

Coordinating Committee Meeting

1 February 2008

President's Summary

1. Introductory Remarks by the President

The 8MSP President and Chair of the Coordinating Committee welcomed the group to the first meeting under the his presidency noting the participation of the Co-Chairs, Co-Rapporteurs, Contact Group Coordinators, Sponsorship Programme Coordinators, the 9MSP President-Designate, the ICRC and the ICBL. He also informed the group that, pursuant to previous discussions of the Coordinating Committee, he had invited the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team to participate in the work of the Coordinating Committee.

2. Briefing on the Convention's Implementation Mechanisms

The head of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) briefed the group on the status of the Convention, its implementation mechanisms, and the role of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs. He offered the following advice to the Coordinating Committee: (a) that Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs have the opportunity to advance progress in the pursuit of aims relevant to their standing Committee during an entire intersessional period; (b) that Standing Committee meetings provide a means to achieve the desired ends therefore the group should make use of the meetings to support the achievement of their objectives; (c) that in order to maximize the value of the Intersessional Work Programme in advancing implementation, emphasis should be placed on ensuring the active participation of States Parties in the process of implementing key obligations.

3. Objectives and Plans of the Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs of each Standing Committee shared their objectives for the year and outlined the activities they intended to undertake to achieve these objectives. Highlights were as follows:

- Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies: The Co-Chairs will ask those States Parties which by June will have submitted extension requests to present the highlights of their requests at the June Meeting. The Co-Chairs also highlighted ongoing progress in advancing land release methods and standards and confirmed that they would continue to encourage their use / application.
- Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: The Co-Chairs reflected upon the success of the parallel programmes convened by last year's Co-Chairs and confirmed that they would again proceed with a similar programme for experts at the June meeting. The Co-Chairs expressed their intention to reach out to new States Parties to the Convention that may hold the ultimate responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors.
- Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction: The Co-Chairs highlighted that three States Parties may miss their deadlines for destroying stockpiled mines and two other States Parties are of great interest because they too have deadlines in the first half of 2008.

- Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention: The Co-Chairs indicated that they will pursue work on matters traditionally dealt with by their Standing Committee.

4. Objectives and Plans of the Contacts Group and Sponsorship Group Coordinators

Coordinators of the Universalization Contact Group, the Article 7 Contact Group, and the Resource Utilization Contact Group provided updates on their objectives and plans for the year. In addition, an update was provided on behalf of the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme. (No update was provided on the Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group.) The highlights were as follows:

- Resource Utilization Contact Group: The Coordinator (Norway) indicated that the focus of efforts in the lead up to the Second Review Conference would be on the implementation of Article 5, including by encouraging greater efficiency in mine action and by working with the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance to encourage the use of the full range of land release methods
- Article 7 Contact Group: The Coordinator (Belgium) reported that a few States Parties have still not submitted an initial report as required and that these States Parties will be invited to request sponsorship for the June meetings of the Standing Committees.
- Universalization Contact Group: The Coordinator (Canada) indicated that efforts would continue in 2008 to promote further accessions to the Convention with one key activity being a workshop to be held in Indonesia in February to promote the Convention in South East Asia.
- Sponsorship Programme: The head of the ISU, on behalf of the Coordinator (UK), reported that the Donors' Group had met earlier in the week and had agreed to proceed in a manner similar to that of last year which would see sponsorship offered to approximately 70 delegates for the June meetings of the Standing Committees.

5. Article 5 Extensions Process

The Chair recalled the decisions of the 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties regarding a process related to Article 5 extension requests as well as the paper he had tabled at the 2007 Eighth Meeting of the States Parties entitled "An Orientation to the Process Concerning Article 5 Extension Requests". He noted that while his paper went a long way to describing some of the mechanics of the extensions process, what remained was a more detailed discussion of the working methods to be used by the group which has been mandated to undertake the analysis of requests.

