators for their presentation and informed that the Presidency would meet with the Coordinators on Universalization to discuss how to coordinate universalization efforts between the Presidency and the Coordinators.

## **6. Updates by Coordinators on the implementation of their thematic Concept Notes**

Mr. Cleobury invited the other thematic Coordinators to provide updates on the implementation of their thematic Concept Notes.

### **6.1 Victim Assistance (Chile and Mexico)**

Mexico reported that it had received authorization from its capital to travel to the Hague to conduct CCM outreach activities in the margins of the APMBC 19MSP but was unfortunately unable to do so due to the sudden change to hold the meeting entirely in virtual format. On behalf of the Coordinators on Victim Assistance, Mexico informed that the Coordinators would send notes Verbales inviting all States Parties with Article 5 obligations to provide their views on challenges in implementing actions related to victim assistance in the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). Mexico explained that this activity would kick start the process of states delving deeper into the difficulties faced so that these could be part of the discussion at the side event during the CCM intersessional meeting which the Coordinators planned to organize. Mexico further informed that the Coordinators would use the database contact list to target states that could present success stories and best practices related to the challenges identified by the stakeholders. It expressed the hope of the Coordinators that this would be a dynamic way for them to interact with the delegations.

## 6.2 International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Montenegro)

On behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Germany reported on two meetings hosted by the ISU that they had recently participated in with Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the first being virtual and the second being an in-person meeting. Germany informed that the meetings generated useful exchanges on the Bosnia and Herzegovina country coalition with Germany which covered the clearance of both cluster munitions and antipersonnel mines in that country.

Germany also reported that, in the margins of the APMBC 19MSP, France had indicated its interest in exploring the possibility of the establishment of a country coalition to assist Mauritania in its clearance obligations and had asked the Coordinators to provide more information on how the country coalition could work. The Coordinators planned to follow up with France and to inform it of the assistance that Mauritania would need. The plan was also to meet with Mauritania afterward to discuss the matter further.

Germany further outlined that the Coordinators would be hosting a CCM-APMBC meeting later that day with State representatives covering cooperation and assistance and the consideration of extension requests in the respective committees of the two Conventions, the Implementation Support Units of both Conventions as well as civil society representatives. The Coordinators would brief the Committee on the outcome of that exchange at the following meeting.

Mr. Cleobury thanked the Coordinators for the update and for organizing the working lunch meeting that day and informed that his colleague, Ms. Eleonora Saggese, would be representing the 10MSP Presidency at the meeting.

## 6.3 Clearance and Risk Education (Guyana and Sweden)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Education, Guyana informed that they were present at the in-person meeting with Bosnia and Herzegovina that discussed the implementation of its work plan submitted as part of its extension request during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference. Guyana also assured that the Coordinators would continue to follow up with other States Parties with Article 4 obligations for updates.

## 6.4 Transparency Measures (Iraq)

Iraq reported that it had updated its Concept Note to incorporate the feedback received during the last meeting. The representative informed that reminder letters had been sent to the 9 States Parties still with overdue initial transparency reports. Iraq assured that it would continue to engage with those States at every available opportunity.

## 6.5 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Australia and Bulgaria)

Australia, speaking on behalf of the Coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, reported that since the last meeting, the Coordinators had approached Peru and South Africa and that both States had demonstrated an openness to discuss their Article 3 implementation. Peru had requested that the Coordinators send an official letter at

Ambassadorial level formally requesting a bilateral meeting with it. The Coordinators were giving further consideration to this request.

Australia recalled the proposal made by the UK President at the previous CCM Coordination Committee meeting of making joint representations to Guinea-Bissau on the status of its Article 3 obligations, possibly via embassies in Dakar, Senegal. Australia noted that unfortunately neither Australia nor Bulgaria had a diplomatic presence in Dakar with Australia's bilateral relations with Guinea-Bissau being managed out of its embassy in Lisbon. In view of that, Australia said that the Coordinators would be very grateful for any assistance the UK would be able to provide in making such representations.

Australia concluded the update by noting that the Coordinators were also considering how to apply the country coalition concept in the context of its thematic activities.

Mr. Cleobury thanked the Coordinators for their update and assured that he would follow up with his colleagues in Dakar on possible engagement with Guinea-Bissau.

In its contribution to the discussion, Spain pointed out that it had an embassy in Guinea-Bissau and expressed its readiness to support the follow-up efforts. In response, Mr. Cleobury underlined that the Presidency could liaise with Spain to see if it were possible to deliver a joint demarche to the government of Guinea-Bissau.

#### 6.6 General Status and Operation of the Convention (France and Namibia)

Namibia, on behalf of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation, reported that the Coordinators had begun with activities planned for the last quarter of 2021 and would provide an update on these later. In addition, the Coordinators would collaborate with the other thematic Coordinators in encouraging States Parties to report on gender mainstreaming. The Coordinators understood that this could be challenging especially for developing countries and called for support to be provided to such countries in terms of capacity building. Furthermore, Namibia informed that the Coordinators would be issuing an invitation to states represented in the Coordination Committee, as well as several other states, to share their best practices in gender mainstreaming and reporting.

