

**Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
Tuesday 14 November 2006**

President's Summary

1. President's Update

The Chair provided an update on the President's Action Plan to Universalise and Implement the Convention and on the UNGA First Committee resolution on the Mine Ban Convention.

The Chair reported that the First Committee resolution received 157 votes in favour and 0 opposed, with 15 abstentions. The Chair proposed that, given the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention in 2007, a more ambitious activity could be staged within the First Committee next year.

In the margins of First Committee, the Chair held a side event to present the outcomes of the 7MSP and held meetings with the New York-based Permanent Representatives of four States Parties facing implementation challenges (Guyana, Niger, Malawi and Gambia) and two states not party to encourage them to join (Laos and Tonga). The Chair also met with key UN partners (UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF).

During the Chair's meeting with UN agencies, the UN requested a seat on the Coordinating Committee. It had a strong role in mine action and was interested in building stronger partnerships. The Chair sought the view of the Committee. Several states represented on the Committee welcomed the UN's interest in participating. While the Chair did not request a decision immediately, she asked members to consider the issue ahead of the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

The Chair noted that on 13 November Canada had convened an informal meeting to seek input from States Parties on the Article 5 extension template. Canada considered its work on the template complete and said it would pass the matter to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies.

2. Preparations for the 2006-2007 Intersessional Work Programme

a. Presentation by Co-Chairs of their objectives and plans for 2007

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration indicated that they would prepare questionnaires for both donor States Parties and for the 24 States Parties with responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. In addition, they would convene a meeting of these 24 States Parties in January and then follow-up with bilateral meetings in February. The Co-Chairs would support or contribute to national workshops in several countries, including in Sudan. As well, they indicated that they would prepare a programme for victim assistance experts during the week of Standing Committee meetings in order to make good use of their time in Geneva.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies aimed to achieve clarity in the implementation of Article 5 and complete work on the Article 5 extension template. They also intended to provide a clear time-table regarding Article 5 implementation and good examples of operational use of the template.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction indicated that efforts made with States Parties were already resulting in positive outcomes. Guyana had submitted its initial Article 7 report indicating that it did not possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines. The Co-Chairs further reported that they intended to stimulate smooth implementation of Article 4 with a priority placed on those States Parties with deadlines in 2007 and on those that had not yet provided initial transparency reports. As well, the Co-Chairs noted that they may look at amending the transparency reporting format's "Form G."

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention indicated that they would collaborate with Contact Group Coordinators on cross-cutting issues; continue efforts related to particular articles – e.g. articles 3 and 9 – which were not dealt with by other Standing Committees; and play a traditional leading role on matters concerning the general operation of the Convention including preparations for the next Meeting of the States Parties and the appointment of new Co-Rapporteurs.

b. Sequencing of and time allocations for April 2007 meetings if the Standing Committees

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) presented a proposal, prepared on the basis of discussions with the Co-Chairs, for the sequencing of and time allocations for the April meetings (see attached). This was agreed by the Coordinating Committee.

c. General statements during meetings of the Standing Committee meetings

The Coordinating Committee considered whether to permit general statements during Standing Committee meetings. It was the view of the Chair and several others present that, consistent with past practice, states should be discouraged from delivering general statements. The Committee noted that a degree of flexibility would be required.

d. Interpretation during meetings if the Standing Committees

The ISU Manager sought direction regarding interpretation at the next Standing Committees meetings. The Committee agreed to proceed, as in the past, by requesting that the European Commission provide interpretation in English, French and Spanish. In addition, Canada again offered to cover the costs of providing interpretation in Russian. The Chair enquired as to whether interpretation should be provided in Arabic and requested Jordan's view on this question.

e. Time line for preparations

The Committee agreed that the Co-Chairs and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme would strive towards a target of 16 February 2007 to see that (a) programmes and background documents for the April meetings were completed; (b) specific messages / letters to individual States Parties were ready for distribution; and, (b) invitations to request sponsorship were finalized. This was deemed generally acceptable to the Coordinating Committee.

3. Contact Group Coordinators' Objectives and Plans

Contact Group Coordinators outlined their ideas and plans for 2006-2007. With respect to universalization, the same approach as in the recent past would be used. Smaller regional discussions would precede a Contact Group meeting in the margins of the Standing Committees. With respect to resource mobilisation, efforts would continue on the theme of the effective use of funds. With respect to linking mine action to development, a meeting would be convened on the margins of the Standing Committee meetings. With respect to Article 7 reporting, letters would be sent to the States Parties to remind them of their reporting obligations.

4. 2007 ISU Budget

ISU Manager recalled that in accordance with the agreement between the GICHD and the States Parties on the functioning of the ISU, an annual budget for the ISU would be established including figures for the forthcoming financial year and, if necessary, a set of priorities in order to allocate available resources. In this context, the proposed 2007 ISU budget was presented by the ISU Manager (see attached). The meeting noted that the 2007 budget took into account additional ISU support for matters that concern requests for extensions prepared and submitted in accordance with Article 5.

5. Next meeting

The Chair indicated her intention to convene the next Coordinating Committee meeting in early February, in part to review preliminary work on a draft consolidated agenda for the week of Standing Committee meetings.