



UK Mission
Geneva



10TH MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES
30 AUG - 2 SEPT
GENEVA 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CCM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

held on Friday 4th March 2022

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

from 10:00 to 11:15 hours

1. Present:

United Kingdom – 10MSP President

H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle

Mr. Simon Cleobury

Iraq – President-Designate (11MSP)

Mr. Sabah Al-Janaby

Mr. Mohammed Ridha Al-Haidari

Switzerland – Immediate Past President (2RC)

Mr. Boris Ganty

Australia

Ms. Thea Gellerfy

France

Ms. Inès Mensah

Germany

Ms. Anna Mikeska

Mexico

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Montenegro

Mr. Nikola Ražnatović

Philippines

Mr. Jonelle John Domingo

CMC

Mr. Hector Guerra

ICRC

Ms. Wen Zhou

UNODA

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Mr. William Lunding

Implementation Support Unit

Mr. Emad Al-Juhaishi

Ms. Elaine Weiss

Apologies received

Bulgaria

Chile

New Zealand

Spain

2. Opening Remarks by the Presidency

The President of the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (10MSP), Ambassador Aidan Liddle, opened the fifth Coordination Committee Meeting under the United Kingdom Presidency with warm greetings to all present. He extended a hearty welcome to those attending the meeting in person for the first time, Ms. Thea Gellerfy - Australia, Mr. Boris Ganty - Switzerland, Mr. Sabah Al-Janaby - Iraq, and Mr. William Lunding - UNODA.

Ambassador Liddle outlined that he wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the situation in Ukraine and express his revulsion towards the Russian invasion of Ukraine especially the attacks on residential and civilian targets, which he believed was shared by the Coordination Committee members. He pointed out that the grave situation in Ukraine intersected with the work of the Convention, in particular the reported use of cluster munitions in Kharkiv and elsewhere. He highlighted that the UK Presidency had issued a statement reiterating its grave concern over reports of cluster munition use in Ukraine, which echoed the Lausanne Declaration made by CCM States Parties at the 2nd Review Conference (2RC). The President recognized that other states and organizations, such as Switzerland and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), had also made statements on this subject. He then invited the CMC to share its views with the Committee.

The CMC Director reported that the CMC community was shocked by the use of cluster munitions by Russia in Ukraine and was following events closely. In its statement on 25 February, circulated to the Coordination Committee, the CMC had referred to findings by Human Rights Watch (HRW) which contained specific information on an attack. HRW had identified confirmed use of cluster munitions which was well-documented and detailed in its 25 February statement. The CMC Director indicated that the use of cluster munitions, especially in urban areas, was revolting and unacceptable. He read the first paragraph of the HRW statement and pointed out that the article gave an indication to the type of cluster munitions used outside a hospital and the humanitarian consequences that reverberated consequently, considering that this attack took place in the context of a global pandemic. Mr. Guerra encouraged the Committee to condemn the confirmed use of cluster munitions, by specifying the actor and the context of the attack. The Director reiterated that the CMC was following the situation closely and might issue new public statements on the matter in the near future.

The President thanked the CMC Director for his comments and invited the ICRC to also share its opinions on the matter.

The ICRC highlighted that it continued to dialogue with all parties to the conflict to remind them to fulfil their legal obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL). The ICRC was not in the position to comment on any specific allegation or report of use of cluster munitions due to its modus operandi. Nonetheless, in the ICRC's view, the characteristics and use of cluster munitions (in particular their wide area effects, their inaccuracy and the large numbers of submunitions that often remain unexploded) render them extremely difficult, if not impossible, to comply with IHL rules governing conduct of hostilities. As reiterated by CCM States Parties in the Lausanne Declaration, the ICRC condemned any use of cluster munitions by any actor and encouraged states to join the Convention as soon as

possible. The ICRC President had released a public statement that day that highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and that to avoid further civilian suffering, civilian infrastructure must be protected, access to health care and safety of medical workers must be upheld, and protected persons be accounted for and treated with dignity, including prisoners of war and detainees. She pointed out that the ICRC operated in Ukraine and would continue performing its role to provide protection and assistance to those affected by the conflict.