Co-Coordinator France outlined that the Coordinators would carry out an analysis of good practice in other Conventions with regard to gender mainstreaming and reporting and would take advantage of its recent election as a member of the APMBC Committee on Article 5 implementation as an opportunity to benefit from the synergies between both Conventions. France indicated that it would consult with the other members of the Article 5 Committee—Belgium, Sri Lanka, and Iraq—on how to move onward with this as such a practice was yet to be established.

Mr. Cleobury thanked the Coordinators for their update and enquired on the method that the Coordinators would employ to advance gender mainstreaming and reporting with States Parties. In response, Namibia informed that the Coordinators would request for that to be tabled as an agenda item in a future meeting for the Coordination Committee to discuss that further.

## **7. Update by UNODA on CCM Financing in Accordance with Article 4 of the Convention**

UNODA reported that the status of contributions as of November 2021 had not been released yet, therefore only referred to the status of 31 October 2021. According to that estimate, which had been circulated to States, there was a shortfall of almost USD 28'000 with regard to the expenses of the Second Review Conference (2RC). The UNODA representative underlined the importance of timely payment as that could affect the translation of documents. She reported that, despite the shortfall, the working paper on gender and diversity would be translated as funds were expected to be received.

UNODA further reported that only 69% of funds had been secured for the 10MSP that had been moved to 2022, and that more than USD 100'000 remained outstanding. She noted that this was unusual for the CCM and opined that this could have been caused by confusion due to the postponement of the 10MSP.

Mr. Cleobury outlined that the Presidency had taken note of the matter and enquired if more contributions were expected to be received at the end of the year, which would be the end of the financial cycle for many states. In response, UNODA conveyed its hope that that would be the case. Mr. Cleobury added that the Presidency was prepared to encourage states that had not made their contributions to do so.

## **8. Update by the CCM Implementation Support Unit**

### **8.1 Financing of the ISU**

The ISU Director reported that 2 more states had made contributions since the last meeting, bringing the total number of States that had contributed to 47 and the total amount received to CHF 356'660 as of 30 November 2021 representing approximately 76% of the 2021 budget. She further outlined that thanks to the President's letter to remind States that had yet made a contribution to do so, 3 States Parties had informed her that they were in the process of transferring approximately EUR 83'000 to the ISU which would bring the total to 94% of the budget. The Director added that there were usually a few other states that made their payments at the end of the year, which she estimated would help the ISU to meet its annual budget.

### **8.2 NIM Video**

The Director reminded that the video produced by New Zealand, in its capacity as Coordinator on National Implementation Measures (NIM), had been received and made available on the CCM website.

### **8.3 CCM Website**

The Director informed that the CCM website was temporarily offline two days earlier as the ISU was in the process of giving the website a make-over which would be launched early in the new year.



#### 8.4 Follow up with States Parties with CCM Article 4 Obligations

##### (a) Afghanistan

The ISU Director reported that the ISU had met virtually with Afghanistan to discuss the implementation of its extension request work plan approved at the 2RC. Afghanistan outlined that its clearance operations had stalled due to banking issues that had halted funds from being disbursed through the usual banking channels as before. The Afghan representatives who were working on a voluntary basis, reported that they were looking into how to resolve this issue through external banking routes and hoped it would be done within 2 months.

##### (b) Bosnia and Herzegovina

The ISU hosted a virtual meeting with Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive an update on its Article 4 implementation, followed by an in-person meeting with the BHMIC Director where discussions on the implementation of the between Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina took place. The ISU had invited the thematic Coordinators on CCM Articles 4 and 6 to participate in one or both meetings. During these meetings, Bosnia and Herzegovina had assured that it would not require to submit a further extension request as it was on track to comply with its Article 4 obligations by mid-2022 and planned to provide its official declaration of compliance by September 2022.

##### (c) Iraq

The ISU also met virtually with the Iraqi Directorate of Mine Action during which Iraq informed that it would be submitting an Article 4 extension request to be considered at the 11MSP scheduled for 2023. Iraq also reported that it would begin preparing the extension request early to facilitate the submission of a high-quality document. It further indicated that it would present an early draft of the extension request already at the CCM intersessional meeting scheduled for mid-2022.

Mr. Cleobury thanked the ISU Director for the updates and highlighted that the issues with Afghanistan extended beyond cluster munition clearance and that talks were being held at the United Nations to determine how assistance to Afghanistan could progress meaningfully.

#### 9. Next Coordination Committee Meeting

Mr. Cleobury announced that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would likely take place in early February 2022. Details pertaining to that Meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.

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