

**Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
5 August 2003**

President's Summary

I. Update on reporting

It was reported that all four reports from the May meetings and all four final reports had been submitted. The Coordinating Committee was assured that the final reports would be made available on the GICHD web site¹ and that they would be distributed to all States Parties by the 5MSP Executive Secretary prior to the 5MSP.

II. Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties

A. Update on an informal information meeting

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention confirmed that in keeping with traditional practice, they would convene an informal information meeting in advance of the 5MSP in order for the Co-Chairs and the President-designate in particular to share important information related to the 5MSP. It was reported that this meeting will take place on Monday 8 September at 15:00 at the Palais des Nations, Room XI. It was also reported that a notice would be sent to all States Parties next week, along with various draft documents prepared by the President-designate and 4MSP President.

B. Update on the logistical and administrative arrangements

Detailed updates were provided on a number of matters:

- Level of participation: Thailand intends to encourage participation in the 5MSP by ASEAN States, and possibly by Human Security Network partners, at the level of Foreign Ministers.
- Visas: It was emphasised that all delegates should take necessary steps to acquire visas to enter Thailand. In this regard, Thailand again directed delegates to consult the information document distributed on 16 May.²
- Field visit: Thailand reminded the Coordinating Committee that a field visit will take place on Sunday 14 September and that this activity is open to the first 200 delegates that register for it on a first-come-first-serve basis. To register for the field visit, delegates should check the appropriate box in the 5MSP registration form.³
- Transportation: It was confirmed that transportation will be provided between the Bangkok International Airport and hotels and between hotels and the United Nations Conference Centre.

¹ Please see: www.gichd.ch/mbc/msp/5msp/agenda_documents/final_reports_sc.htm

² Please see: www.gichd.ch/mbc/msp/5msp/logistics.htm

³ Please see: www.gichd.ch/mbc/msp/5msp/registration.htm

- Exhibitions: It was reported that a working group on exhibitions has been established and that States Parties and organizations wishing to exhibit should contact this working group.⁴
- Opening ceremony: It was confirmed that HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra of Thailand, Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongjaiyudh of Thailand and HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium will participate in the opening ceremony on Monday 15 September from 11:00 to 12:00. Given the participation by members of the royal families, delegates will need to be in place at least 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the opening ceremony.
- Speakers list: It was reported that an announcement regarding the opening of the speakers list for the General Exchange of Views will be made in the United Nations Journal starting on 18 August.
- Side events: A preliminary calendar of side events was distributed. This calendar will soon be made available to all interested actors on the GICHD web site.
- Assessments: States Parties were reminded to pay their assessed costs for the 5MSP and to check with their Permanent Missions in New York if they are not aware of their assessments.
- Access to the UN Conference Centre: Thailand agreed to follow-up regarding determining when delegates could access the UNCC.

C. Requests for invitations received with respect to Rule 1.4

The Coordinating Committee, in a manner consistent with its role with respect to responding to requests from organizations – other than those already listed in the rules – for invitations to the 5MSP, agreed to the request made by the non-governmental organization VERTIC. In addition, the Coordinating Committee agreed to provide consent to the President by email, on an as-needs-basis, for further requests for invitations for so-called “Rule 1.4” organizations.

D. A reminder to Co-Chairs with respect to the election of officers

The Coordinating Committee was reminded that Rule 5 of the 5MSP Rules of Procedure states that, “The Meeting of the States Parties shall elect a President and 8 Vice-Presidents” and that tradition has seen the outgoing 8 Co-Chairs being nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents. In this regard, Austria, Peru, Colombia, France, Belgium, Kenya, Romania and Switzerland were asked to provide to the ISU Manager in the coming weeks information regarding which individuals will represent these States on the bureau in order that he may assist the 5MSP President in coordinating bureau meetings.

E. Co-Chairs’ roles with respect to Agenda Items #11 and 15.

The Coordinating Committee was reminded that tradition has seen the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention assist the President during Agenda Item #11, the review of the general status and

⁴ The coordinator for all exhibitions is Mr. Suthikiet Sopanik, tel: 66-1-840-4257, fax: 66-2-279-4283, email: gcef@loxinfo.co.th.

operation of the Convention. In addition, tradition has seen the Co-Chairs of the other three Standing Committees facilitate discussions during Agenda Item #15, informal consultations on international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6. To help assist the Co-Chairs in preparing for Agenda Item #15, Co-Chairs were provided with food-for-thought from the ISU Manager, which the President urged relevant Co-Chairs to take into consideration. (See Annex I.)

III. Updates on the activities of Contact Groups

Contact Group Coordinators provided updates regarding their intentions during the 5MSP. With respect to Resource Mobilisation, a detailed written update was provided and it was noted that the Coordinator will invite the Asian Development Bank to participate during the 5MSP. With respect to Universalization, the Coordinating Committee was asked to notify the Coordinator if they anticipate including parliamentarians in their 5MSP delegations. With respect to Article 7 reporting, it was noted that the Contact Group meeting on the margins of the 5MSP would be brief, especially given the excellent progress made on this matter in recent months.

The ISU Manager informed the Coordinators that he would provide to them information regarding how they can acquire coffee and food services at the UNCC for their meetings.