The President thanked the ICRC for its input and indicated that the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine was a matter of grave concern that would continue to be discussed in the future. in the Intersessional Meeting and 10MSP.

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 February 2022 as an accurate record of what had been discussed during that meeting.

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

4.1 Finances for CCM Meetings

Ambassador Liddle reported that the presidency was consulting with delegates on outstanding proposals to stabilize the finances of the Convention, in particular the proposal of a contingency line in the budget. He outlined that an open-ended discussion of this matter at the Intersessional Meeting would be conducted and informed that the presidency would discuss with the Coordination Committee to decide on whether a proposal would be drafted to guide the discussions at the 10th Meeting of States Parties.

4.2 Universalization of the Convention

The President informed that the Africa Regional CCM Universalization Workshop was being organized to take place in Abuja, Nigeria, on the 23-24 March 2022.

He reported that outreach to Azerbaijan through the British Embassy in Baku was underway, with the ISU Director's cooperation. The UK Presidency was engaging with the Mine Action Agency of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) to turn its attention to cluster munitions as a Mine Awareness Day event to be held by UNDP in late March. Azerbaijan had expressed its interest in submitting a voluntary CCM Article 7 report in the near future, prior to acceding to the Convention. Ambassador Liddle informed that the presidency would continue to work with the ISU to follow up on this.

4.3 2022 Intersessional Meeting

The President explained that following the previous meeting which focused on fixing the dates of the CCM 2022 Intersessional Meeting, the situation had become slightly more complicated. He invited UNODA to further elaborate on this.

UNODA informed that it was facing challenges in reserving a room for the meeting. It had previously reserved a room for the 9-10 May, but there were no interpreters available to work on those dates. Nonetheless, there was still the possibility of engaging freelance interpreters for the meeting. UNODA had also checked with the Division of Conference Management (DCM) about holding the meeting on 4-5 May but had not received any confirmation on the availability of a room or interpretation services for those dates. The DCM had also not advised on whether a fully virtual meeting could be an option. UNODA explained that the DCM had been stretched to capacity due to numerous changes and postponements in meetings this year. Furthermore, as the CCM Intersessional Meeting was not a calendared meeting, it was considered an additional event by the DCM and could not be prioritized. This could explain the difficulty for UNODA to obtain timely feedback on requests related to it. Therefore, UNODA recommended that the presidency look for a venue outside of UNOG to hold the Intersessional Meeting.

Ambassador Liddle assured that the presidency had been working closely with UNODA to fix the dates for the Intersessional Meeting. However, the challenges encountered had caused the option of convening the meeting at the Palais to be impracticable. He reported that the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) had agreed to generously sponsor the meeting. He further informed that the presidency would be exploring options outside of UNOG, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) where the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) would be holding its 2022 Intersessional Meeting. The President indicated that he aimed to hold the meeting in early May and welcomed suggestions to be made to the presidency, the ISU and GICHD on possible venues for the meeting.

In responding to the President's invitation to provide suggestions, the CMC Director suggested to consider the World Trade Organization (WTO), which, in his opinion, was a suitable conference venue. He added that considering that many countries were easing restrictions and opening up international travel, there would be higher expectations for in-person events including side events.

The President conveyed his appreciation to CMC for the suggestion and assured that the presidency would explore the option. He affirmed that the presidency's Plan A was to convene the Intersessional Meeting as a physical meeting, and that the hybrid format was an acceptable option. He acknowledged that in-person interactions in the margins constituted a valuable part of the work.

4.4 Recruitment of Future ISU Directors

Ambassador Liddle reminded that he had been mandated by the 2RC to develop the selection procedure for the recruitment of the new ISU Director who would be replacing the current one. He informed that he had invited GICHD representatives to attend the Coordination Committee meeting that day to discuss this topic, but they were away at a work retreat and unable to attend.

The President referred to the document circulated to the Coordination Committee two days before the meeting on the *Elements of a draft decision on the selection procedure for the recruitment of future CCM ISU Directors to be considered at the 10MSP*. He illustrated

that the document set up what needed to be covered and pointed out that the updated Terms of Reference (TOR) were mentioned in the first section or chapeau of the document. He explained that the TOR was a technical document that the GICHD had oversight of, that took into account the input of the presidency.

