

Standing Committee on the General Status of the Convention

Meeting Report 8 / 12 May 2006

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the decisions of the 2004 First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the 2005 Sixth Meeting of the States Parties, the meeting of the Standing Committee was convened in Geneva by its Co-Chairs, Mr. Paul Huynen and Mr. Alain Van Gucht of Belgium and Mr. Carlos J. Arroyave-Prera of Guatemala, with the assistance of their Co-Rapporteurs, Mr. Marcelo Valle Fonrouge of Argentina and Mr. Andrea Romussi of Italy.

The Co-Chairs informed the Standing Committee that they had prepared a programme for the meeting that covered four areas of work: (i) an overall assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims; (ii) discussions on matters of cross-cutting interest to all Standing Committees; (iii) ongoing consideration of the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by this Standing Committee; and, (iv) updates on the work of various implementation mechanisms.

In addition, the Co-Chairs indicated that, in keeping with established practice, they would undertake the task of consulting with a view to identifying a list of nominees to serve as Co-Rapporteurs, keeping in mind principles like ensuring a regional balance, a balance between mine-affected and other State Parties, and a balance between the need for rotation and the need for continuity. In this regard, the Co-Chairs asked interested States Parties to express their interest to one of the Co-Chairs as soon as possible in order that they could develop a list of prospective Co-Rapporteurs for presentation to the States Parties in coming months.

II. General status of implementation

Ms. Dijana Plestina of Croatia, Advisor to the President of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP) and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, provided an overview of the general status of implementation and universalization. Highlights of Ms. Plestina's report included the following:

- **Universalization:** Since the First Review Conference, eight States have completed their ratification or accession processes including four that have done so since the 6MSP. To promote further universalization, 6MSP President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, had written to all States not parties to urge their acceptance of the Convention.
- **Stockpile destruction:** Today there are 137 States Parties that now no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines, either because they never did or because they have completed their destruction programmes. Fourteen (14) States Parties must still destroy or ensure the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their control or jurisdiction.
- **Mine clearance:** The most urgent matter at this time in the life of the Convention concerns fulfilling our obligations under Article 5 to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas. A total of 51 States Parties have reported anti-personnel

mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control and 6 of these have indicated that they have fulfilled their Article 5 obligations.

- **Victim assistance:** The *Zagreb Progress Report* noted as a priority that while objectives may have been established by many of the 24 States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of survivors, it is essential that these States Parties proceed with the more complex task of developing comprehensive national plans ensuring that these plans integrate mine victim assistance into broader health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks.

III. Status of universalization

Canada, the Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group, expressed satisfaction that 151 States – almost 80 percent of all States – had ratified or acceded to the Convention. Moreover, important efforts, principally led by the Geneva Call, had been undertaken to see that various armed non-State actors would accept the Convention's norms. While important progress had been made, challenges remained including with three of the Convention's remaining signatories – Indonesia, the Marshall Islands and Poland – that had not yet ratified the Convention. Canada called upon the European Union in particular to promote the acceptance of the Convention by Poland and Finland. In addition, Canada noted the importance of a wide range of actors offering their meaningful contributions to universalization efforts.

Following the update provided by the Contact Group Coordinator, the following States which recently ratified the Convention provided updates:

- **Haiti** emphasised that its recent acceptance of the Convention is a testament to its commitment to the elimination of anti-personnel mines and to the respect of human rights more generally. It also indicated that it will soon submit its initial transparency report and adopt national implementing legislation.
- **Brunei Darussalam** confirmed that it had deposited its instrument of ratification on 24 April 2006.
- **Latvia** addressed the Standing Committee for the first time since having acceded to the Convention, reporting that it is not affected by mines and that in 2006 it will destroy its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

In addition, a number of States not parties shared their views on the Convention:

- **Indonesia** indicated that its ratification process had been stalled for bureaucrat and legislative reasons but that it nevertheless was committed to the Convention, had never produced anti-personnel mines and was open to receiving assistance in implementing the Convention.
- **Georgia** expressed general support for efforts towards a world free of anti-personnel mines and recalled that since 1996 it had voted in favour of United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines. In addition, it indicated that it had not produced, exported or imported anti-personnel mines since 1991 and that in 1996 it declared a moratorium on the production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Georgia further reported the existence of anti-personnel mines in areas under its control or

jurisdiction, that it required assistance for mine action and that it recently hosted a workshop on confidence building and regional cooperation in mine action.