IV. Update from the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme

While the Coordinator regretted that he was unable to attend the meeting, a brief update on sponsorship was provided in which it was noted that as of 4 August, 39 States Parties and 7 States not party to the Convention had made requests for sponsorship for 80 delegates to attend the 5MSP.

V. Update on the financing of the Implementation Support Unit

In accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and GICHD, the ISU Trust Fund's 2002 audited statement was provided to Coordinating Committee. In addition, it was reported that Germany and Iceland recently had made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund. It was also reported that while the number of contributors continues to grow, the total amount contributed to date in 2003 is still falls short of the 2003 ISU budget.

VI. Any other business

It was reported that on 14-15 August, Peru – with the support of Canada and the Organization of American States – will host a regional conference on the implementation of the Convention in the Americas.

Canada indicated that in the context of its ongoing facilitation of a dialogue related to the facilitation and clarification of compliance, it will host an informal discussion on Wednesday 10 September.

France indicated that on 12-13 March 2004 it will host a symposium on the value-added that is provided by national implementation structures.

The ICRC indicated that in 2004 its regional delegations in West Africa and East Africa will host regional events.

VII. Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the final meeting of the 2002-2003 Coordinating Committee will take place from 12:30 to 14:30 on Monday 8 September over lunch in the Attique Restaurant of the WMO Building.

Annex I

Preparing for the 5MSP's Agenda Item #15: Food-for-thought from the ISU Manager

Background:

Article 11 of the Convention states that during Meetings of the States Parties one of the matters that shall be considered is "international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6." Since the 1MSP in 1999, this agenda item has manifested itself in MSP agendas as "informal consultations." Since the 2MSP in 2000, these informal consultations have featured discussions on mine clearance and related activities, victim assistance and stockpile destruction facilitated by the relevant outgoing Co-Chairs.

General suggestions:

The three, three-hour informal sessions in Bangkok provide an excellent opportunity for the Co-Chairs to do the following:

- Highlight substantive areas of work covered by the Standing Committees during 2002-2003, as recorded in the final reports of the Standing Committees. From discussions on the value of regional approaches, issues related to village demining and the need to consider various post-stockpile-destruction issues, each Standing Committee covered considerable substantive ground in 2002-2003. It may make some sense, therefore, to highlight some of the main areas covered, especially if they relate specifically to the importance of the region in which the 5MSP is being held.
- Seek comments on the recommendations put forward by the Co-Chairs. Each set of Co-Chairs has laid out a concise but action-oriented path forward for the Standing Committees in the crucial year leading to the First Review Conference. Co-Chairs, therefore, may wish to seek comment on these recommendations.
- Provide an opportunity for updates on implementation and on cooperation and assistance. Without a doubt some States Parties and other actors will arrive at the 5MSP ready to share their views on the specific matters of mine clearance and related activities, victim assistance and stockpile destruction. The informal consultations are the places for such specific views to be shared. In addition, in some areas it may be of great value to promote the use of these sessions for various actors to provide updates – particularly ones with approaching deadlines and others from the region.

Specific suggestions:

- Victim assistance
 - To assist in emphasising the significance of the region, it may be useful to proactively encourage the region's mine-affected States Parties (Cambodia and Thailand) and States not party (Laos and Vietnam) to arrive prepared to present their "4Ps".
 - The Standing Committee in 2002-2003 placed an emphasis on regional approaches, highlighting in particular the activities taking place in South East Asia. It may be useful to assess the state of this effort.
 - Consideration should be given to highlighting the activities of the *Raising the Voices* initiative.

- Mine clearance
 - As with victim assistance, it may be useful to proactively encourage the region's mine-affected States Parties (Cambodia and Thailand) and States not party (Laos and Vietnam) to come prepared to present their "4Ps".
 - The Co-Chairs made major progress in 2002-2003 towards highlighting how essential it is that the mine-affected States Parties develop plans in accordance with their 10-year deadlines. The Co-Chairs could look at ways to enhance the substantial document tabled at the 14 May 2003 meeting with a view to providing a global update on progress in this area.
 - The issue of "village demining" – and the relationship between village demining and mine risk education – was an important new area explored in 2002-2003. Coincidentally, this matter had a South East Asia angle to it. Therefore, the Co-Chairs may wish to highlight this matter.
 - The Co-Chairs handled the topic of mine action technologies in 2002-2003 in an extremely productive manner. In addition, it should be recalled that Article 11 of the Convention calls for consideration at MSPs of "the development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines." It may be useful to provide an update on what was covered in 2002-2003 as well as the suggested action plan for 2003-2004 which is annexed to the Standing Committee's Final Report

- Stockpile destruction
 - Unlike with the other two topics, there is probably less of an imperative to highlight the regional angle to stockpile destruction.
 - It may be useful to proactively encourage updates from States Parties with deadlines in the second half of 2003 and in 2004: Argentina, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, and Venezuela.
 - The ISU will prepare for the Co-Chairs an updated version of the status table. In addition, further to the commitment made on 15 May, the ISU will prepare a bibliography of stockpile destruction documents retained in the Convention's documentation centre.