

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
Tuesday 3 March 2009**

President's Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting noting that the meeting's main purpose was to provide the Co-Chairs with an opportunity to share the status of preparations of programmes for the May meetings of their Standing Committees.

The Chair also provided an update on recent activities undertaken in his capacity as President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties. He informed the group that from 24 to 26 February he was in Nicaragua taking part in the first of several regional workshops that will take place this year. The Managua Workshop commenced with a high level opening in which the Chair delivered a statement. This workshop featured the participation of approximately 20 States in the Americas, including all States Parties in Latin America that are in the process of fulfilling core aims of the Convention. The workshop provided an opportunity for these States Parties to share progress made and challenges that remain in implementing the Convention, particularly on the part of those States Parties that requested and were granted extension requests last year.

The Chair also noted the events that took place at the Broken Chair in Geneva on 2 March to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the AP Mine Ban Convention and to launch the Road to Cartagena and the Second Review Conference.

In addition, the Chair recalled that at the last meeting he had noted that the Second Review Conference would be considered a success if more States Parties were able to report completion of Articles 4 and 5 obligations, if more States Parties were able to report significant advances in victim assistance efforts, and if more States had acceded to the Convention. The Chair suggested that the Coordinating Committee actively push for progress in implementation and universalization in order to achieve this goal, perhaps by focusing their efforts by pursuing a so-called 2-4-6-80 strategy as was suggested at the last meeting. The Chair recalled that such a strategy would aim to achieve the following in time for the Second Review Conference:

2 - Two more States having acceded to the Convention.

4 - Four more States Parties having completed implementation of Article 4.

6 - Six more States Parties having completed implementation of Article 5.

80 – Eighty percent of relevant States Parties engaged in an inter-ministerial victim assistance process resulting in the SMART objectives; an eighty percent Article 7 transparency reporting rate; and, eighty percent of States Parties reporting Article 9 legislation.

While the general sense of the Coordinating Committee was that Co-Chairs and others could play a valuable role in supporting the implementation process in order to achieve measurable gains by the Review Conference, some Coordinating Committee participants cautioned against setting unachievable or difficult to achieve targets.

2. Preparations for the 25-29 May meetings of the Standing Committees

The Co-Chairs were invited to present their draft programmes for their May meetings and provide other updates on activities to prepare for achieving their objectives in 2009.

- *Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Chile & Japan)*: The Co-Chairs noted that changes will be made to the draft programme for the May meetings of the Standing committees. Agenda items will be reallocated between the Monday and Friday of the meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status in order to highlight on Monday matters concerning Articles 3 and 9 as well as other Articles of the Convention. The Co-Chairs also reported that they will soon be sending out letters to all States Parties inviting them to apply to become Co-Rapporteurs for the next intersessional period.
- *Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Italy & Zambia)*: The Co-Chairs reported their intention to continue with the same intersessional work programme that was used successfully at last year's meeting. The Co-Chairs noted their intention to continue working to assist Belarus and Ukraine in fulfilling their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations, and announced an initiative to attempt to address the problem at a more political level both in the capitals and in the European Union.
- *Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Belgium & Thailand)*: The Co-Chairs reported that the May meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance will follow the same format as last year, and confirmed that a parallel programme would be developed for victim assistance experts. The Co-Chairs announced their intention to hold a victim assistance retreat for stakeholders to discuss challenges and ways forward and also to discuss synergies between different instruments such as Protocol V to the CCW and the new Cluster Munitions Convention.
- *Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies (Argentina & Australia)*: The Co-Chairs announced some changes to the programme for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance. This year's programme will see updates from States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 in the following order: (a) those fifteen states that were granted an extension last year; (b) those that may be able to complete by the Second Review Conference; (c) those that will submit a request for consideration at the Review Conference; and, (d) the remaining States in a chronological order. The Co-Chairs further announced that they will be supporting the Resource Utilization Contact Group on a follow up on the land release paper from last year.

It was agreed that the next step for the Co-Chairs would be to proceed in accordance with the timeline suggested by the ISU, which would see Co-Chairs finalise programmes, background documents and letters by 23 March in order that they could be distributed on 30 March.

