

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
2 May 2006**

President's Summary

I. Overview of efforts of the Co-Chairs to prepare for the May 8-12 meetings of the Standing Committees

It was recalled that by 24 March, Co-Chairs had signed-off on their respective parts of the programme and set of background documents for the May meetings of the Standing Committees and that these documents were distributed to all States and relevant organizations and made available on the web site of the GICHD.

The Co-Chairs provided updates on work undertaken since that time on ways to ensure the success of their May meetings and the achievement of their 2006 objectives:

a. General Status and Operation of the Convention (Belgium and Guatemala)

The Co-Chairs reported that additional letters had been sent to encourage participation by States Parties in provided updates on the matter of anti-personnel mines retained for reasons permitted under Article 3. In addition, they reminded the Coordinating Committee that, since 24 March, they had distributed an additional discussion paper on the topic of *triangular international cooperation*. As well, they indicated that at their meeting they will announce that, in keeping with past practice, they will proceed with a process of identifying a proposed list of new Co-Rapporteurs.

b. Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Afghanistan and Switzerland)

The Co-Chairs reported that they were pursuing with vigour questions related to pre-hospital care and that they had been meeting with expert organizations to discuss this matter. The Co-Chairs also indicated that they were focusing on inter-ministerial coordination but regretted that a planned workshop on this matter had not yet taken place in Afghanistan. In addition, the Co-Chairs mentioned that at their meeting various actors, including Handicap International, will present socio-economic reintegration projects.

c. Stockpile Destruction (Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania)

The Co-Chairs reported that several States Parties had responded to their invitations to provide updates and that actors, including the Geneva Call, would make presentations on thematic items.

d. Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies (Jordan and Slovenia)

The Co-Chairs reported that they are ready for a busy meeting and that they will proceed with national updates in clusters according to the year when various States Parties have Article 5 deadlines. In addition, the Co-Chairs reminded the Coordinating Committee that a discussion will take place on matters that concern the Article 5 extension process.

e. Organizational matters

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit highlighted some pertinent organizational matters, reminding Co-Chairs of the informal nature of the meetings and informing the Coordinating Committee of various side events.

II. Reporting on Standing Committee meetings / the role of Co-Rapporteurs

It was recalled that meetings of the Standing Committees are informal and hence there is no official record of their proceedings. However, it was also noted that "Reports of the Standing Committees" –

which in essence are not reports but are rather Co-Chairs' summaries of the meetings – traditionally have served as valuable informal reflections on information exchanged at Standing Committee meetings and provide a useful starting point for the President-Designate to prepare a draft progress report for presentation to the Meeting of the States Parties.

Co-Rapporteurs were reminded that, as Co-Chairs are busy actually chairing their meetings, the task of recording this exchange of information traditionally has fallen to Co-Rapporteurs. To assist Co-Rapporteurs in preparing reports, a flexible template was provided and Co-Rapporteurs were advised to commence with preparing the framework for their reports as soon as possible. It was also suggested that reports be finalized as soon as possible and no later than three weeks after the end of meetings.

III. Overview of efforts of the Contact Group Coordinators

The Contact Group Coordinators provided updates on their plans for the week of 8-12 May:

a. Universalization (Canada)

The Contact Group Coordinator reminded the Coordinating Committee that 4 States had ratified the Convention since the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties and that only 3 of the original signatories had not yet ratified – Indonesia, the Marshall Islands and Poland. The Coordinator indicated that during the week of 8-12 May, regional universalization meetings would be held as well as a Contact Group meeting on 11 May.

b. Article 7 Reporting (Belgium)

The Contact Group Coordinator indicated that thematic overviews would be provided to better focus attention on priority reporting areas as identified in the Zagreb Progress Report. In addition, the question of the quality of reporting would be discussed at the 10 May meeting of the Contact Group.

Discussion on Article 7 reporting also included the identification of the need to clarify that the Geneva Branch of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs functions on behalf of the depository, the UN Secretary General, as the recipient of Article 7 reports.

In addition with respect to Article 7 reporting, Argentina requested that the Implementation Support Unit provide an update on the use of the Article 7 reporting format's amended Form D.

c. Resource Mobilisation (Norway)

The Contact Group Coordinator indicated that efforts would be made to build on previous meetings' discussions on efficiency and effectiveness, particularly in the context of addressing the needs of States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

IV. Sponsorship Programme update

The Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom) reported that 46 sponsorees had been confirmed and that active participation in the meetings was a condition of sponsorship. The Coordinator indicated that the Donors Group will meet some time after the meetings of the Standing Committees to evaluate the performance of the May 2006 sponsorship effort.

V. Preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP)

The designated Presidency (Australia) reported that the new Australian Permanent Representative, who will preside over the 7MSP, had just arrived. The designated Presidency foreshadowed some of the ideas it would present on 12 May, including that it would encourage States Parties providing updates at the 7MSP to be analytical in their approaches, that the 7MSP would necessarily focus on efforts to meet Article 5 deadlines, and that there will need to be time to discuss process issues

concerning the matter of Article 5 extensions. In this regard, it will be proposed that formal session discussions focus on what relevant States Parties are doing to comply with Article 5 and than an informal session be dedicated to process issues – with proposed decisions that may flow from this informal session being taken back into formal session. Other matters of importance to the designated President are victim assistance, universalization and the development of a leaner, more focused progress report.

The Secretary-General-designate, Switzerland, provided an update on organizational matters noting that Handicap International will stage a photo exhibition, a reception will be held on a boat on 19 September, and the Broken Chair likely will be returned to Place des Nations in time for the 7MSP.

Also in the context of discussions on the 7MSP, the ICRC asked a question regarding the status of the official version of the Final Report of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties. The ISU indicated that it had been informed by the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs that it could be several months before the report is prepared because apparently no language version could be released until all have been completed. This seemed to contract the information of others who had thought that the English version had already been released.

VI. Any other business

- The ICBL informed Coordinating Committee participants that they would be invited to an ICBL-hosted reception on 7 May.
- Canada indicated that it is assessing whether there is interest in pursuing an ongoing dialogue on the matter of mine action and development.

VII. Next meeting

It was indicated that the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee would take place on Thursday 15 June from 13:00 to 15:00.