

**Coordinating Committee Meeting
Monday 9 February 2009**

President's Summary

1. Welcome, introductions and explanation of the purpose of the retreat

His Excellency Jürg Streuli, 9MSP President and Chair of the Coordinating Committee, welcomed the group to the first gathering of the Coordinating Committee under his Presidency. He noted the significance of the year ahead as it is a year leading to the Second Review Conference. The Chair reminded the group that while their tasks as Co-Chairs, Co-Rapporteurs and the Convention's President do not change this year, they do take on a greater significance as all efforts this year potentially could contribute towards a successful Review Conference. The Chair highlighted the positive contribution the Committee can make again this year by ensuring that more and better information is provided by the States Parties, thus ensuring a clearer picture of the state of implementation.

The Chair confirmed his intention to proceed with Coordinating Committee meetings in accordance with past practice which would see that the Coordinating Committee comprises the Co-Chairs, the Co-Rapporteurs, the Contact Group Coordinators, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, the ICBL, the ICRC and the UNODA, on behalf of the entire UN Mine Action Team, take part in the work of the Coordinating Committee.

2. Review of the status of the Convention, implementation mechanisms and the role of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs

Kerry Brinkert, the Director of the Implementation Support Unit briefed the group on the status of the Convention, its implementation mechanisms and discussed the roles and responsibilities 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 the 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 maximise 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. Views of the ICBL on the status of the Convention

Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Implementation Director, shared the views of the ICBL on the status of the Convention highlighting the challenges that lie ahead this year in ensuring States Parties' compliance with their Convention obligations.

The ICBL Implementation Director noted the challenges that remain with respect to a number of States Parties in the process of fulfilling their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations, recalling that last year the Convention witnessed three cases of non-compliance by countries which have millions of mines left to destroy. She urged Coordinating Committee members to look ahead at upcoming deadlines, and to give this issue continued attention to ensure that any possible cases of non-compliance are identified early so that assistance can be offered.

The ICBL Implementation Director reminded the group that while much work was undertaken last year in terms of Article 5 implementation, some quite basic and fundamental challenges remain in Article 5 implementation, notably that certain states remain unable to determine what area of their land is contaminated. The ICBL noted that measuring progress made in the area of victim assistance since the Nairobi Summit will be a challenge for the Review Conference, and encouraged the group to give greater attention to other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims at the May intersessional meetings.

4. Objectives and plans of the Co-Chairs

- *Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Chile & Japan)*: The Co-Chairs outlined their four objectives for this intersessional period as: (i) to boost universalisation; (ii) to arrest the downward spiral of annual reporting; (iii) to prevent breaches of the Convention; and (iv) to address the issue of cooperation and assistance. The Co-Chairs encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to provide financial resources to the ISU Voluntary Trust Fund as well as the to the Sponsorship Programme.
- *Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Italy & Zambia)*: The Co-Chairs noted that they will continue to focus on the States Parties that missed their stockpile destruction deadlines last year. Further efforts will be made with respect to the problem of destroying PFM mines by Belarus and Ukraine.
- *Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Belgium & Thailand)*: The Co-Chairs presented a road-map of their priorities for this intersessional period noting that they will focus on three key areas in relation to victim assistance: (i) promoting implementation of the Convention and progress in achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan; (ii) monitoring and reporting progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan in relation to victim assistance; and, (iii) identifying priorities and strategies for victim assistance in the period after 2009.
- *Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies (Argentina & Australia)*: The Co-Chairs announced their objectives for this intersessional period as: (i) to revisit the Resource Utilization Contact Group's paper on land release and develop a follow up to encourage the use / application of these principles; (ii) to host a roundtable with major mine risk education service providers with the purpose of identifying the key challenges faced in this area; (iii) to examine the progress made on action points 17 to 28 of the Nairobi Action Plan.