The President outlined that some of the key issues were the composition of the selection panel, how that would work and how the panel would report their findings, as well as the position of the GICHD as employer and facilitator of the process. The recruitment process would be held in collaboration with the GICHD and would utilize the GICHD's experience in recruitment and would be carried out according to GICHD procedure and take into consideration Swiss labour law. Ambassador Liddle suggested that a draft decision be submitted to CCM States Parties for discussion at the Intersessional Meeting. He invited the Committee to share their views on the substance of the document especially with regard to the selection panel, which he recognized as having more scope for discussion.

In response to the President's invitation, Mexico remarked that the process that the presidency had outlined appeared to be straightforward and agreed that the balance of affected/non-affected States Parties on the selection panel was an important point. Mexico advised, however, that achieving the equilibrium aspired in the document was difficult to attain in practice. Mexico was appreciative that the selection procedure seemed straightforward and uncomplicated, with a clear pathway, and was based on the competency of the candidate, with technical support from the GICHD, and with balance considerations in the selection panel. Mexico assured that with the support of the Coordination Committee, the presidency would be able to facilitate the first round of consultations in May at the Intersessional Meeting.

5. Updates by Thematic Coordinators on the Implementation of their Concept Notes

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

France, on behalf of the Coordinators on General Status and Operation, reported that after the last meeting, the Coordinators had gone through CCM transparency reports from 2019 to 2021 to evaluate the extent to which gender mainstreaming had been integrated and reflected in reporting. Most States Parties had not included such information in their reports and the Coordinators concluded that there was not enough material in the reports for them to provide meaningful statistics or analysis. Therefore, the Coordinators had decided to abandon this project.

The Coordinators were in the process of developing two main projects, the first of which would be to organize a side event in the margins of the 10MSP in order to discuss and explore different options for gender mainstreaming in the CCM. They had recently met with the GICHD and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), that had agreed to support the Coordinators in this project. France informed that the thematic of the side event was still being decided.

France informed that the Coordinators would submit more details on the second project to the Coordination Committee in the next meeting. As the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention did not have a firm mandate, they were tasked by the 2RC to be the focal point on gender issues. The Coordinators intended to draft new TOR for

their office in the coming month for the Coordination Committee to deliberate, with the aim of submitting them to States Parties at the Intersessional Meeting.

In contributing to the discussion, the CMC expressed its appreciation of the development of the Coordinators' work. He pointed out that ICBL-CMC was a member of the Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG), along with GICHD and NPA, and other organizations. The CMC conveyed the GDWG's readiness to support the work of the Coordinators.

5.2 Universalization (The Philippines and Spain)

On behalf of the Coordinators on Universalization, the Philippines reported that they had been working closely with the presidency on universalization. The Philippines reported that preparations were in full swing for the African Regional CCM Universalization Workshop in Abuja, co-organized by the governments of Nigeria, Switzerland and the UK. Targeted states in the region were invited to the workshop.

The Philippines acknowledged that this was part of the presidency's outreach to priority regions, such as Africa and Asia-Pacific. The Coordinators were in discussion with the presidency about organizing an Asia-Pacific seminar that could take place in early 2023. The Philippines conveyed its hope that another meeting in that region could be held and informed that the Coordinators were exploring to see what added value such a meeting would bring in promoting CCM universalization in that region.

The Philippines reported to have continued its outreach to other ASEAN member states on CCM universalization, including at the ambassadorial level.

5.3 Victim Assistance (Chile and Mexico)

Mexico, on behalf of the VA Coordinators, reported that the Coordinators had sent a letter to every national focal point of the States with Article 5 obligations. In the letter, the Coordinators highlighted the elements of Actions 31 to 37 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) and requested these States to share the aspects they found particularly interesting or challenging, which would be discussed at side event in the margins of the CCM 2022 Intersessional Meeting. Mexico reported that to date, a few states, including Croatia and Lebanon, had responded to the letter. Mexico indicated that with the help of civil society, the Coordinators would identify issues for further discussion in order to make the upcoming side event a useful one in strengthening victim assistance.