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

The Contact Group and Sponsorship Programme Coordinators were invited to update the Coordinating Committee on their activities:

- *Universalization Contact Group (Canada)*: The Contact Group Coordinator reported that it is working closely with key partners, including the Presidency, the ISU, the ICBL and ICRC and other states that may be interested in supporting the work of universalisation. A list of 10 States not parties that may be close to acceding to the Convention has been developed and it hopes to achieve at least two more accessions before the Second Review Conference.
- *Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group (Canada)*: The Contact Group Coordinator reported that the Linking Mine Action and Development side event will take place on Tuesday 26 May 2009 and will be co-chaired by H.E. Chan Rotha of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. The meeting will focus on human security, ERW and

development. Confirmed speakers are Dr Reza of MACA (Afghanistan) on ERW legacy, human security and development challenges in Afghanistan; Chris Clark of UNMAS on how mine action has supported peace building and peacekeeping in Sudan; Steve Priestly of MAG on clearing ERW as part of efforts to promote human security and development; and the Danish Demining Group on promoting community safety in Somaliland.

- *Article 7 Reporting Contact Group (Belgium)*: The Contact Group Coordinator reported that letters have been sent to States Parties reminding them of their obligations to submit annual reports. Efforts are continuing to engage with the four States Parties with initial reports outstanding.

Resource Utilisation Contact Group (Norway): The Contact Group Coordinator reported that there will be a follow up effort on the paper on land release methods that was welcomed by the 9MSP. The Contact Group Coordinator indicated that this effort will include a workshop with national directors and operators to look at how these methods are being applied to mine clearance operations. It is hoped that this could then be presented for discussion at the May meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance and at a meeting of the Contact Group.

- *Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom)*: The Director of the ISU, on behalf of the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, reported that the donors group will meet during the week of 16 March to discuss proposed actions for the Standing Committee Meetings.

4. Discussion on the implementation of Article 3

The Chair invited the ICBL to introduce discussion of mines retained for permitted reasons under Article 3 of the Convention.

The ICBL recalled that Article 3 of the AP Mine Ban Convention allows for the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques. The ICBL noted that regardless of this exception a number of States Parties have chosen not to retain any mines and that other States Parties are reevaluating the numbers of mines retained. The ICBL expressed its concern that some States might be abusing this exception by retaining a high number of mines and failing to provide clarity on how these mines are being used.

The ICBL proposed that the following actions be taken in response to the problem. First, that the item be discussed earlier on the agenda during meetings of the Standing Committees and Meetings of the States Parties. Second, that the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on General Status write letters to States Parties raising awareness of the issue and request States to report on planned and actual use of retained mines during the meeting in May. Third, the Co-Chairs appeal to those States Parties which have chosen not to keep any mines under Article 3 to share the rationale behind their decision with all States Parties. Fourth, that all States Parties should work to gather information as to why the mines are being retained, why they are not being used, and whether they could destroy any of the mines. And fifth, that the Co-Chairs encourage reporting on this issue at the Second Review Conference.

5. Preparations for the Second Review Conference

The President-Designate of the Second Review Conference invited the group to refer to the food for thought paper presented at the informal meeting on 2 March 2009. The host of the Second Review Conference, Colombia, invited all delegates to refer to the presentation made at the 2 March launch of the Road to Cartagena and the Second Review Conference. (Note: the paper and presentation can be found at the following:

<http://www.apminebanconvention.org/review-conferences/launch-of-the-road-to-cartagena/programme/>)

6. Update on the finances of the Implementation Support Unit

The Chair called upon the Director of the ISU to provide an update on ISU finances. The Director of the ISU recalled the decision establishing the ISU in 2001 that States Parties would cover the costs of the ISU through voluntary contributions. The ISU Director highlighted in particular that contributions totalling approximately CHF 818,000 are required to fully fund the ISU's 2009 budget and that this is approximately CHF 220,000 more than the total of contributions received in 2008. (See Annex I.)

7. Any other business

The ICBL informed the Coordinating Committee about events that took place worldwide to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the AP Mine Ban Convention.

8. Next meetings

The Chair indicated that the Coordinating Committee would next meet on Wednesday 22 April from 13:00 to 15:00 and that subsequently the Coordinating Committee would meet on Wednesday 20 May.

Annex I:

ISU Financial Situation, 3 March 2009 (Based on preliminary 2008 accounts)

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| <u>ISU Budget 2008</u> | <u>CHF943'500</u> |
| <u>Carryover from 2007 to 2008</u> | <u>CHF488'725</u> |
| Contributions received 2008 | CHF593'509 |
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| <u>ISU Budget 2009</u> | <u>CHF945'500</u> |
| <u>Carryover from 2008 to 2009</u> | <u>CHF126'682</u> |
| Contributions required to fund budget | CHF818'818 |