

**Coordinating Committee Meeting  
27 July 2006**

**President's Summary**

Note: The Chair commenced the meeting by welcoming Colonel Masahiro Sugawara of Japan to his first Coordinating Committee meeting and by noting that this would be the last Coordinating Committee meeting for Carlos Arroyave of Guatemala. The Chair thanked Mr. Arroyave for his service to the Coordinating Committee and for his several years of efforts in support of the aims of the Convention.

**I. Input on a draft Geneva Progress Report 2005-2006**

The Chair recalled that on 17 July all States Parties and relevant organizations had an opportunity to comment on a draft Geneva Progress Report and that additional written comments were requested by 29 July in order that the President-Designate can submit a more complete version of the progress report in time for it to be translated prior to the 7MSP. The 7MSP President-Designate added that adhering to this deadline was important and that it sought, in particular, input on questions such as how to report on concrete progress on victim assistance and mine clearance and how to make references to the Nairobi Action Plan without adding undue length to the report.

Chile reported that it had submitted input with respect to paragraph 21 in the draft that had been distributed in advance of the 17 July informal meeting, suggesting that the current wording is both premature and incomplete.

The ICRC indicated that it would provide written comments by the deadline.

Afghanistan reported that it is seeking enhancements to paragraph 33 in the draft that had been distributed in advance of the 17 July informal meeting.

Argentina asked when the last instance to update numbers in the document will be. The President-Designate responded by indicating the progress report would be updated at the 7MSP.

Slovenia indicated that it would provide to the 7MSP an informal document containing the information on Article 5 implementation that had been provided by States Parties at the May 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee.

Canada noted that it had already submitted written comments to the President-Designate and that it was less concerned about the report being brief and more interested in it being complete.

The ICBL expressed interest in seeing input that had been provided by others, particularly by the Coordinator of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group. The President-Designate responded that many actors had provided input and that it may be too cumbersome to distribute all inputs.

**II. Next steps on discussions on process matters concerning Article 5 extensions**

The Chair recalled that on 17 July all States Parties and relevant organizations had an opportunity to share their views with respect to ongoing work on matters concerning Article 5 extensions and that the President-Designate indicated that she would produce a paper in advance of the 7MSP with this paper potentially serving as the basis of decisions that the States Parties may wish to take at the 7MSP.

The 7MSP President-Designate added that she would appreciate any input on this matter as soon as possible and in particular sought the Coordinating Committee's views on matters such as an elaboration of the types of additional information that could be included in extension requests, a time line for the submission of requests, mandating the President to review requests and provide

recommendations to the States Parties and developing a standardised means of declaring Article 5 completion.

Belgium indicated that it felt that all Co-Chairs should be involved in whatever process is developed. Belgium also questioned the need for a standing group of experts, suggesting that the matter could be left up to the President to consult with whomever he or she wants.

Italy expressed that the first step should be to look at what is already available in the Convention in order to support a process.

Canada indicated that it will propose, by the end of August, draft information requirements for extensions. In addition, Canada expressed the view that the 7MSP should decide on the following: timelines of an extension request process; designating the Presidency as the point of contact for extension requests; designating the Presidency to receive, review and make recommendations to Meetings of the States Parties on each extension request using an agreed process including a methodology to ensure the input of technical advice and with such advice obtained from individuals with whom States Parties overall would have a great deal of confidence; that costs associated with expert advice should be covered by States Parties on a voluntary basis through contributions to the ISU Trust Fund; requesting that States Parties which require extensions to make requests 12 to 18 months prior to a Meeting of the States Parties; and, guidelines for the types of information that requesting States Parties should consider containing in an extension request. As well, Canada supported the ICRC suggestion of establishing a sort of standard declaration of completion.

Chile suggested that more consultations would be desirable. In addition, Chile indicated that it supports the idea of a group of experts with a mandate to be agreed upon at the 7MSP, that such a group subsequently should proceed with work on criteria to be agreed upon at the 8MSP and that such work should be undertaken in collaboration with the Presidency and the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies.

The Chair (Croatia) agreed with the merits of informal consultations on the margins of the CCW meeting at the end of August / beginning of September.

### **III. Update on proposed new Co-Rapporteurs**

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention provided an update on a proposed list of 2006-2007 Co-Rapporteurs for consideration by the States Parties at the 7MSP, noting that interested had been expressed by Canada, Germany, Peru, New Zealand and Lithuania for specific Standing Committees and that the Co-Chairs had distributed a letter to all States Parties in which they had called for expressions of interest. The Co-Chairs indicated that if they do not receive additional interest by the end of the week, they will be proactive in approaching certain States Parties, particularly those from Africa and Asia which are in the process of fulfilling obligations.