5. Objectives and plans of the Contact Group and Sponsorship Programme Coordinators

- *Universalization Contact Group (Canada)*: The Coordinator indicated that efforts would continue in 2009 to promote further accession to the Convention. The UCG, in coordination with other actors such as the Convention President, the ICRC and the ICBL, will utilize the EU Joint Action regional workshops and other events organised in the lead up to the Second Review Conference to undertake universalization activities. The ISU Director reminded the Coordinating Committee about the upcoming EU Joint Action regional workshops that have been confirmed so far:
 - * 24-26 February: Managua (Americas)
 - * 1-3 April: Bangkok (South East Asia)
 - * 7-8 July: Dushanbe (Central Asia)
 - * 7-8 October: Tirana (Southeastern Europe)
- *Article 7 Reporting Contact Group (Belgium)*: The Coordinator reported that four States Parties have still not submitted an initial report. The Contact Group Coordinator will send letters to the relevant Permanent Missions in Geneva and attempt to engage each state bilaterally to offer assistance. Letters will also be sent to all States Parties in March to remind them of their obligation to submit an annual transparency report.
- *Resource Utilisation Contact Group (Norway)*: The Coordinator indicated that they would focus on resource issues linked to the implementation of Article 5 in the lead up to the Second Review Conference. The emphasis for this year will be on identifying concrete steps and measures that States Parties with Article 5 obligations can take to optimise utilisation of available and identify possible new resources to meet their obligations. A follow-up to the land release paper, and further exploration into resource utilisation and optimisation issues is planned for this intersessional period.
- *Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group (Canada)*: The Coordinator noted that this year the topic of ERW, Human Security and Development would be considered during the meetings of the Standing Committees in May.

- *Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom)*: The ISU Director, on behalf of the Coordinator, provided a briefing on the history and nature of the Sponsorship Programme.

6. Sequencing of and, time allocations for, the meetings of the Standing Committees

The Coordinating Committee agreed that the time allocation for and the sequencing of meetings in May will be slightly different this year in order to accommodate a half-day Preparatory Meeting for the Second Review Conference in the afternoon of Friday 29 May. See Annex I.

A parallel programme for victim assistance experts will take place on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 May. A one hour slot has been scheduled in the plenary on Friday morning for the group to report back to all about their activities.

The ICBL and ICRC offered suggestions to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operations of the Convention on the timing of agenda items normally dealt with by that Standing Committee. The Co-Chairs indicated that they would consider these ideas.

7. Initial ideas regarding the Second Review Conference

Jon Erik Strømø of Norway on behalf of the President-Designate of the Second Review Conference provided an overview of the initial ideas regarding the Second Review Conference. It was agreed that the best way to proceed is to follow the logic used at the Nairobi Summit, and that this meeting should also include a high level segment.

A number of documents will be prepared for the meetings including: a political declaration, a review report and an action plan. In addition, the Second Review Conference will need to take decisions on meetings for the period following the Review Conference.

Colombia, host of the Second Review Conference, briefed the group on work that is being undertaken in Colombia to ensure a successful meeting in Cartagena. A national commission has been created to assist with planning the event, this commission includes separate groups focusing on substantive, thematic, and logistic aspects of the conference.

8. Schedule of Coordinating Committee meetings and Article 5 extensions process meetings

The Coordinating Committee agreed on a provisional schedule for meetings of the Coordinating Committee and the Article 5 extensions Analyzing Group for 2009 with the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee set to take place on Tuesday 3 March 2009.

See Annex II.

Annex I

Meetings of the Standing Committees
25-29 May 2009

Proposed notional time allocations and sequencing

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00 - 13:00	General Status	Victim Assistance	Mine Clearance	Mine Clearance	Victim Assistance	10:00 - 11:00
					General Status	11:00 - 13:00
13:00 - 15:00	Break for lunch / Contact Group Meetings / Side Events					13:00 - 15:00
15:00 - 18:00	Stockpile Destruction	Victim Assistance	Mine Clearance	Mine Clearance	First PrepCom	15:00 - 18:00

Annex II

Proposed dates for meetings for the Coordinating Committee and for the group analysing Article 5 extension requests¹

March 3 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee (inter alia to review Co-Chairs' draft programmes for their Standing Committee meetings)

March 4 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group (to review working methods, recommendations made by the past chair, etc.)

March 23 – Co-Chairs sign-off on all materials to be included for distribution for the meetings of the Standing Committees

March 30 – The package of materials for the meetings of the Standing Committees is distributed and made available on-line

April 22 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

April 23 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Article 5 extensions analysing group (to hold initial discussions on requests that should have been submitted by 31 March)

May 19 – 13:00 to 15:00

- Coordinating Committee

May 26, 27 & 28 – 08:30 to 10:00 each day

- Article 5 extensions analysing group (to review the status of analyses and to meet informally with the national directors of request States Parties)

¹ At the September 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, it was agreed that "the President and Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees" would "jointly prepare an analysis" of each Article 5 extension request submitted.