

Coordinating Committee Meeting

10 March 2008

President's Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The President and Chair of the Coordinating Committee welcomed the group to the second meeting under his presidency.

The President reported that since the last meeting of the Coordinating Committee further challenges to implementation have arisen due to instances of States Parties failing to comply with their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations.

The President recalled that in the last meeting of the Coordinating Committee discussions took place regarding the analysis of Article 5 extension requests. The President recalled that discussions regarding the working methods of the group were left inconclusive and noted that the analysing group would meet on Tuesday 11 March 2008 with a view to concluding discussions on working methodology.

2. Updates on Preparations for the 2-6 June meetings of the Standing Committees

The Co-Chairs of each Standing Committee provided updates on preparations for the June meetings of the Standing Committees. Highlights were as follows:

- Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention: The Co-Chairs informed the group of their intention to adopt the same agenda as used in last years meeting. The Co-Chairs proposed one alteration to this agenda: to move the reporting of the Resource Utilization Contact Group and the Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group from the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation to the Standing Committee that is most relevant to the work that these contact groups are focusing on during this intersessional period thus allowing more time for discussion on other matters such as Article 3 of the Convention. The Co-Chairs sought the advice of the Committee on this amendment. Some members of the Committee expressed the view that reports from these two contact groups should be kept in the meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation because, even though efforts are currently being focused on Article 5, the two contact groups give consideration to a range of issues.
- Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction: In response to the failure of four States Parties to fulfil their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations, the Co-Chairs announced that a new topic: 'Addressing Concerns about Compliance with Article 4 of the Convention', will be added to the agenda of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction this year. The inclusion of a new topic is in keeping with the States Parties obligation "to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of [the] Convention, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance by States Parties with their obligation under [the] Convention". The Co-Chairs announced their intention to hold a series of informal consultations before the Standing Committee meeting. It was proposed that the first round of informal consultation would focus on the destruction of PFM mines.

- Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies: The Co-Chairs informed the group that discussions regarding the process for Article 5 extension requests will resume this week, and encouraged input from the Coordinating Committee. The Co-Chairs noted the importance of concluding discussions on land release to enable something concrete to be presented at the 9MSP. The Co-Chairs note ongoing work on new international mine action standards (IMAS) on land release.
- Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: The Co-Chairs indicated that the draft agenda for June meeting is currently being finalised and they are also in the process of organising the parallel programme for victim assistance experts which will take place over four days. The Co-Chairs confirmed that they will be in a position to sign off of documents for the standing committee package by the end of this week therefore enabling the Implementation Support Unit to meet the target date set at the last Coordinating Committee meeting on 2 April 2008 to distribute the Standing Committee Package.

3. Updates on activities of the Contact Group and Sponsorship Programme Coordinators

- Universalization Contact Group: The Coordinator (Canada) reported on the recent implementation and universalization workshop held in Indonesia. The workshop had been successful in facilitating lively and interesting discussions, and had enabled the Contact Group Coordinator to engage with participants from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Laos, Mongolia and Myanmar. The Coordinator indicated that Malaysia was considering hosting another workshop which, while being convened somewhat soon after the workshop in Indonesia, would be a useful follow-on activity.
- Article 7 Reporting Contact Group: The Coordinator (Belgium) reported that the Contact Group will convene a lunchtime meeting during the intersessionals.
- Resource Utilization Contact Group: The Coordinator (Norway) recalled the decision of the Contact Group to focus its efforts on activities relating to Article 5 during this intersessional period. The Coordinator announced that it will be convening national and thematic workshops to discuss developments in land release and promote the use of all available methods to enable the fulfilment of Article 5 obligations. The Coordinator announced that it will hold a side event on land release during the June meeting.
- Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group: The Coordinator (Canada) reported that it is continuing its efforts to draw development actors into mine action in order to secure funding for mine action and encourage donors to retain a mine action focus point to ensure mine action obligations are met.
- Sponsorship Programme Contact Group: The Coordinator (United Kingdom) recalled that the list of countries that will be offered sponsorship for the June meetings was agreed in February and noted that the ISU is in the process of preparing letters to candidates inviting them to submit a request and outlining the conditions of sponsorship. The Coordinator (Guy Pollard) announced that his posting will end in August this year.

4. Preparations for the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

The President Designate of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP), Ambassador Jürg Strueli of Switzerland, recalled key considerations for the 9MSP as presented at the last meeting of the Coordinating Committee and distributed a draft programme, which he indicated he would like to include in the package of materials for the meetings of the Standing Committees. The President-Designate announced that the Second Review Conference should take place in early December 2009 and noted that the same preparatory process as used for the First Review Conference could be used for the Second Review Conference. This would involve two preparatory meetings, one being one day in length and the other two days in length. The President-Designate invited the group to review the initial ideas paper and draft programme.

5. Updates from the ISU

The head of the ISU reported that work has begun on preparing to implement the EU Joint Action in support of the Convention. The ISU is working towards conclusion of a budget by April 2008. The EU Joint Action intends support the Convention a series of regional conferences and short term advisory missions in advance of the Second Review Conference. The head of the ISU noted that the EU had agreed that the ISU would be the implementing actor. The head of the ISU indicated his commitment to work closely with and in support of States Parties in organizing these workshops.

The head of the ISU noted some changes regarding the staffing of the ISU, and job titles. The job title of the ISU Manager has now been adapted to ISU Director in conformity with broader organisational restructuring, and Implementation Support Officer, Sophie Delfolie, job title has been amended to Implementation Support Specialist.

The ISU team now consists of the following staff members:

Kerry Brinkert, Director of the ISU
Sophie Delfolie, Implementation Support Specialist
Veronique Movilla, Administrative Assistant
Sheree Bailey, Victim Assistance Specialist
Juan Carlos Ruan, Mine Clearance Specialist
Paramdeep Mtharu, Implementation Support Officer

6. Any other business

Switzerland reported that further precision on proposed locations has been provided by the two countries offering to host the Second Review Conference. Proposed locations are as follows:

Cambodia - Siem Reap
Colombia - Cartagena

7. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee will take place on Tuesday 29 April 2008 from 13h00 to 15h00.