

## **Coordinating Committee Meeting**

**28 June 2007**

### **President's Summary**

1. Review of the week of Standing Committee meetings

Co-Chairs and other Coordinating Committee members offered their assessments of the 23-27 April meetings of the Standing Committees and views on remaining work in the lead-up to the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP).

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention offered a positive assessment of their meeting, although they were disappointed that few States Parties provided an update on implementation as it concerns this Standing Committee. The Co-Rapporteurs noted that the report is in the process of being prepared.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction noted that their meeting brought to light serious challenges concerning the implementation of Article 4, with one State Party reporting that it had missed its deadline for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and another indicating that it likely will miss its upcoming deadline. The Co-Chairs observed that, while updates provided to the Standing Committee are usually positive, they sometimes conflict with reality on the ground. They Co-Chairs also recalled that positive discussions were held on the Co-Chairs' proposal that the Article 7 reporting format be amended in regards to reporting on previously unknown stockpiles. Finally, the Co-Rapporteurs noted that their report has been drafted and is being edited.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration were pleased with the success of splitting the meeting into two sessions. With the assistance of the Sponsorship Programme, 17 of the 24 relevant States Parties had sent experts pursuant to action # 39 of the Nairobi Action Plan. The parallel programme for these victim assistance experts ensured optimal use was made of their presence. The Co-Chairs noted that the report is close to being complete. In the lead-up to the 8MSP, the Co-Chairs will focus on supporting national implementation of the victim assistance provisions of the Nairobi Action Plan, including through national workshops.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies were pleased that almost every one of the 45 States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 provided an update, that the updates were for the most part of a high quality, and that many States Parties made use of the questionnaire developed by the Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs were also pleased that some States Parties were already making use of the template for Article 5 extension requests, that the template is proving to be a useful tool for assisting in the development of requests and that the calendar of key dates in the extension request process was well received. However, the Co-Chairs were concerned that two States Parties used valuable meeting time for political discussions. In advance of the 8MSP, the Co-Chairs will seek further clarity from those States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2009 and will continue to highlight the need for additional resources for Article 5 implementation and efficient and effective means for releasing suspected hazardous areas. Finally, the Co-Chairs recalled that additional tasks assigned to the Implementation Support Unit concerning the Article 5 extensions process will require more resources and noted that the report is in the process of being prepared.

The ICBL and ICRC indicated that they were generally pleased with the week of meetings but were concerned that more clarity was not provided with respect to Article 5 implementation, that few States Parties shared information with respect to mines retained under Article 3, and,

that the negative aspects of mainstreaming mine action funding needed to be further discussed.

The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group noted that the reporting rate at the end of April was low. In advance of the 8MSP, the Co-ordinator will follow up in particular with Cape Verde – a State Party which has not yet provided an initial report.

The Coordinator of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group reported that their focus in April had been on the availability of information concerning effective and efficient use of resources. Discussions were held on the practical use of information sources such as landmine impact surveys. The Coordinator noted that Chile is convening a workshop in August which will highlight a number of issues on the Contact Group's agenda concerning efficiency and effectiveness. The Coordinator will also consider supporting regional workshops and updating information, with the support of the ISU, on the flow of mine action funding.

The Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group noted that Asia and the Middle East continue to be the focus of attention and that Kuwait and Bahrain may accede to the Convention before the 8MSP. The ICRC added that it recently co-convened a seminar in Kuwait and will convene another in Tunisia in September.

The Coordinator of the Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group reported that a workshop was held in June in Cambodia and that the Geneva Forum would hold an event on this issue in Geneva on 3 July.

## 2. Preparations for the 8MSP

### a. Draft *Dead Sea Progress Report*

The President-Designate of the 8MSP recalled that at the last meeting of the Coordinating Committee, a time-line for the preparation of a Dead Sea Progress Report was presented and that, until June 1, Co-Chairs, Co-Rapporteurs and Contact Group Coordinators were invited to provide input take into account in preparing a preliminary draft. The President-Designate then introduced the preliminary draft which he had distributed on 19 June, noting that it largely reflected the approach taken at the 6MSP and 7MSP and that it is intended to report on progress in the application of the Nairobi Action Plan during the period between the 7MSP and the 8MSP and highlight priority areas of work for the year following the 8MSP.

The President-Designate noted that he wished to draw upon the good work of the Co-Chairs, Contact Group Coordinators and the current President, as demonstrated by the use of status updates provided at the meetings of the Standing Committees. Finally, he recalled that written input is sought from Coordinating Committee members by 13 July and that a more developed draft text would serve as the basis for discussion at an informal meeting to be held in Geneva on Tuesday 28 August at 13:00.

The Chair of the Coordinating Committee urged participants to provide early input to the President-Designate and indicated that she will provide her advice to the President-Designate based upon her experience on some sensitive matters last year.

### b. Organizational matters

Lina Abu Nuwar of Jordan, the 8MSP-Jordan Team Leader, reminded the Coordinating Committee that a field visit, reception and opening ceremony in advance of the 8MSP will take place on Saturday 17 November, that those wishing to book space for side events should contact the ISU Manager, that Jordan has established an e-

visa system for the 8MSP, that a publicity plan is in place which might result in international celebrities taking part in the 8MSP opening ceremony, and that most of the funding required by Jordan to fulfil host country responsibilities has been received with additional funding being sought from the private sector.

c. Possible dates for meetings in 2008

The Manager of the ISU, on the basis that there was a sentiment expressed in April that the 9MSP should take place at the end of 2008, suggested that the States Parties may wish to consider the following dates for meetings in 2008, taking into account the disarmament calendar and the availability of space:

- Meetings of the Standing Committees: 2-6 June 2008
- Ninth Meeting of the States Parties: 1-5 December 2008

d. Update on the process of proposing new Co-Rapporteurs

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention reported that work is ongoing on preparing a list of proposed new Co-Rapporteurs.

e. Organizations seeking observer status in accordance with Rule 1.4

The Manager of the ISU recalled that in accordance with Rule 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure for the 8MSP, 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 8MSP. The ISU Manager proposed that, in keeping with past practice the Coordinating Committee take the following actions: (i) that the Coordinating Committee agree that 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 should again have this status recommended for them for the 8MSP if they so wish to have this status; and (ii), that 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. This proposal was considered acceptable.

f. Vice-Presidents of the 8MSP

The Manager of the ISU reminded Co-Chairs that, if past practice prevailed, they will be elected Vice-Presidents of the 8MSP. This would involve supporting the President, as required, and attending Bureau Meetings, which in the past Presidents have convened prior to most morning sessions.

3. Any other business

- The Chair of the Coordinating Committee and the Manager of the ISU reported that, on 3-4 May in Port Vila, Australia and Vanuatu convened a Pacific regional workshop on the pursuit of the Convention's aims and that positive results from this workshop have already been witnessed.
- The Chair, in recalling previous discussions on how to best run the UNGA First Committee Resolution on the Convention, indicated that she is looking at a new approach.

- The Chair recalled that the Australian Presidency is considering organizing an event marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention which could be held during, or on the margins of, the UNGA First Committee's work in New York in October.
- Norway reported that it is organizing 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities to take place in Oslo on 18 September and that Norwegian NGOs will be holding events on 17 September.
- The ICRC asked the Chair if she had received any response to her inquiries surrounding the UN monitoring group reports on arms transfers to Somalia which may have included anti-personnel mines. The Chair responded indicating that no answer had been received and that follow-up inquiries are being made.

4. Next meeting

It was proposed that the Coordinating Committee next meet on Wednesday 29 August at 13:00. This was deemed acceptable.