

**Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
26 September 2006**

President's Summary

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed Coordinating Committee participants to the first meeting under the Australian Presidency.

2. Briefing on the Convention's implementation mechanisms

The Manager of the Implementation Support Unit provided a briefing on the Convention and its implementation mechanisms, recalling the origins of the Intersessional Work Programme (IWP), the mandate of the Coordinating Committee and the roles of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.

The ISU Manager also offered the following advice: (a) that the intersessional period spanned 14 months and hence the opportunities for Co-Chairs to stimulate progress spanned this entire period; (b) that Standing Committee meetings contributed to progress during the entire intersessional period; (c) that the value of the IWP could best be maximised if ample time was allocated to updates from States Parties in the process of implementing key obligations; and, (d) planning could commence now.

3. Open discussion on the outcomes of the 7MSP and on opportunities for the 2006-2007 Intersessional Work Programme

The Chair introduced a discussion on the outcomes of the 7MSP and on opportunities for the 2006-2007 Intersessional Work Programme. She remarked that a great deal had been accomplished at the 7MSP, in terms of both updates on implementation and important decisions taken on matters that concern Article 5. In addition, the Chair recalled the presentation at the 7MSP of the President's universalisation plan and noted that further work would be needed to refine a template for voluntary use by States Parties requesting extensions in accordance with Article 5.

The Chair noted that the President would invite delegations to participate in a discussion of Canada's proposed template for Article five extensions in the margins of the CCW Review Conference in November.

It was a widely held view that the 7MSP was indeed successful – in terms of both substance and how difficult issues were handled – and that the 7MSP provided an impetus to act in the period leading to the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP). In terms of opportunities for the intersessional period and the 8MSP, the following comments were made:

- While a great deal of progress has been made in engaging relevant experts on matters that concern the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine survivors, much more must be done to support inter-ministerial planning and to ensure that plans are implemented.

- On matters concerning Article 5 implementation in 2006-2007, a priority should be placed on reaching out to those States Parties that have provided ambiguous or little information on their efforts to implement the Article, as noted in Annex IV to the Geneva Progress Report.
- States Parties could benefit again from receiving questions from Co-Chairs, as a guide for producing updates on implementation. Co-Chairs could also circulate an example of a model answer.
- Further effort should be undertaken to ensure States Parties are aware of the opportunity to volunteer information on matters concerning Article 3, including through the use of the Article 7 reporting format as amended at the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties.
- While a work plan for Co-Chairs responsible for mine clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction is relatively clear, additional advice would be welcomed with respect to the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention on how its Co-Chairs could advance the Convention's core aims.
- There is a need to keep the focus on the Convention's humanitarian purpose.
- The Coordinating Committee would need to consider notional time allocations for and the sequencing of Standing Committee meetings as well as whether / how it wishes to permit general statements during Standing Committee meetings.
- The decision to hold the 8MSP in Jordan was widely appreciated with it noted that this could help advance universalisation in the Middle East.

4. Draft timeline for preparations leading to the April meetings of the Standing Committees

The ISU Manager presented a timeline for preparations for April meetings, with key features being:

- October-November: Individual sets of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs consider objectives for the year and how their meetings will help advance these objectives.
- November: Co-Chairs to present their objectives to Coordinating Committee.
- Early February: Co-Chairs distribute suggestions to States Parties on how to maximise opportunities for participation at the April meetings of the Standing Committees.
- Mid-February: Coordinating Committee meeting to finalise a consolidated programme and background documents for the April meetings.
- March 1: Convention's entry into force marked in the Conference on Disarmament.

- March 2: Target date for the distribution of a consolidated programme and background documents for the April meetings.
- Mid-April: Coordinating Committee meeting to finalise preparations for the meetings of the Standing Committees.
- April 23-27: Standing Committees meet.
- Mid-May: Coordinating Committee meets to discuss outcomes of the Standing Committee meetings and opportunities for the remainder of the intersessional period.

5. UNGA First Committee resolution on the universalisation and implementation of the Convention

The Presidency recalled that in keeping with past practice, the Convention's current, past and incoming Presidencies lead a process of advancing a First Committee resolution on the Convention's universalization and implementation. The Presidency distributed a draft resolution and indicated its desire to move towards such a resolution being tabled every second year rather than annually.

Some Coordinating Committee participants emphasised the value of the resolution and appealed for it to not be lost should it become a matter dealt with only every second year. In response, it was noted that the approach proposed by the Presidency would in no way diminish the importance or standing of the resolution once adopted. The text and status of the resolution, once agreed, would stand until voted on again. The President's approach was endorsed by two members of the Coordinating Committee, as a measure contributing to UN reform. A number of Coordinating Committee participants offered minor drafting suggestions.

6. Any other business

The Chair indicated that she would hold a briefing in New York on 13 October on the outcomes of the 7MSP and the status of the Convention.

The Coordinating Committee was reminded that 2007 will feature a number of 10th anniversaries of key events that took place as part of the Ottawa Process, which culminated in the adoption and signing of the Convention.

7. Next meeting

The Chair indicated her intention to convene the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the margins of the CCW in November.