

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
23 February 2004**

President's Summary

I. Results of the 9-12 February Standing Committee Meetings

The Co-Chairs of the four Standing Committees as well as other Coordinating Committee participants shared views on the February meetings. The following was noted in particular:

- All four meetings were very productive, with the Victim Assistance and Mine Clearance Standing Committees particularly successful in ensuring widespread participation by mine-affected States Parties.
- Discussions in the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention on Articles 1, 2 and 3 were positive and fruitful.
- The week as a whole saw a great deal of progress in implementation illustrated (e.g., the ongoing success story of stockpile destruction). In addition, during the week several States not parties indicated that they had taken steps toward ratification / accession.
- Suggestions have been made to inform participants of the next Standing Committees to avoid making statements of a general nature, but to focus their statements specifically on the topics of the Standing Committees.
- The ICBL was provided with input on the functioning of the Raising the Voices programme, with Coordinating Committee offering general expressions of support and appreciation for the initiative. Attention was also drawn to the fact that due to lack of funding and organizational reasons, the Raising the Voices Programme might end this year. Donor countries were encouraged to consider rendering support to continue the programme.

II. Update on Reporting on the 9-12 February Standing Committee meetings

It was noted that the report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction had been finalized and posted on the GICHD web site. Co-Chairs or Co-Rapporteurs responsible for the other three Standing Committees all indicated that reports would be completed by the end of the week.

III. Preparations for the 21-25 June Standing Committee meetings

The Coordinating Committee discussed a series of initial proposed steps to take to ensure preparations could proceed in advance of the June meetings of the Standing Committees, with the following conclusions being drawn by the Chair:

- That relevant Coordinating Committee participants would ensure that necessary steps had been taken to enable the Implementation Support Unit to begin distribution of a comprehensive package of meeting materials no later than 12 May.
- That, taking into consideration the fact that during the 9-12 February meetings, General Status and Mine Clearance were pressed for time and that Victim Assistance and Stockpile Destruction finished early, in June the former two

Standing Committees would be given 1.5 days each and that the latter two would be given 1.0 day each.

- That, in keeping with the practice established in May 2002 following lengthy discussions to reform the Intersessional Work Programme, the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention would commence the week with agenda items which set the scene for the week ahead and which are subjects which cut-across the subject matter of all Standing Committees (i.e., overviews of the general status of implementation and universalization, resource mobilisation, and Article 7 reporting).
- That the sequencing of meetings would be slightly adjusted to be the following:

| 21 June | 22 June | 23 June | 24 June | 25 June |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| General Status and Operation | Mine Clearance | Victim Assistance | Stockpile Destruction | General Status and Operation |
| Mine Clearance | Mine Clearance | Victim Assistance | Stockpile Destruction | General Status and Operation |

- In addition, it was noted that there may be value in: (a) the President-Designate of the Review Conference, on the morning of 21 June, providing a brief update on plans for the Second Preparatory Meeting, which will take place 28-29 June; and, (b) Contact Group Coordinators, if they so desire, on the morning of 25 June, providing brief updates on Contact Group meetings held during the week.

IV. Updates on activities of the Contact Groups

Regarding **resource mobilisation**, it was reported that during 9-12 February there had been excellent discussions on the topic of “cost-effectiveness”. In addition, it was reiterated that the Contact Group Coordinator desired to commence an informal discussion on possible outcomes for the Review Conference. As well, it was noted that efforts would continue to engage regional development banks.

The Coordinating Committee Chair reported that the informal task force which had been assembled to take various messages to the World Bank would proceed with plans to meet with a Vice-President of the World Bank in coming months. The Chair took note of the suggestion that such a visit take place as soon as possible and indicated that every attempt would be made to see it happen soon before June.

In response to a question about the difference between the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group and the New York-based Mine Action Support Group (MASG), the Coordinating Committee was informed that the two are complementary. In terms of the distinctions between the two mechanisms, the Coordinating Committee was advised that the Contact Group has a focus on resource mobilization in the context of achieving the Convention’s aims and that its participants include donors and affected States Parties as well as interested organizations. It was explained that the MASG has a focus on mine action undertaken by the United Nations system and that its participants include donors, including some States not parties, and the United Nations.

Regarding **universalization**, it was reported on behalf of the Contact Group Coordinator that on 12 February the Contact Group discussed both how to ensure a marked increase in acceptance of the Convention in time for the Review Conference and ways to take on those politically and militarily significant States which persistently remain outside of the Convention. A number of efforts are anticipated by a range of members, both States and civil society.

Particular attention was given by many Contact Group participants to how progress on both counts can be made in South and South East Asia. In this regard, it was noted that the Contact Group Coordinator has suggested that the Thai 5MSP Presidency can play an important role. It was noted that all efforts are welcome, taking care to ensure that existing activities are strengthened. It was also noted that several actors already are active in promoting acceptance of the Convention by States in the region and that such effort would benefit greatly by the participation and leadership of Thailand.

Finally, it was emphasized that attention given to the need for progress in South and South East Asia does not obviate the need for attention to other regions in the lead up to the Review Conference.

Regarding **Article 7 reporting**, reference was made to an email sent by the Contact Group Coordinator to the Coordinating Committee in which he stated that “the message went out to all” the week of 9-12 February and that we now have to wait for responses and stimulate reporting bilaterally where possible as agreed among *inter alia* the members of the Contact Group. It was noted that as previously discussed, the Contact Group Coordinator will write a follow-up letter to all States Parties, referring to the letter written in December by the representative of President of the 5MSP.

V. Any other business

- The Coordinating Committee was informed that Japan will host a workshop in Tokyo 4-5 March.
- The Chair indicated that the President of the Conference of Disarmament (CD) had approached Thailand to provide to the CD an update on activities since the 5MSP and that he would provide such an update on 11 March. In addition, the representative of the President-Designate of the First Review Conference as well as other participants indicated that they would make mention of the Convention in the CD on 26 February in advance of the 1 March fifth anniversary of the Convention’s entry into force.
- The Chair encouraged Coordinating Committee participants to ensure linkages with the Convention are made in other forums. Nicaragua also encouraged the importance of supporting efforts related to socio-economic reintegration in other forums.
- The ICBL reported that Landmine Monitor researchers had held a meeting in Burundi the previous week and also had constructive discussion with officials from Burundi regarding the implementation of the Convention by that State Party.
- The representative of the President-Designate of the First Review Conference informed the Coordinating Committee that the President-Designate was pleased with the outcomes of the First Preparatory Meeting, but it was unexpected that more time was spent discussing on procedural matters than substance. The Chair suggested that in preparing for the Second Preparatory Meeting, consultations on

procedural matters be made beforehand to avoid lengthy discussion at the Preparatory Meeting itself. The Chair further suggested that Coordinating Committee members and other interested countries may meet to discuss such matters. The representative of the President-Designate agreed with the Chair and indicated that the President-Designate intended to consult widely on both outstanding procedural items as well as substantive matters in advance of the Second Preparatory Meeting. Some members also raised the point about the mandate of the Coordinating Committee which is tasked to mainly coordinate the Intersessional Work Programme.

VI. Departure

The Coordinating Committee was advised that this may be the last meeting for Mr. Yasunari Morino of Japan. Mr. Morino was thanked for his hard work, dedication and long-standing service to the Convention.

VII. Next meeting

It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee would next meet on Monday 10 May 2004 at 13:00 at which time Coordinating Committee participants would take one last look at the package of meeting materials before their 12 May distribution.