

President's Summary of the Coordinating Committee Meeting July 18, 2002

1. Update on the Standing Committees' second meeting and final reports

The Presidency thanked the Co Chairs for their hard work and informed that despite missing the July 12th target date, all the Final Reports were finalized and the pending report would be sent to the DDA office in Geneva today. This will assure that they will be ready in all UN languages in mid-August. The Standing Committee Meeting Reports were also finalized and are found on the GICHD website.

2. Discussion: Informal Consultations on international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6

During the last Coordinating Committee meeting, the Presidency requested that reflection be given to how to address the agenda item on informal consultations on international cooperation and assistance during the 4MSP (on victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction) in order to make these informal segments more relevant and useful for States Parties. There was ample discussion on ways to improve these segments including by the use of the enhancements brought about in the preparations for the May Intersessional Work Programme such as greater coherence between what takes place during these sessions and the achievement of the core humanitarian aims of the Convention. These sessions could be used as a tool for continuity, and improved preparations could be undertaken to allow States Parties to sufficiently prepare for these sessions. The importance of providing States Parties with the opportunity to address matters regarding International Assistance and Cooperation (resource mobilization) in a general manner was also addressed. It was noted the significant preparations should be undertaken by the Co Chairs to assure that enhancements take place during the informal segments of the 4MSP.

3. Discussion on the 4MSP President's Action Programme (PAP)

During the last Coordinating Committee Meeting, the Presidency also requested that some thought be given to the 4MSP President's Action Programme (PAP) and on how the recommendations of the Standing Committees may be reflected in the Presidents Action Programme. The Presidency reiterated that the PAP remains the responsibility of the President of the 4MSP, but the Co Chairs could contribute to the President's work by providing suggestions with an aim to improving the utility and relevance of this document. In this sense, most agreed on the usefulness of the past PAP documents, particularly in the preparations of Standing Committee agendas, as well as the informal nature of the document. More over, the Co Chairs recommended that the PAP should be drafted to clearly indicate that it represents the President's general direction or objectives for the future of the Convention. To ensure that it is a tool for continuity, it should reflect the essential elements that have been suggested for follow-up by the Co-Chairs in their final reports, which in turn should be elements that the incoming Co-Chairs acknowledge as being important areas for follow-up. The individual elements could be drafted to ensure greater consistency and unity to the document as a whole. It should focus on key priority areas and the length and format should encourage readability, in part to ensure that it gains broad attention.

4. Any other business

The presidency gave a special farewell to Peter Sagar of Canada, thanked Belgium for sponsoring lunch and proposed August 5th at 10:30 for the next CC Meeting. A Co Chair of General Status responded to a question on the new Co Rapporteurs, reiterating that further consultations are ongoing as there are still more States Parties interested in assuming a Co Rapporteurship than seats.