

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
6 March 2006**

President's Summary

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

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) introduced a consolidated draft programme for the week of Standing Committee meetings which had been distributed to the Coordinating Committee on 3 March. It was noted that the consolidated programme was prepared on the basis of inputs provided by individual sets of Co-Chairs and that the aim was to receive final approval from the Co-Chairs on their programmes by 22 March.

With respect to plans for the 8-12 May meetings of the Standing, Co-Chairs provided updates on work undertaken since the last Coordinating Committee meeting:

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

The Co-Chairs reported that letters inviting active participation in their May meeting had been sent to all States Parties that have retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 and to all States Parties that have not yet indicated that they have legislation to give effect to the Convention in accordance with Article 9. They also indicated that the programme for their meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss all aspects of the Convention typically considered by this Standing Committee or not considered by other Standing Committees. Their programme will commence with a general overview, proceed with matters of a cross-cutting nature and then continue with discussions on particular articles of the Convention. As well, the meeting will feature discussions on preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and on the general operations of the Convention.

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

The Co-Chairs reported that they are advancing the effort of encouraging relevant States Parties to establish "SMART" victim assistance objectives, with the ISU's Victim Assistance Specialist currently on a mission to Afghanistan and Tajikistan to assist those States Parties. The Co-Chairs also indicated that they will focus on best practices in pre-hospital care, socio-economic reintegration and Afghanistan as a case study in inter-ministerial coordination. In response to a question from the ICRC, the Co-Chairs confirmed that they had made an appeal to the 24 most affected States Parties to include in their delegations officials from the fields of health care, rehabilitation, reintegration or disability rights.

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

The Co-Chairs reported that letters inviting participation in their May meeting had been sent to the 45 States Parties which have not yet indicated that they have fulfilled their Article 5 obligations, to those 2 States Parties which have recently indicated that they have fulfilled their obligations, and to both traditional and non-traditional donors. They indicated that they had already arranged 20 bilateral meetings with States Parties in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations. As well, the Co-Chairs indicated that they had again invited Professor Marc Acheroy of Belgium to coordinate an informal technology experts' group meeting.

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

The Co-Chairs reported that letters inviting participation in their May meeting had been sent to the 14 States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations, to one State

Party that has discovered stocks of anti-personnel mines after the end of its destruction programme and to those States Parties which are overdue in providing an initial transparency report in accordance with Article 7 to confirm the presence or absence of stocks. The Co-Chairs also indicated that they may do bilateral meetings.

II. Overview of efforts of the Contact Group Coordinators

The Contact Group Coordinators provided updates on work undertaken since the last Coordinating Committee meeting and shares their plans for activities for May:

a. Universalization (Canada)

The Coordinator reported that a Universalization Contact Group meeting will be held on Thursday 11 May during the lunch break and that focused regional meetings will also take place during the week of Standing Committee meetings. The Coordinator emphasized that all States Parties can do something on the matter of universalization. For its part, the Coordinator indicated that it will demarche all States not parties prior to the May meetings of the Standing Committees and that it will carry out a universalization mission to India and Pakistan later this month. In addition, it was noted that Jordan will host a universalization event on 25-26 April and that Haiti recently ratified the Convention.

b. Article 7 Reporting (Belgium)

The Coordinator indicated that a letter jointly signed by the 6MSP Presidency had been sent to the States Parties reminding them of the 30 April deadline to provide updated information as required by Article 7 of the Convention. In addition, the Coordinator reported that an Article 7 Contact Group meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 May during the lunch break and that an emphasis would be placed on qualitative aspects of reporting. In this regard, an appeal was made to Co-Chairs to provide good and / or bad examples of reporting as it relates their subject matter responsibilities.

c. Resource Mobilisation (Norway)

The Coordinator referred to a paper distributed to the Coordinating Committee on 30 January in which priorities for the year were outlined. In addition, it indicated that it will produce a discussion paper for May and work with all relevant actors on a country case study. In addition, Canada noted that it had significantly increased funding to mine action through its development agency's bilateral programming

III. Sponsorship Programme update

The Sponsorship Programme Coordinator (United Kingdom) reported that the programme's fund is in a good financial position and that up to 90 delegates could be sponsored for the May meetings. The Coordinator further indicated that a list of potential candidates for sponsorship would soon be drawn up and presented to the programme's Donors' Group.

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

Australia reiterated that its aim would be to reorder the 7MSP agenda to emphasize the States Parties agreed priorities – the fulfilment of Article 5 obligations and victim assistance. In particular it indicated that the meeting no doubt would wish to discuss matters concerning meeting Article 5 deadlines. As well, Australia indicated a desire to again discourage general statements, to aim to get down to business at the meeting as quickly as possible and to use the afternoon session on Thursday 21 September for thematic discussions.

Switzerland indicated that it is in the process of coordinating an opening ceremony to take place the morning of Monday 18 September, that the President or Minister of Switzerland would attend, and that it will host a reception on the evening of Tuesday 19 September. It also reported that Swiss organizations had presented a series of ideas for side events and that others, including the ICBL, were encouraged to submit their ideas. It was also noted that the return of the Broken Chair to Place des Nations may serve as an opportunity for a side event.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention reported that, in keeping with past practice, they had written to the UN Secretary General to request that he appoint an Executive Secretary for the 7MSP, that efforts proceed in developing cost estimates for review at their Standing Committee meeting and that formal notification of the convening of the 7MSP be provided to all States and relevant organizations.

V. Coordination of efforts to mark the 7th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force

Croatia reported that it had undertaken efforts to coordinate with a representative group of States Parties to highlight the 1 March anniversary of the Convention's entry into force at the Conference on Disarmament on 9 March. The ICBL also indicated that a variety of events had been staged by ICBL member organizations on or around 1 March.

VI. Any other business

Canada expressed its interest in serving, following the 7MSP, as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention.

VII. Next meeting

The Chair noted that she would next convene a Coordinating Committee meeting on Tuesday 2 May from 13:00 to 15:00.