

**Coordinating Committee Meeting  
30 January 2006**

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

**Background:**

On 30 January 2006, Ms. Dijana Plestina of Croatia, Chair of the Coordinating Committee and advisor to the President of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP), convened a Coordinating Committee retreat-style meeting. The Coordinating Committee retreat had the following objectives:

- To orient new Coordinating Committee participants to the mechanisms and structures that exist to facilitate implementation (e.g., Meetings of the States Parties, the Intersessional Work Programme, the Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit, et cetera).
- To identify what can be accomplished in 2006 in the pursuit of the Convention's aims in a manner consistent with the direction provided the Nairobi Action Plan and the priorities contained within the Zagreb Progress Report. Equally, to discuss how this can be accomplished in the 2005-2006 intersessional period, particularly through the effective use of the 8-12 May 2006 meetings of the Standing Committees.
- To establish time allocations for and a sequencing of meetings in May.

Ms. Plestina opened the meeting by thanking Coordinating Committee participants for their support in the lead-up to and during the 6MSP and by indicating her appreciation for the efforts already undertaken by Co-Chairs and others to ensure successful preparations are made for the 2006 Intersessional Work Programme.

**I. Orientation to the Convention and implementation mechanisms**

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit provided Co-Chairs with an overview of the Convention, its status and the mechanisms which have been established pursuant to decisions of the States Parties to assist in the implementation and general operations of the Convention. In addition, the ISU Manager made a number of suggestions regarding the preparations for and the functioning of the meetings.

**II. Objectives and plans of Co-Chairs**

*a. Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration*

The Co-Chairs (Afghanistan and Switzerland) indicated that their main objectives are: (i) to promote advanced efforts on the part of the 24 relevant States Parties on establishing victim assistance objectives and plans; (ii) related to this effort, using Afghanistan as a case study in inter-ministerial coordination; (iii) disseminating best practices and undertaking advocacy with respect to social and economic reintegration; and, (iv) examining best practices concerning access to and the quality of emergency surgical care.

It was suggested that Co-Chairs may wish to focus on why existing standards and guidelines are not being applied or used rather than looking at new guidelines or standards. In addition, an appeal was made for support to be provided to ensure the participation of States Parties' medical care, social services or disability experts.

*b. Stockpile Destruction*

The Co-Chairs (Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania) indicated that they may pursue as an objective that all States Parties with deadlines for stockpile destruction in 2006 and 2007

complete their destruction programmes by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP). To advance the achievement of this objective, the Co-Chairs are preparing a questionnaire for the 14 States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations. In addition, the Co-Chairs intend to: (i) learn lessons from States Parties that have recently completed destruction; (ii) explore any technical issues concerning the destruction of artillery delivered anti-personnel mines (ADAM); and, (iii) gain a better understanding of how States can provide support to stockpile destruction programmes, also through the use of a questionnaire.

*c. Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies*

The Co-Chairs (Jordan and Slovenia) indicated that they would pursue work in three areas: (i) providing an opportunity for clear updates from the 45 States Parties that are still in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations; (ii) requesting updates from those in a position to provide assistance; and, (iii) enhancing understanding of what it means to implement Article 5, in part by drawing upon the experience of those whom have reported completion and in part by holding a discussion on the basis of a paper that would be prepared further to the non-paper presented by Norway at the 6MSP. Norway added that its intention was that this paper would prompt discussion on pragmatic approaches to existing challenges noted by the States Parties.

The Co-Chairs also indicated that plans to pursue their objectives will include distributing two sets of questionnaires – one for States Parties in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations and one for States Parties in a position to provide assistance. They also hope to take advantage of the potential of Nicaragua to fulfil Article 5 obligations later this year in order to obtain various lessons.

*d. General Status and Operation of the Convention*

The Co-Chairs (Belgium and Guatemala) indicated that their efforts would relate to four areas of work: (i) a clear assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's four core aims; (ii) interaction with Contact Groups on the direction they are taking, in part to highlight key messages at the beginning of the week of Standing Committee meetings in order that work can proceed in various areas throughout the week; (iii) ongoing discussions on the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by the Standing Committee; and, (d) routine updates concerning implementation mechanisms.

**III. Objectives and plans of the Contact Group Coordinators and Sponsorship Programme Coordinator**

*a. Universalization*

The Contact Group Coordinator (Canada) presented a framework for universalization efforts based upon an assessment of those States not parties that are most likely to ratify or accede to the Convention either by the time of the 7MSP or by the 8MSP. It was suggested to the Contact Group Coordinator that the Contact Group may wish to further explore universalization efforts within various multilateral fora and discuss the matter of armed non-State actors. In addition, the presidency pledged its support for universalization activities.

