

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
8 October 2003**

President's Summary

I. Results of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties (5MSP)

The President briefed the meeting on the results of the 5MSP and the members of the Coordinating Committee shared their reflections on the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was well attended with many delegations represented at a high level, including by ministers. It was also noted that by holding the meeting in Asia the meeting indeed raised awareness of and interest in the Convention in the region, with all States in South East Asia attending a Meeting of the States Parties for the first time and with China doing so for the first time since 1999.

It was noted that the 5MSP emphasized the pursuit of the Convention's core humanitarian aims, placed an emphasis on resource mobilisation and discussed in a comprehensive and positive manner various other substantive matters. In addition, it was generally agreed that the 5MSP served successfully to instil a sense of urgency to launch preparations leading to the First Review Conference and that it highlighted the value and importance of regional initiatives. The 5MSP also touched upon the issue of non-state actors, as raised by a number of delegations, in order to find ways to engage non-state actors in mine action in an appropriate manner to achieve the humanitarian aims of the Convention.

II. Orientation to the Coordinating Committee and to the other implementation mechanisms established as a result of decisions of the States Parties

In order to ensure that the Coordinating Committee as a whole, but especially new participants, were well aware of the history and purpose of the implementation mechanisms that have emerged as a result of decisions of the States Parties, a brief orientation was provided on the Intersessional Work Programme, the Coordinating Committee and the Implementation Support Unit. A detailed briefing package was provided to Coordinating Committee participants. (Note: Those Coordinating Committee participants who were absent will receive this package by mail.)

The Coordinating Committee was of the view that while it was not in the position to make substantive decisions, the Coordinating Committee was well placed to discuss substantive matters and to ensure that its work facilitates the successful implementation of the Convention.

III. Actions to be taken to follow up the 5MSP

A. Review of the President's Action Programme

The President highlighted the contents of the President's Action Programme, and informed the meeting of future actions to be taken by the President as follows :

Universalization of the Convention – The President will continue the efforts with regard to universalization of the Convention, with a particular emphasis on countries in the Asian region. It was also emphasized that what matters is not the

number of states joining the Convention, but the engagement of states using, possessing, or producing large quantity of landmines.

Stockpile destruction – While a large number of States Parties have already fulfilled their obligation in stockpile destruction, the President will encourage States Parties that have not yet completed the obligation to meet their deadlines in stockpile destruction. The President will encourage the sharing of experiences on stockpile destruction at bilateral, regional, and international levels.

Mine clearance – The President will encourage States Parties to fulfil their mine clearance obligations within the 10-year timeframe. The President will call on mine-affected States Parties to identify their 4Ps (problems, national plans, progress, and priorities for assistance) and encourage states in a position to do so to assist those states.

Victim assistance – The President will encourage States Parties to put in place their national infrastructure to assist mine victims and to adopt a comprehensive approach in victim assistance, with an aim to enabling victims and their families to lead normal lives with dignity. While mine-affected states should highlight their needs along the 4Ps approach, States in a position to do so should also share information about the resource availability for assistance.

Resource mobilization – The President will work in close cooperation with the Resource Mobilization Contact Group under Norway and the Resource Mobilization Taskforce to be set up by Canada. Efforts will be undertaken to engage the World Bank and regional financial institutions in mine actions.

Regional approaches – The President encourages regional efforts to be undertaken in all regions in attaining the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

Role of public conscience – The President will promote public awareness on the issue of landmines, particularly through the enhanced role of the civil society. In this regard, the role of the media and private sector will be highlighted.

Cooperation to promote further clarity – The President will continue the efforts in promoting further clarity on matters pertaining to Articles 1-3 of the Convention.

The President asked Coordinating Committee members to assist the President in pursuing the President's Action Programme, including particularly through efforts undertaken in their respective countries and regions.

B. Preparations for the 9-12 February 2004 Standing Committee meetings

In keeping with past practice, in order to provide an opportunity to the States Parties and others to prepare effectively for the meetings of the Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee accepted that a comprehensive package of materials be prepared for distribution by the ISU no later than 5 December and that it should attempt to follow a suggested time-line for preparations leading to 5 December. (See Annex I.)

In order to ensure that Co-Chairs could begin work on preparing programmes for their Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee discussed the following time allocations for and sequencing of the different Standing Committee meetings.

9 February	10 February	11 February	12 February	<i>13 February</i>
General Status and Operation	Victim Assistance	Mine Clearance	Stockpile Destruction	<i>First Preparatory Meeting</i>

To build upon the success of the 2002-2003 Intersessional Work Programme, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees responsible for victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction were advised that a useful way of organizing their programmes would be to essentially have four broad components, with the second of these elements being accorded the greatest amount of time:

1. A general overview of the status of implementation
2. Updates from mine affected States Parties on the status of national implementation
3. Updates from those in a position to do so with respect to assistance and cooperation
4. Discussions on a small number of thematic matters related to implementation

IV. Draft 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 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

For information, the President brought to the attention of the Coordinating Committee the fact that it had circulated the traditional UN General Assembly First Committee draft resolution on the implementation of the Convention and informed that already 46 States had co-sponsored the draft resolution. Coordinating Committee members were reminded to ensure that they co-sponsored the resolution and that informal consultations on the resolution would take place in New York on 9 October. Coordinating Committee members were also asked to actively lobby for co-sponsorship or at least voting in favour of the draft resolution among countries in their regions. Coordinating Committee members indicated their readiness to assist the President and some have already undertaken the initiative in that regard.

V. Any other business

The representative of the Austrian President-designate of the Review Conference indicated that the President-Designate, by the end of the week, would distribute, to all States Parties, a food-for-thought paper on ideas regarding the organization of preparations for the Review Conference.

The Coordinator of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group indicated that clear direction had been provided at the 5MSP on how the Contact Group should proceed in the lead-up to the Review Conference and that the Coordinator was thus proceeding accordingly.

VI. Next meeting:

It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee would next meet on 19 November 2003 at 13.00.

Annex I: Proposed Time-Line for Preparations

October 8 – November 19

- Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs begin preparations for their meetings (e.g., thinking through programmes, reaching-out to States Parties to encourage their participation, et cetera)

November 19

- Coordinating Committee meeting: Co-Chairs provide updates on preparations for their meetings

December 4

- Co-Chairs sign-off on final versions of agendas and background documents for distribution to all States and relevant organizations
- President signs-off on final version of invitation letter (co-signed by the Director of the GICHD)

December 5

- The ISU distributes to all States and relevant organizations a detailed package of information regarding the February meetings

February 9-12

- Standing Committee meetings

February 20

- Reports of the 9-12 February meetings are provided to the ISU for formatting