

**Meeting of the Coordinating Committee  
8 September 2003**

**President's Summary**

**I. Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties**

- A. Thailand and the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operations of the Convention noted that everything was on-track for the informal information meeting on the 5MSP, to be held later the same day at the Palais des Nations.
- B. Thailand circulated an updated document containing important information on logistical and administrative arrangement for the 5MSP, noting that it would be made available later in the day to all States Parties. In addition, Thailand reminded the Coordinating Committee that a note verbale had been sent to all Permanent Missions with respect to visas for entry into Thailand.
- C. The ISU Manager circulated a document listing side events taking place on the margins of the 5MSP and noted that the information in the document could be found on the GICHD web site.
- D. 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 Disability Action Council. In addition, the Coordinating Committee, agreed to reject the request made by the Mine Action Centre, Somaliland, noting that its representatives were free to attend the meeting as members of the general public.

With respect to requests made by the Korea Mine Action Group and the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization, the Coordinating Committee agreed to defer decisions until more information could be obtained. In particular, the Coordinating Committee, in the absence of clear criteria to base its decisions, sought assurances that the groups in question were not-for-profit, were clearly humanitarian organizations and supportive of the aims of the States Parties, and were not members of the ICBL (which would enable such organizations to attend the 5MSP under the ICBL umbrella). The Coordinating Committee agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the host country, which in turn indicated that it would determine if the States in which the two organizations were based had any sensitivities surrounding these organizations receiving observers status. (Note: After all necessary information was obtained, the host country agreed that the requests made by the two organizations should be accepted.)

(Note: Since the 5 August 2003 meeting of the Coordinating Committee, the Coordinating Committee had indicated its concurrence by email with requests made by: the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo; the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance; the James Madison University Mine Action Information Centre; Mr. Siraj Barzani, Mine Action Expert; and, Pirman Demining Organization. In addition, the Coordinating Committee had agreed with the President's recommendations to reject the requests made by the

Mine Action Coordination Office of the Ministry of Relations and Cooperation, Kurdistan, the Somali Mine Action Group and Omitex.)

- E. The Coordinating Committee was reminded that tradition has seen the outgoing 8 Co-Chairs being nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents.
- F. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees responsible for victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction were reminded of their task of facilitating discussions during Agenda Item #15, informal consultations on international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6.

## **II. Updates on the activities of Contact Groups**

- A. Resource Mobilisation: The Coordinator indicated that discussions at the 5MSP would focus on what most usefully could be done by the Contact Group in the period leading to the First Review Conference.
- B. Article 7 Reporting: The Coordinator indicated that a very brief meeting would be held on the margins of the 5MSP, with the focus being on ensuring that the remaining 14 late initial reports could be obtained.
- C. Universalization: The Coordinator noted that the Contact Group would meet immediately prior to the 5MSP, to identify individual assignments regarding contacts that could be made during the 5MSP itself. In addition, the Coordinator indicated that follow-up discussions would be held on the parliamentarians and military-to-military dialogue initiatives.

## **IV. Update from the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme**

The Coordinator reported that whereas the programme had thought that sponsorship for approximately 60 delegates for the 5MSP would be provided, the Programme was able to deliver by supporting 88 delegates out of a total of 110 requests.

## **VI. Any other business**

The ICBL announced that the Landmine Monitor 2003 publication would be launched on 9 September at various locations around the world, including at the Palais des Nations.

## **VII. Tentative date for the first Coordinating Committee meeting under the Thai Presidency**

Thailand indicated that the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee under its Presidency would take place on 8 October.