- **Palau** expressed its appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for information provided Palau to enable it to make an informed decision on accession to the Convention. Palau indicated that this objective would be achieved prior to the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.
- **Mongolia** reiterated that it is proceeding on a gradual basis towards accession to the Convention, beginning with examining matters that would concern the destruction of anti-personnel mines stockpiled by its armed forces. It reported that it is contemplating acceding to the Convention in 2008, indicating that it would require assistance in order to achieve this aim. In addition, it indicated that it is considering providing a voluntary transparency report.
- **Kyrgyzstan** indicated that, for a variety of reasons, in its view it could not accede to the Convention. However, it indicated its openness to work in cooperation with others on mine action and affirmed that it had never produced or exported anti-personnel mines.

As well, the following States Parties and organizations provided updates on their universalization efforts:

- **Afghanistan** signaled its commitment to call for mine action to be included on the agendas of regional meetings in accordance with Actions 3 and 4 of the Nairobi Action Plan, including the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and the Contact Group of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- The **ICBL** urged the European Union to take universalization actions with respect to two of its own members – Finland and Poland.
- **Australia** reported that it is working actively to promote universalization within the Asia-Pacific region, including by supporting a number of regional activities that focus on advocating the Convention. Activities have included providing support to the Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.
- **Argentina** underlined that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the highest level of adherence to the Convention given that only two countries have not yet joined the Convention in the Western Hemisphere. Argentina reaffirmed its continuous support to the resolutions adopted by the OAS and also indicated that it has initiated a dialogue with Lebanon with a view to engaging this country in the work of the Convention.
- The **Geneva Call** reported on its efforts to promote acceptance of the Convention on the part of armed non-State actors. A number of States Parties spoke in support of these efforts, including Australia, Italy and Switzerland. Turkey also shared views on the matter of armed non-State actors, noting that the engagement of armed non-State actors should be undertaken only on a case by case basis and when the concerned State Party is informed and its consent received for engagement.

The following other actors also shared views in the context of the discussion on universalization: Thailand, Mexico, South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Sudan and the ICRC.

IV. Resource mobilisation

Norway, the Coordinator of the Resource Mobilization Contact Group, provided an update on efforts made with respect to resource mobilization and underlined the importance of efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources when fulfilling the Convention's obligations. As well, Norway announced that it would convene a meeting of experts in Oslo in advance of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, to discuss matters pertaining to resource mobilization for the implementation of Article 5, victim assistance and other mine action activities.

- **Guatemala**, as Co-Chair of this Standing Committee, presented a document entitled "Triangular International Cooperation" with a view to debating other forms and possibilities of international cooperation. The proposal on triangular cooperation considers the following: a State Party needing technical assistance to fulfil obligations under Article 5; a State Party that has experience in implementing Article 5 of the Convention; a donor country that can provide financial support to facilitate the exchange of experiences between the two States Parties, and possibly a regional organisation to administer and coordinate these tripartite efforts.
- **UNMAS** confirmed that the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010 had been finalized and indicated that it complements the Mine Action Policy of 2005 with a view to optimizing the organisation of priorities and the assessment of performance measured against results. As well, UNMAS indicated that the celebration of the first International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action held on 4 April 2006 was successful, with various events organized by different countries and international organizations.
- **The Organization of American States (OAS)** indicated that since 1993 it has offered its support and assistance to the countries of the Latin American region in their efforts to fulfill the Convention's objectives. This task includes facilitating an appropriate level of confidence in negotiations between the different actors, including donors, for the implementation of mine risk education activities, victim assistance, and removal and destruction of mines.