### **IV. 7MSP Vice-Presidents**

The Chair reminded the Co-Chairs that, if past practice prevails, they will be elected Vice-Presidents of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties with this involving supporting the President, as required, and attending Bureau Meetings, which in the past Presidents have convened prior to most day's morning session.

### **V. Thematic discussions during the 7MSP**

The Chair recalled that in the context of a "consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention," the 7MSP programme features thematic discussions in accordance with the sections and subsections of the Nairobi Action Plan.

The President-Designate outlined her planned approach to these discussions, indicating that it was her desire to see three things happen during these thematic sessions:

- First: The President-Designate would see that the relevant set of Co-Chairs or Contact Group Coordinator would be the lead speaker during each item, providing an overview of the status of the particular matter being discussed and reporting on efforts undertaken during the past year. In addition, where relevant – as with victim assistance – Co-Chairs may wish to call upon others to help describe progress that has been made. The President-Designate would foresee Co-Chairs' or Contact Group Coordinators' updates and any thematic updates consuming approximately one-third of the notional time allotment.
- Second: The President-Designate would see that those States Parties which are in the process of clearing mined areas, assisting the victims, destroying stockpiled mines or fulfilling other obligations will seize the opportunity presented by the 7MSP's thematic discussions to provide further clarity or new information on the steps they are taken to fulfill their responsibilities. In order to prepare updates on these matters, the President-Designate intends to suggest that relevant States Parties may wish to provide additional information in accordance with questions posed by the Co-Chairs in advance of the May 2006 meetings of the Standing Committees.
- Third: The President-Designate would see that interested actors would use thematic discussions to remark on the Geneva Progress Report, or, more generally, to share information and views on progress made over the past year and areas that deserve priority attention in 2007.

#### **VI. Organizations seeking 7MSP observer status in accordance with Rule 1.4**

It was recalled that at the last Coordinating Committee meeting, it was agreed that: (a) 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<sup>1</sup> should again have this status recommended for them for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties if they so wish to have this status; and, (b) 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 asked to consider one request for observer status in accordance with Rule 1.4 that had been submitted since the last Coordinating Committee meeting – from the Geneva Call. It was agreed that the Geneva Call should be provided with observer status subject to the approval of the 7MSP.

#### **VII. 7MSP Preparations: Organizational matters**

The representative of the 7MSP Secretary-General-Designate outlined the programme for the opening ceremony, noting the following.

- 09:45 – Opening ceremony begins with performance by a graphic artist
- 10:00 – MC H.E. Jürg Streuli commences with the programme, followed by an African song
- 10:10 – Addresses are delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the Australian Special Representative for Mine Action
- 10:30 – A video produced by the Landmine Survivors Network is shown, followed by two songs by pop star *Juanes*, followed by a statement by a landmine survivor

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Rule 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure for the Seventh 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 7MSP. Rule 1.4 states that "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."

- 11:00 – Opening ceremony ends.

The Manager of the ISU added that most days during the 7MSP will feature three concurrent side events taking place during the lunch breaks.

### **VIII. Ongoing efforts of Co-Chairs, Contact Group Coordinators and the Sponsorship Programme**

The Chair provided an opportunity for Co-Chairs, Contact Group Coordinators and the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator to update the Coordinating Committee on efforts they will take during the remaining months leading up to the 7MSP.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance indicated that they held a workshop in July in part to discuss plans for the 7MSP.

The Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme indicated that the Donors' Group had met in late June to review the performance of the programme during the May meetings of the Standing Committees and that a meeting of the Donors' Group would be convened at the end of the week of 31 July to plan for the 7MSP.

### **IX. Implementation Support Unit financial statement**

The Manager of the ISU reported that on 19 May the GICHD's Foundation Council received the GICHD's audited financial statement covering fiscal / calendar year 2005. This document and the Report on the Functioning of the Implementation Support Unit in 2005 were presented to the Coordinating Committee in accordance with the agreement between the GICHD and the States Parties and the Manager of the ISU indicated that he was available to answer any questions. It was noted that sizeable carryover in funding occurred between 2005 and 2006. In response, it was recalled that this has become a common annual practice necessitated by the requirement that funding be available at the start of each year in order that the ISU can continue to function in an uninterrupted manner.

### **X. Any other business**

The President-Designate sought clarification regarding desires for further consultations in advance of the 7MSP. It was the general view of Coordinating Committee participants that the President-Designate should hold another open-ended consultation meeting with a similar format to the meeting held on 17 July but with a focus solely on Article 5 matters.

### **XI. Next meeting**

The Chair indicated his intention to convene the next meeting on Monday 11 September.