

**Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Thursday 11 August**

**President's Summary<sup>1</sup>**

**1. Progress in the preparation of the Zagreb Progress Report**

The Chair indicated that while it had been hoped that a working draft of the Zagreb Progress Report would have been circulated to the Coordinating Committee approximately a week before the meeting, given that few inputs had been provided by that point in time, meeting that deadline was impossible. It was noted however, that the draft distributed at the meeting illustrated that a great deal of work had been undertaken in recent days.

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) explained that the draft provided was a compilation of the edited inputs provided by Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators and that while some sections of the document were still blank work was proceeding in those areas as well. In addition, it was highlighted for the Coordinating Committee that different formatting approaches had been taken in various sections regarding the use of bullets and bolding. Hence, it was suggested that Coordinating Committee members consider formatting issues during the next stage of drafting, particularly with a view to ensuring that the Progress Report responds to States Parties' calls to see the document emphasize priorities for 2006.

The Chair reviewed the work plan for further preparation of the Zagreb Progress Report, noting the following:

(a) For the rest of the month of August, those charged with generating text for various sections should proceed in further developing their sections, providing revised text to the ISU by 31 August.

(b) On September 2, a second draft, which should be in a state that sees the document close to ready for widespread distribution, will be distributed to the Coordinating Committee for discussion the following week.

(c) The Coordinating Committee will meet the week of September 5-8.

(d) On September 9, a draft will be distributed to all States Parties and relevant organizations with this draft then the basis for discussions at the informal meeting which will be convened on September 23.

Beyond September 23, it was agreed that efforts would be made to conclude a text by the end of October using email communications, although, reserving the possibility to hold a Coordinating Committee meeting at the beginning of November if there were any key outstanding issues that would need to be discussed.

Finally, the Coordinating Committee was informed that Croatia, Nigeria, Tajikistan and the ICBL had responded to the invitation made by Austria and Croatia for States Parties and others to provide input.

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting was chaired by Mr. Markus Reiterer of the Permanent Mission of Austria as the President of the First Review Conference, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, was unable to attend in person.

The Chair invited those charged with generating text for the Zagreb Progress Report to ensure that in their further work they placed a focus on priorities for 2006.

## 2. Proposed dates for 2006 meetings

The Chair recalled that at the 17 June meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Co-Chairs reminded the States Parties of the following decisions taken in Nairobi:

- “to hold annually, until the Second Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties which will regularly take place in the second half of the year, in Geneva, or, when possible or appropriate, in a mine-affected country,”
- “to convene annually, until 2009, informal intersessional meetings of the Standing Committees to be held in Geneva in the first half of the year, for a duration of up to five days,” and,
- “as a general rule, however not excluding exceptions for specific reasons, intersessional meetings of the Standing Committees would take place in February / March and the annual Meetings of the States Parties in September.”

The Chair also recalled, in this context, that the States Parties will have to take a decision on the date, location and venue of a Meeting of the States Parties to be held in 2006 and on the dates for meetings of the Standing Committees in 2006.

On the basis of the decisions of the First Review Conference and taking into account: (a) the late timing of the 2005 Meeting of the States Parties, (b) the calendar of other significant meetings in 2006, including disarmament meetings and the Commission on Human Rights and the World Health Assembly, and, (c) the availability of facilities at the WMO (for meetings of the Standing Committees) and at the Palais des Nations (for the Meeting of the States Parties), the Chair suggested that following weeks seemed reasonable for consideration by the States Parties:

- Standing Committee meetings: May 8-12<sup>2</sup>
- Meeting of the States Parties: September 11-15 or September 18-22

Japan indicated that it supports the proposed dates in May and prefers the week of 11-15 September of the Meeting of the States Parties. Norway indicated that, while it prefers Standing Committee meetings early in the year, it could accept the proposed dates in May and would prefer a Meeting of the States Parties the week of 18-22 September. Canada indicated that it prefers Standing Committee meetings early in the year – possibly in February. Sweden highlighted that a suboptimal set of dates for meetings in 2006 would have to be selected given the reality of a crowded calendar of meetings in 2006. It added that in the future it would prefer Meetings of the States Parties late in the year. Switzerland proposed that other venues could be considered for meetings, including the International Conference Centre. Bangladesh suggested that holding the Standing Committee meetings immediately prior to the Commission on Human Rights would be a problem for some States. The ICBL

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<sup>2</sup> March 6-10 had previously been suggested but it had since become clear that that week was being considered by the CCW for a week of meetings.

indicated a preference for a Meeting of the States Parties in December as it would be more consistent with Landmine Monitor production time-lines.

The Chair concluded that while the discussion on proposed dates did not seem to be conclusive, the reality of the calendar in 2006 would have to be taken into consideration and that further consultations will be carried out with a view to fixing appropriate dates in 2006. As to the location of the Meeting of the States Parties in 2006 there was an affirmation that it should take place in Geneva.

### **3. Consultations on proposed Co-Rapporteurs for 2006**

The Chair recalled that at the 17 June meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Co-Chairs informed the States Parties that:

- in keeping with past practice, they are leading a process intended to produce a list of new Co-Rapporteurs for consideration for adoption by the States Parties, and,
- that States Parties which have an interest in undertaking such responsibilities should make their interest known to one of the Co-Chairs of Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention as soon as possible.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention provided an update on this matter, indicating that four States Parties – Algeria, Austria, Australia and Norway – had already expressed interest and that efforts were underway to ensure that a balanced set of candidates could soon be proposed to fill out all eight positions.

### **4. 2005 UNGA First Committee Resolution**

The Chair requested views on the way forward with respect to a resolution on the Convention which traditionally has been forwarded to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. South Africa indicated that its preference is to proceed with an annual resolution as in past years. The ICBL supported this view. Norway indicated that it is not convinced of the need for an annual resolution. Canada suggested that any resolution should draw attention to the outcomes of the First Review Conference.

The Chair concluded that there seemed to be a general sentiment to proceed with a streamlined resolution that took note of the Review Conference. In addition, the Chair appealed to Coordinating Committee members to provide assistance in obtaining Co-Sponsors.

### **5. Any other business**

- The Chair acknowledged that this is the last Coordinating Committee meeting for two colleagues – Ann Pollack of Canada and Hine-Wai Loose of New Zealand. He stated that the commitment of both to the work of the Convention over the past 3 to 4 years has been greatly appreciated and had made an important difference. He also conveyed the best wishes of the President of the First Review Conference, Ambassador Petritsch.
- The Chair indicated the President's intention that the next Coordinating Committee meeting be convened on Wednesday 7 September at 13:00.