

**Coordinating Committee meeting  
7 September 2005**

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

**I. Zagreb Progress Report**

The Chair reviewed the evolution of preparations to date concerning the draft Zagreb Progress Report, noting in particular:

- That the document should cover the period between the Review Conference to the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties with the baseline from which progress would be determined being what is contained the Final Report of the First Review Conference.
- That the document should be both retrospective and forward-looking -- assessing progress and clearly highlighting priority areas for 2006.
- That the document would be grounded in and organized along the lines of the Nairobi Action Plan, and, that by extension – given that the Nairobi Action Plan itself is simply a means to facilitate the pursuit of the Convention's aims – the document would reinforce the supremacy of the Convention itself.
- That the document should follow the structure of the Nairobi Action Plan, attempting to comment in some way on the application of the totality of the Action Plan in a thematic rather than action-by-action basis.
- That those drafting various sections should not be constrained by a predefined length, with annexes to the document being used to contain tables or more detailed, State-specific, overviews of implementation.
- And, that various Coordinating Committee participants would be assigned responsibility for different sections of the document.

The Chair recalled that, at the 11 August meeting of the Coordinating Committee, a compilation of the edited inputs provided by Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators was distributed. In addition, at that meeting, those responsible for various sections were advised to proceed in developing any enhancements to the document, taking into particular account the need to ensure that the Zagreb Progress Report responds to States Parties' calls to see the document emphasize priorities for 2006.

The Chair noted that on 5 September the Coordinating Committee was provided with a revised text and indicated that it was the hope of Ambassador Petritsch and of Croatia that, by the close of business on 9 September, a good first initial draft would be ready for distribution to the States Parties and others, and, that Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators would feel ownership over sections of the document that are pertinent to them.

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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 Coordinating Committee discussed the document section-by-section, with the following views expressed:

- The Chair pointed out that efforts had been made in the more recent draft to clearly spell out the supremacy of the Convention, the importance of the Nairobi Action Plan, and the fact that the Zagreb Progress Report was a tool to support the application of the Nairobi Action Plan.
- It was suggested by some that clear references be made to the status, as recorded in the First Review Conference's review document, of the Convention as of the close of the First Review Conference. While others suggested that, given the length of the draft, mention of the 3 December 2004 status could be reduced, the Chair and Croatia pointed out the need to ensure that context is retained, at least in part to ensure that the Zagreb Progress Report could be read in a stand-alone manner.
- It was suggested that the document should be made more readable, perhaps by using subheadings. There was general agreement that it made sense to make the document more accessible although it was noted that this could add to the length of the document.
- It was suggested to ensure the consistency of the document throughout the various sections. It was noted, though, that, if Co-Chairs sought to reduce the length of their respective sections, an equivalent effort would be required on the part of all to ensure consistency.

The Chair highlighted that the next step in the process of developing the Zagreb Progress Report will be to receive the views of all States Parties and interested organizations at the informal meeting on 23 September. He noted that this meeting will be held in the World Meteorological Organization Building given that many representatives of States and non-governmental organizations will be in Geneva that week but will not necessarily have passes to access the Palais des Nations.

The Chair proposed that at the 23 September meeting the various sections of the draft Zagreb Progress Report be introduced relevant Co-Chairs or other Coordinating Committee participants and that the document be discussed at the meeting on a section-by-section basis. South Africa proposed that States Parties and others be given a deadline for providing written comments on the draft and the Chair indicated that Austria and Croatia would do this.

### **III. Dates for 2006 meetings**

The Chair recalled that, at the last meeting, proposed dates for meetings in 2006 were discussed and it was the case that while the discussion on these dates did not seem to be conclusive, the reality of the calendar in 2006 would have to be taken into consideration in fixing appropriate dates in 2006. The Chair also noted that as to the location of the Meeting of the States Parties in 2006 there was an affirmation that it should take place in Geneva.

The Chair informed the Coordinating Committee that in reflecting upon the discussion that took place at the last meeting, as well as certain realities as they pertain to the calendar of meeting next year, the availability of space at the WMO Building for the Standing Committee meetings, and the decisions taken at the Review Conference, it is the President's conclusion that there is really little choice but to go with the dates that had been suggested last meeting:

- Meetings of the Standing Committees: May 8-12
- Meeting of the States Parties: September 18-22<sup>2</sup>

The Chair indicated the desire to put these dates to the States Parties at the informal meeting on 23 September.

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

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention provided an update on the process of producing a list of new Co-Rapporteurs for consideration for adoption by the States Parties. The Co-Chairs noted that they had received an excess of interest and would continue working on this matter.

#### **V. Sixth Meeting of the States Parties – observer organizations**

The Coordinating Committee was reminded that, in accordance with Rule 1.4<sup>3</sup> of the Rules of Procedure for the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties, the Coordinating Committee has a role to play in responding to requests by various organizations (i.e., those organizations not listed elsewhere in the Rules) that wish to have the status of “Observer” at the 6MSP. With respect to this rule, the following was proposed:

- (a) That the Coordinating Committee agree that all organizations that previously had received Official Observer status at Meetings of the States Parties and at the First Review Conference in accordance with Rule 1.4 should again have this status recommended for them for the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties if they so wish to have this status.
- (b) That further requests for Official Observer Status in accordance with Rule 1.4 would be dealt with by email wherever possible in order to expedite responses to these requests.

The Coordinating Committee was in agreement with this approach and the Manager of the Implementation Support Unit was instructed to communicate this fact to the Executive Secretary of the 6MSP.

#### **VI. Sixth Meeting of the States Parties – update on organization matters**

Croatia indicated that detailed information on organizational matters would be provided to the States Parties and others at the informal meeting on 23 September. Croatia noted that a host country web site had been established ([www.6msp-croatia.com](http://www.6msp-croatia.com)) and that this site also could be accessed through the GICHD’s site ([www.6msp.org](http://www.6msp.org)). Croatia reiterated that a field

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<sup>2</sup> While the week of 11-15 September had also been suggested, the Chair advised that this was not as good as the following week given that the Conference on Disarmament likely will conclude its work the week of 11 September.

<sup>3</sup> Rule 1.4: Others that have received an invitation from the Coordinating Committee may attend the Meeting of the States Parties as observers, subject to approval of the Meeting of the States Parties. In issuing invitations to others to attend the Meeting of the States Parties as observers, the Coordinating Committee shall take into consideration criteria such as whether the proposed observer is a non-profit entity and whether its purpose and activities are consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention.

visit will take place on Saturday 26 November and an opening ceremony, featuring the participation of the President of Croatia, will take place the evening of Sunday 27 November.

**VII. Any other business**

- The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit informed the Coordinating Committee that the GICHD will host, on 14 September, an introductory briefing on mine action and on the services provided by the GICHD. New Coordinating Committee participants were encouraged to attend.
- It was proposed that the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee take place the week of 7 November.