*b. Article 7 Reporting*

The Contact Group Coordinator (Belgium) indicated that a focus would be placed on: (i) completing the picture as it pertains to initial reporting; (ii) increasing the rate of annual reporting; (iii) further examining the matter of voluntary reporting; and, (iv) emphasizing qualitative aspects, including through the use of the amended reporting format. The Coordinator also proposed again sending a joint letter with the Presidency to encourage reporting.

#### *c. Resource Mobilisation*

The Contact Group Coordinator (Norway) presented an ambitious work plan that included matters such as the conceptualizing all States Parties as “contributors” rather than dividing them into “mine-affected” and “donor” States Parties, and, emphasizing the efficient use of existing resources.

#### *d. Sponsorship Programme*

The Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom) indicated that funds received by the Programme declined after the First Review Conference, that this year the programme’s unit cost will be greater than last year, and that approximately CHF 300,000 remains in the fund’s account. The Coordinator aims to seek the views of the Co-Chairs on their priorities for funding.

### **IV. Initial ideas regarding the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties**

Australia posed some questions for consideration regarding the approach that could be taken with respect to the 18-22 September 2006 7MSP. For instance: Shouldn’t the meeting focus on the two biggest challenges as identified by the States Parties – mine clearance and victim assistance? Could this be done by reordering the sequencing of issues dealt with by the meeting? Australia also noted that it made sense for an opening ceremony to take place on the first morning of the meeting, with perhaps some of the speeches normally delivered during the formal portion shifted to this opening ceremony. As well, Australia noted that the substance of the meeting will largely be driven by what States Parties indicate is of greatest interest to them through the work of the Standing Committees and that the meeting should again produce a progress report as was the case at the 6MSP. That said, the 7MSP undoubtedly would be a time to emphasise upcoming deadlines.

Other ideas suggested included examining how there could be an activity that resulted in interaction between landmine survivors and States’ representatives, possibly keeping one session free both to enable more time for the report of the meeting to be prepared and to hold informal thematic discussions, discouraging or at least limiting the use of a general exchange of views, and, if a declaration was seen to be necessary, writing it in a very concise and focused manner.

### **V. Sequencing of and time allocations for meetings of the Standing Committees**

The ISU Manager reiterated his suggestion for a sequencing of and time allocations for Standing Committee meetings (attached), advising the Coordinating Committee as well that, if such scheme were to be used, Co-Chairs may wish to do the following:

- That more vigorous communications be made informing States and organizations that at no instance is there – or has there been – a time scheduled for statements of a general nature.
- That the principle of flexibility be applied with respect to time allocations (e.g., if one Standing Committee meeting used less than its allocated time the subsequent Standing Committee meeting could immediately commence).
- That every attempt be made to start meetings on time.
- That States Parties that are asked to provide updates on implementation be encouraged to provide only new information.

It was the Chair’s understanding that the proposal made was acceptable to the Coordinating Committee.

In addition, the ISU Manager advised that the European Commission will again provide interpretation at meetings of the Standing Committees in English, French and Spanish but that if it was desired that

additional language services were to be provided one would have to identify how to pay for them. Canada offered to investigate the possibility of again paying for some Russian language services.

The ISU Manager also suggested that the Co-Chairs coordinate the distribution of letters to individual States Parties with a view to letters being bundled and sent on 20 February, and, that the Co-Chairs work towards a target of 24 March for the package of materials for the meetings of the Standing Committees to be distributed.

It was the Chair's understanding that these proposals also were acceptable to the Coordinating Committee.

## **VI. Any other business**

- Croatia reminded the Coordinating Committee that traditionally during the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament that falls closest to the 1 March anniversary of the Convention's entry into force is a time when States Parties deliver statements in the CD on the implementation and impact of the Convention.
- Croatia advised the Coordinating Committee that in its capacity as President of the Convention it would be briefing NATO on 3 February on the outcomes of the 6MSP.

**Sequencing of and time allocations for the May 2006 meetings of the Standing Committees**

	<b>Monday 8 May</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 May</b>	<b>Wednesday 10 May</b>	<b>Thursday 11 May</b>	<b>Friday 12 May</b>
10:00 – 13:00	General Status	Victim Assistance	Mine Clearance	Mine Clearance	Stockpile Destruction
					General Status
13:00 – 15:00	Break for lunch	Break for lunch	Break for lunch	Break for lunch	Break for lunch
15:00 – 18:00	Victim Assistance	Victim Assistance	Mine Clearance	Stockpile Destruction	General Status

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<sup>i</sup> Since 2002, to ensure transparency the Chair of the Coordinating Committee has issued a “President’s Summary” of Coordinating Committee meetings. These summaries are the President’s informal notes of what transpired at these meetings and should not be considered official minutes of these meetings.