5.4 Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Australia and Bulgaria)

On behalf of the Coordinators, Australia reported that the meeting planned with Peru the previous week had to be postponed due to unexpected engagements that arose as a result of the recent world events. The Coordinators were working on rescheduling the meeting with Peru. Australia also informed that the Coordinators were also planning to hold a call with South Africa in the week of 21 March.

5.5 International Cooperation and Assistance (Germany and Montenegro)

On behalf of the Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, Germany reported that the Coordinators had held a meeting with France to follow up on its interest in forming a country coalition with Mauritania. During the discussion, the ISU and Coordinators discussed with France the country coalition concept and the possible level of commitment for France in support of Mauritania's CCM implementation in this partnership. A meeting together with Mauritania was the intended next step.

In contributing to the thematic discussion, Mr. Cleobury of the United Kingdom informed that a meeting on innovative financing for mine action would be held at Wilton Park in the UK the following week, which would bring together representatives of the mine action community and donors to discuss the report supported by the United Kingdom written by Social Finance and the HALO Trust. Mr. Cleobury expressed his hope that a pilot project with Cambodia would come to fruition. He informed that the ISU Director would be participating in the meeting virtually and the APMBC ISU would also be represented. He conveyed that another report would be produced to be presented at least one side event of the upcoming meetings.

Ambassador Liddle indicated that he looked forward to receiving feedback from the Wilton Park meeting.

5.6 Transparency Measures (Iraq)

Iraq reported that it had sent a reminder letter to States Parties on 28 February to encourage the submission of their 2021 annual transparency report before the deadline of 30 April. Iraq further reported that it had utilized the Human Rights Council (HRC) session to target states that had outstanding initial reports to remind them to submit them as soon as possible. Iraq conveyed its appreciation to the ISU for awarding early-bird medals to encourage States Parties to submit their annual reports earlier.

The President expressed his readiness to support the Coordinator by reaching out to States Parties that have at least 2 years of arrears in reporting. He informed that the presidency was mandated in accordance with Action 45 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) to develop adapted reporting forms. He pointed out that the presidency would be in contact with Iraq in the near future to discuss the possibility of working on a new CCM Article 7 reporting template.

In contributing to the discussion, the CMC applauded Iraq's initiative of using the HRC session as an opportunity for outreach to states. The CMC informed of its availability to support the work of the Coordinators at the HRC sessions.

In adding to the thematic discussion, Mexico informed that the APMBC would be organizing a workshop for States Parties the following week to increase its transparency reporting. He enquired if the CCM would be included in this workshop. In response, Iraq reported that the Conventions had not explored synergy in this thematic area and indicated that this workshop could be an opportunity to do so.

In its contribution to the discussion, UNODA recalled that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms had a reporting template that was a user-friendly online platform with fields that were easy to fill out by states. She recognized that such a system needed to be developed and pointed out that the United Nations' system-wide data strategies still had a lot of room for improvement. She suggested it could be a joint CCM-APMBC project to work with States Parties to come up with a reporting template that was less labour intensive that would benefit states as well as the UN. In response, Ambassador Liddle thanked the UNODA representative for her suggestion and indicated that the presidency would look into it.

The President thanked all the Coordinators for their update and informed that New Zealand was unable to attend the Coordination Committee Meeting that day and would be presenting its Concept Note during the next meeting.

6. Update by UNODA on CCM Financing in Accordance with Article 4 of the Convention

UNODA informed that it had not received the latest status of contribution reports, which she expected would be released the following week.

The President requested for UNODA to circulate the updates when they were ready. He reiterated the presidency's readiness to reach out to states that needed encouragement to make their contributions.

7. Update by the CCM Implementation Support Unit

7.1 Financing of the ISU

(a) Update on 2022 Contributions

The ISU Implementation Support Specialist reported that since the last update, 12 States Parties had contributed to the ISU 2022 Trust Fund. To date, 17 countries had contributed more than CHF 48'000 to the 2022 budget amounting to almost 10% of the annual budget.

(b) Update on 2021 Contributions

The ISU informed that 1 more State had made an assessed contribution and another a voluntary contribution to the 2021 budget, bringing the total number of States that had done so to 51 and the total amount to approximately CHF 414'943, which was about 88% of the year's budget. This translated to a shortfall of roughly CHF 54'000.

