

Coordinating Committee meeting

7 February 2007

President's Summary

1. President's Update

The President and Chair of the Coordinating Committee recalled that the matter of a UN Monitoring Group's allegations of transfers of anti-personnel mines to warring groups in Somalia was raised at a previous meeting by the ICBL. The President reported that given that some of the terminology in the report is vague she has written to the Chair of the relevant Security Council Committee for further information on the alleged transfers.

The President reported that since last the meeting of the Coordinating Committee, reports emerged regarding Pakistan's intention to mine parts of border with Afghanistan. The President indicated that she is considering the best way to respond in her capacity as President.

The President reported that Australia is continuing to make plans for a Pacific regional workshop, to be held in May.

2. Preparations for the 2006-2007 Intersessional Work Programme

The Co-Chairs provided overviews of their draft programmes for meetings the week of 23-27 April and highlighted steps they are taking to provide additional guidance to States Parties on how to maximise opportunities for participation in the meetings. Each set of Co-Chairs indicated that it would be sending letters to relevant States Parties to provide advice and encourage participation.

The Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme also indicated that their preparations are well underway for the April meetings.

It was accepted that the Co-Chairs and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme should sign-off on documents and letters that concern them as soon as possible and no later than 13 February in order that the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) can meet the target set at the last Coordinating Committee meeting of 16 February 2007 to distribute (a) programmes and background documents; (b) specific messages / letters to individual States Parties; and, (b) invitations to request sponsorship.

3. Preparations for the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties

The representative of the President-Designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP) presented initial ideas on the 8MSP, noting that the meeting in Jordan presents the following opportunities: reinvigorating interest globally in the landmine problem; increasing interest in the Convention in the Middle East; and, highlighting the reality of challenges faced in implementation and creative and cost-effective ways of overcoming these challenges. It was noted that the programme envisaged for the 8MSP would aim to take advantage of these opportunities and would be a hybrid of programmes used at the 6MSP and 7MSP. Coordinating Committee participants were encouraged to provide feedback to the President-Designate on the initial ideas presented.

The Manager of the ISU informed the Coordinating Committee of a mechanism established to assist interested donors in contributing to supporting Jordan in covering costs related to hosting the 8MSP.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention noted that in keeping with past practice their Standing Committee meeting in April would serve as a forum for views to be shared with respect to the draft agenda, programme, rules and cost estimates for the 8MSP.

4. Participation of UN mine action representatives in Coordinating Committee meetings

The President recalled that at the last meeting of the Coordinating Committee she outlined the UN's interest in participating in the Coordinating Committee and that a number of delegations had spoken in support of UN participation. Since then, additional comments had been received. The President undertook to consult further inter-sessionally with a view to finalising this issue before the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

5. Any other business**6. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee meet in mid-April to ensure sound coordination in advance of the 23-27 April meetings of the Standing Committees.