

**Coordinating Committee Meeting  
19 November 2003**

**President's Summary**

**I. Preparations for the 9-12 February Standing Committee Meetings**

The Co-Chairs of the four Standing Committees provided updates on preparations for their February meetings. The Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration and Stockpile Destruction Co-Chairs indicated that they either had or were in the process of sending letters to relevant States Parties (i.e., those with large numbers of landmine survivors or those in the process of destroying stockpiled mines) to encourage them to take full advantage of the opportunities to share information. The Mine Clearance Co-Chairs indicated that they too would provide sufficient opportunities for mine-affected States Parties to make presentations, particularly in the context of their deadlines for clearance. The General Status Co-Chairs reported that they are proceeding in such a manner to ensure that sufficient time is provided for discussions on all topics that traditionally appear on that Standing Committee's agenda.

The President encouraged Co-Chairs to apply some of the important messages in the President's Action Programme, including highlighting the benefits of membership in the Convention, reminding States Parties of deadlines, and promoting updates by States Parties in a manner consistent with the "4Ps". Co-Chairs were also reminded to provide timely sign-off on background documents in order that they could be ready for distribution on 5 December.

**II. Preparations for activities of the Contact Groups**

The Contact Group Coordinators or their designates provided updates on activities planned for, or in the lead-up to, the week of February 9, with all indicating that they would proceed with Contact Group meetings that week in keeping with past practice.

Regarding **resource mobilisation**, it was reported that the focus of attention would be on identifying with greater clarity desired outcomes of the Contact Group's efforts in time for the Review Conference, and, on identifying actions that could be taken at the national level to ensure an effective use of resources. In addition, Coordinating Committee participants offered suggestions to the Coordinator regarding topics like the role of development banks and the private sector.

The President also informed the meeting that discussion was ongoing with Canada on how to proceed with the Resource Mobilization Taskforce's initiative to meet with the President of the World Bank before the Standing Committees meeting in February 2004. Some members expressed caution on the involvement of the World Bank for fear that it might lead to conditions imposed upon mine-affected developing countries. The President indicated that the involvement of the World Bank served as another option and the Taskforce would proceed with caution in approaching the World Bank, while fully taking into consideration the concerns expressed.

Regarding **universalization**, it was reported that, in keeping with the interest expressed by many State Parties, an emphasis would be placed on those politically and militarily significant States that remain outside of the Convention. In addition, it was noted that efforts would continue to ensure, by the Review Conference, that additional States that are close to joining the Convention indeed do so in the coming year. The President also suggested that States not parties to the Convention which co-sponsored the draft resolution on the Convention in the First Committee this year be identified as potential targets for the Convention's universalization efforts.

Regarding **Article 7 reporting**, it was recalled that the Coordinator had sent a number of ideas by email to Coordinating Committee participants and that he was seeking a response to these in order to best guide his actions.

### **III. Update on the Sponsorship Programme**

The Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme indicated that while funds remain in the donors' account following the 5MSP, more will be needed in order to meet the needs for sponsorship for the February 2004 meetings. Concerning criteria used in selecting those States eligible for sponsorship, the Coordinator indicated that these were flexible and adaptable to the objectives of meetings concerned. The Sponsorship Programme donors group will meet to identify criteria for those eligible for support for participation in the February Standing Committee.

### **IV. Update on the UNGA First Committee Resolution "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction" to be presented to the First Committee of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

The President informed Coordinating Committee participants that collective efforts to solicit support for the annual First Committee resolution on the implementation of the Convention paid off: The resolution was co-sponsored by 145 States, including by 9 States not parties: Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Somalia, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. For two of these States not parties – Bhutan and Somalia – this was an action that was not taken in 2002.

On 30 October, Resolution L. 43 passed in the First Committee by a vote of 143 in favour and 0 opposed, with 19 States abstaining.

Members of the Coordinating Committee thanked Thailand for active lobbying which resulted in an unprecedented high number of co-sponsors and those voting in favour of the resolution in the First Committee. The President thanked members of the Coordinating Committee and urged that their active support also be extended to the draft resolution awaiting consideration by the General Assembly in early December as well as the new draft resolution next year. The ICBL indicated that it would use its network press for the support of the draft resolution in the General Assembly.

### **V. Briefing on the draft 2004 ISU Budget**

The President recalled that the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the functioning of the ISU indicates that an annual budget for the ISU will be

established and that it shall include figures for the forthcoming financial year and, if necessary, indicate a set of priorities that shall be understood as guidelines in order to allocate available resources. The President then asked the Manager of the ISU to present the draft 2004 ISU budget to the Coordinating Committee, which had been previously circulated to the Coordinating Committee.

The ISU Manager indicated that the budget was virtually identical to the 2003 budget, with the exceptions being small increases to account for inflation and a provision for temporary assistance to be acquired in 2004, if it is deemed necessary based upon additional demands that may be placed upon the ISU in the advance of the Review Conference. It was also indicated that the budget, in its final form, would be distributed by the President to all States Parties along with an appeal for States Parties to make contributions to the ISU Trust Fund.

The ISU Manager indicated that, once completed, the audited financial statement on the ISU Trust Fund containing actual 2003 expenditures would be provided to the Coordinating Committee, Trust Fund donors and other interested parties in accordance with the agreement between the GICHD and the States Parties.

## **VI. Update on preparations for the First Review Conference**

At the request of the President-Designate, the ISU Manager reminded Coordinating Committee Participants that the President-Designate had circulated a *food-for-thought* paper and had issued an invitation for an informal meeting on 1 December. In addition, it was indicated that on 2 December the President-Designate would attempt to increase public and media attention of the process leading to the Review Conference by participating in an event in Cyprus.

## **VII. Any other business**

The Coordinating Committee was informed that on 13 November, under the Angolan Presidency, the UN Security Council held a meeting on importance of mine action for peacekeeping operations. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Peace Keeping Operations (i.e., the UN Department within which the UN Mine Action Service is housed) and the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining participated by briefing the Security Council. It was also noted that China made a statement along the same line as the remarks made during the 5MSP, expressing its agreement with the humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

The Coordinating Committee was informed that at the 2-6 December ICRC conference, as part of discussions on an “agenda for humanitarian action”, acceptance of language on “(ending) the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines” would be sought. The ICRC provided this language to Coordinating Committee participants.

The Coordinating Committee was informed that Landmine Monitor researchers would meet in the United Arab Emirates 10-12 December and that a workshop on the Convention would be held in Beirut on 15 December. In addition, the Coordinating Committee was informed that the Romanian Chair of the Reay Group would host a workshop in Bucharest on 2-3 February on the implementation of the Convention in South Eastern Europe.

Finally the Coordinating Committee was informed that this may be the last meeting for Carlos Arroyave of Guatemala. Carlos was thanked for his contributions. In addition, Chair (Ambassador Laxanachantorn) indicated that this likely will be her last meeting before taking up her new posting in New York. Chair thanked the Coordinating Committee members for their support, both during the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties and in her time as chair of the Coordinating Committee.

#### **VIII. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee would next meet on Monday 26 January 2004 at 13.00.

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