7.2 Follow up with States Parties with CCM Article 4 Obligations

Since the last meeting, the ISU had held virtual meetings with 3 States Parties with Article 4 obligations to ascertain how implementation efforts are progressing:

(a) Mauritania

Mauritania reported to have worked on its logistics such as office renovations, maintenance of work vehicles, preparation of cluster munition clearance equipment, as well as training of demining teams. Mauritania had also updated its contamination database and victim assistance database for 2019-2022. Mauritania specifically informed that gender considerations were taken into account in its VA database. Mauritania had carried out risk education through several awareness-raising campaigns in high-risk areas. It reported that non-technical survey (NTS) was underway in several regions and one cluster munition field was recently cleared. Moreover, 2 contaminated fields were planned to be cleared this year. Mauritania informed that its Permanent Mission in Geneva would be following up with the Mission of France on establishing a country coalition.

(b) Somalia

On 28 February, the Director of SEMA (Somalia Explosive Management Authority) had informed that he had met with the HALO Trust Director in Mogadishu and confirmed that operations had not been carried out in the area HALO Trust was focused on, which was a small border area between Somalia and Ethiopia. The SEMA Director reported that he would be meeting with HALO Trust and potential donors in the new future to discuss mine and cluster clearance in that area.

Somalia had not submitted its annual transparency report in the past 2 years. The SEMA Director had assured that he would be submitting one this year.

(c) Afghanistan

UNMAS reported to be in the process of establishing a new modality, the United Nations Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination Center for Afghanistan (UN HMACCA) and determined that all demining work should be humanitarian. Consultations on its establishment were being negotiated with the government subsidiary, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), which UNMAS hoped to have more clarity on by mid-April. UNMAS reported that a donor country had given the green light to one NGO working with cluster munition clearance to continue with operations after a 3-month suspension due to financing issues. Despite all the delays, UNMAS informed that it appeared that Afghanistan was still on track comply with its Article 4 obligation by the deadline. Furthermore, there were no more inaccessible areas as the government had provided UNMAS access to conduct survey in previously inaccessible areas. UNMAS reminded that the Article 7 report was the responsibility of the DMAC under the new government, and informed that it would cooperate with DMAC on this if an agreement to establish the UN HMACCA was reached. UNMAS further reported that it already had quick response clearance projects and more than 200 personnel on the ground to help affected communities.

7.3 Preparations for the Abuja Workshop

The Implementation Support Specialist informed that invitation letters to delegations were sent out on 22 February and that the ISU had started following up with the invited states. To date, the ISU had received complete registration documents from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. The CMC and ICRC had also confirmed their participation.

The ISU team planned to arrive in Abuja on 19 March to ensure logistic arrangements could be finalized on site.

7.4 New CCM Website

The new CCM website was launched on 14 February. The ISU team would continue to update various web pages and links, as not all the information from the old website had been completely transferred. The ISU informed that there might still be difficulty for users to access certain information on the new website during this interim period and expressed its hope that these issues could be resolved before the end of March.

The Implementation Support Specialist reported that the number of visitors to the website over the past week had increased significantly as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The website had more than 2000 views the previous Tuesday, which was a 10-fold increase compared to the previous day.

7.5 Submission of Third 2021 Annual Transparency Report

Since the last meeting, the early-bird bronze medal had been awarded to Iraq for being State Party number 3 to submit its 2021 annual transparency report.

Ambassador Liddle thanked the ISU Implementation Support Specialist for his updates and conveyed that he was encouraged by the progress in cluster munition clearance in Afghanistan in spite of the significant difficulties it was facing on the ground. The President was also heartened to hear that States Parties were trying to bridge the gap of the 2021 budget shortfall and expressed his hope that ISU would still meet its 2021 budget.

8. Next Coordination Committee Meeting

The President thanked all the Coordination Committee members for their work and highlighted that challenging current events reflected the relevance of the work of the Convention. He announced that the next Coordination Committee Meeting would likely take place on the week of 4 April in keeping with the pattern of holding the meetings during the first week of the month. Details pertaining to the Meeting would be communicated by the ISU closer to the date.

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