

## **President's Summary of the Coordinating Committee Meeting Wednesday, 20 February 2002**

The Chair welcomed Coordinating Committee participants as well as a representative of Guatemala, who had asked the Chair to observe the meeting.

### **1. Preparations for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties**

The Chair informed that the Presidency would be sending a letter to the Secretary General (SG) of the UN regarding three matters decided upon during the last meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status: a) Requesting the SG to send invitations to all States for the 4MSP; b) Asking the SG to request that States Parties pay their assessed contributions based on the cost estimates from the 2MSP while work proceeds on developing revised draft costs estimates for the 4MSP for the Standing Committee's consideration; and, c) Requesting that the SG appoint an Executive Secretary for the 4MSP.

### **2. Proposal for a Coordinating Committee Retreat**

The Coordinating Committee expressed support for spending a day discussing possible enhancements to the Intersessional Process, with a view to examining: a) The purpose of the Intersessional Programme; b) Making sure that the purpose corresponds with the topics being discussed in the Standing Committee meetings; c) Assuring that how the topics are dealt with serves the overall purpose, particularly, by examining how to ensure meetings are relevant to participants, participants are provided with sufficient information in order to be prepared for meetings, time allocation and reports.

There was a general understanding that two types of ideas might flow from the Coordinating Committee retreat: a) modifications of a minor nature, which could be put into effect during the next Intersessional Week by the Co-Chairs of the four Committees; and, if necessary, b) modifications of a more profound nature, which could be suggested to States Parties at the next Intersessional Week for possible presentation to the 4MSP. There was broad agreement that the main objective of the retreat would be to have a free-flowing, open exchange and reflection on how the intersessional meetings could mark, measure and ensure progress in the implementation of the Convention even more effectively. Much has been accomplished in 3 years and it is important to convey these positive results, as well as to clearly identify the work which remains. It was agreed that the President would prepare the Program of work for the retreat, which would take place during the second week of March.

### **3. Intersessional Work Programme:**

There was a general agreement that the January 28 – February 1, 2002 Intersessional Week went very well. There was a high level of participation from states, including mine affected states, and NGOs. The interpretation was good and flexible and did not adversely affect the informal nature of the meetings. The service provided by the GICHD was excellent. The Sponsorship Programme is working well and has probably reached a desirable number of participants per

meeting. It was noted that selection of future sponsored participants should be decided at an earlier date and more strategically.

Several Coordinating Committee members supported dedicating more time to the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention and agreed that this would be an important matter to discuss at the Coordinating Committee retreat. There was the feeling that the ceremony for the landmine survivors should be better integrated in the agenda. There was also the sense that Article 7 had received renewed importance and should be given more attention by the Standing Committees. In addition, some Coordinating Committee members felt that status and operation of Article 6 should receive more attention. There was also a general positive reaction to the cooperative manner in which some compliance issues were addressed.

#### **4. Report by the Manager of the Implementation Support Unit**

Kerry Brinkert gave some general reflections on the ISU explaining that he met with many representatives of States Parties to explain the mandate of the ISU, which was received positively. He also met with members of the CC and progress on several ideas has already begun. At the macro level, he presented his priorities over the immediate to medium term: 1) Ongoing outreach to State Parties and other partners in this endeavour; 2) Support work on discussing enhancements to the intersessional process; 3) Support preparations for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties; 4) Following-up on matters that emerged from the January meetings of the Standing Committees and support preparation efforts for the May meetings; 5) Work on a documentation resource centre, as well as enhancements to the GICHD's web site content related to the Convention.