Canada raised a series of points and proposed a number of ideas regarding the working methodology of the analyzing group. Proposals related to ensuring the group proceeded in an efficient manner, the possibility of drawing on input from outside the analyzing group, addressing conflicts of interest, decision making, and elements to be considered for inclusion in analyses.

The Chair concluded that it was clear that the work of the analyzing group would have to adhere to the decisions of the 7MSP but do so in a way that was consistent with the

Convention's spirit of cooperation and partnership. In addition, the Chair concluded that there was general agreement that the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, with the support of their Co-Rapporteurs, could enhance the efficiency of the process by making initial determination of the completeness of requests and immediately seeking to obtain additional information which may be necessary for a complete analysis. Finally, the Chair concluded that on other working methods further discussions were required and in this context he asked Coordinating Committee participants to submit any views to him by 15 February.

6. Initial Ideas Regarding the 9MSP

The President-Designate of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP), Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland, presented some initial considerations for the 9MSP. The President-Designate recalled that the 9MSP programme will need to be amended to take into account the amount of time needed for the consideration of requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention. In this regard, he suggested that it may be useful to have an informal session immediately after a general exchange of views for requesting States Parties to present their requests and for others to answer questions. Following this the 9MSP could consider other matters related to the operations of the Convention (e.g., stockpiled destruction, universalization, victim assistance, etc.) and then at the end of the week revert to the question of formal consideration of extension requests.

The President-Designate recalled that the rules of procedure for the 9MSP need not be amended as they already covering decision making concerning Article 5 requests.

The President-Designate also indicated that the 9MSP will need to agree to a preparatory process for the Second Review Conference. He suggested that the precedent set by the First Review Conference may be useful to follow with two preparatory meetings – one being one day in length and the other two days in length – and with the President-Designate of the Second Review Conference convening additional informal meetings if deemed necessary.

Finally, the President-Designate noted that the 9MSP will need to designate a President for the Second Review Conference and decide on the dates, duration and location of the Second Review Conference.

7. Discussion on Sequencing and Timing of Standing Committee Meetings in June

The Coordinating Committee agreed that the time allocation for the sequencing of meetings in June should be the same as last year and that the group should work towards a deadline of 2 April 2008 for the distribution of all documents and letters. (See Annex I.)

8. Schedule of Coordinating Committee and Article 5 Extensions Meetings

The Coordinating Committee agreed on a provisional schedule for meetings of the Coordinating Committee and the Article 5 Extensions Analyzing Group for 2008 with the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee set to take place on Monday 10 March. (See Annex II.)

Annex I

Meetings of the Standing Committees 2-6 June 2008

Notional time allocations and sequencing

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10:00 - 11:30 | General Status | Stockpile Destruction ¹ (if necessary) | Mine Clearance | Mine Clearance | Victim Assistance ² |
| 11:30 - 13:00 | General Status | Victim Assistance | Mine Clearance | Mine Clearance | General Status |
| 13:00 - 15:00 | Break for lunch / Contact Group Meetings / Side Events | | | | |
| 15:00 - 16:30 | Stockpile Destruction | Victim Assistance | Mine Clearance | Mine Clearance | General Status |
| 16:30 - 18:00 | Stockpile Destruction | Victim Assistance | Mine Clearance | Mine Clearance | General Status |

¹ In keeping with past practice, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration would begin on 3 June as soon as the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction had concluded its deliberations.

² In keeping with past practice, the meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention would reconvene on 6 June as soon as the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration had concluded its deliberations.

Annex II

Dates for meetings for the Coordinating Committee and for the group analysing Article 5 extension requests³ (Subject to change)

March 10 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

March 11 – 13:00 to 18:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group

April 28 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

April 29 & 30 – 13:00 to 18:00 each day

- Article 5 extensions analysing group

May 15 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

May 16 – 10:00 to 18:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group

June 6 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group

August 28 – 10:00 to 18:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group

August 29 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

³ At the September 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, “the President and Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees” would “jointly prepare an analysis” of each Article 5 extension request submitted.