V. Update on Article 7 reporting

Belgium, the Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group, provided on 8 May an initial update on efforts to promote timely reporting in accordance with the Article and then on 12 May provided a revised update. Highlights included that six States Parties remain late in providing an initial transparency report, that the 2006 overall reporting rate stood at 55 percent and that one State not party had provided a voluntary transparency report in 2006. It was also noted that the *Zagreb Progress Report* emphasized in particular the need for ongoing transparency reporting by States Parties that have retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 and by those in the process of implementing key aspects of the Convention.

The Director of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA), Mr. Tim Caughley, introduced a letter that he had provided to the States Parties on the matter of Article 7 reporting. Mr. Caughley emphasized that the Geneva Branch of the UNDDA had been designated to receive Article 7 transparency reports on behalf of the UN Secretary General. He also stressed the importance of submitting reports electronically.

In addition to these presentations, the following States Parties provided updates on or shared views in the context of transparency reporting: Chad, Swaziland and South Africa. In addition, the ICBL called for enhanced transparency with respect to stockpiled anti-personnel mines seized from armed groups, mines retained for reasons permitted under Article 3 and Claymore-type munitions.

VI. Updates on Article 3

The Co-Chairs recalled that the *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built,” and, that “the States Parties recognize that transparency and effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009.” In addition, the Co-Chairs recalled that to this end, the States Parties agreed to a number of actions, including that “all States Parties will (...) in situations where States Parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use.” As well, the Co-Chairs noted that to assist States Parties in applying Action #54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties at the 6MSP agreed to amend the Article 7 reporting format, thus creating a means for States Parties to share information in addition to what is minimally required on mines retained in accordance with Article 3.

In the context of discussions on Article 3, the following provided updates or shared views:

- **The Netherlands** reported that retained mines had been used to train 7,000 military personnel in demining techniques in 2005. It is important to note that the number of mines retained by the Netherlands is structurally decreasing. Moreover, annually around 450 military engineers are being trained to defuse or destruct anti personnel mines, and to clear minefields and other mined areas. The mines retained are also used for purposes of technical development of new and improved detection and clearance technologies.
- **Croatia** reported that 164 anti-personnel mines were used in 2005 to test demining machines. In 2003 a centre for testing, developing and training was created near the city of Karlovac with this centre authorised to use these mines under the control and supervision of qualified personnel. The 6,236 remaining mines will be used for personnel training.
- **Yemen** reported that it had retained 4,000 anti-personnel mines for dog training purposes. As far as the number of mines that could be retained for training purposes, Yemen indicated that this number should not exceed 10,000.
- **Bulgaria** reported that it had retained 4,000 anti-personnel mines and that during the last six years 334 mines have been destroyed for training and machine testing purposes.

- **Canada** reported its intention to retain no more than 2,000 anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes and that in 2005 it did not consume any of the 1,992 mines currently retained. These mines likely will be used mainly to test mine detection equipment. In 2005 Canada trained 600 Afghani deminers and a similar number is going to be trained in 2006.
- **Moldova** stressed the need of transparency by those States Parties that are retaining mines under Article 3. For its part, Moldova reported that it had retained 249 anti-personnel mines for training of its peacekeeping troops. It also indicated that it had decided to destroy these mines during the summer 2006.
- **Argentina** underscored the importance of the Article 7 reporting format's amended Form D as an important step in the context of Action 54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*. Argentina reported that it had retained 1,596 mines and had used Form D to provide additional information on the use of these mines.
- **Cyprus** reported that it had retained 1,000 mines for the training of its National Guard in demining. Training included tracing techniques, reconnaissance, clearance and destruction of anti-personnel mines. It is possible they will also be used for the testing of new means and systems of tracing and detecting anti-personnel mines.
- **Chile** reported that it is planning to consume 1,292 retained anti-personnel mines in 2006 thus retaining in stock 4,574 mines for training of its demining officers. Chile indicated that it carries out an annual review of the number of mines needed for training purposes. In addition, it underlined the need to further modify Form D to enhance the opportunity to be transparent and to increase the exchange of information.
- **Tanzania** reported that it had made use of the amended Form D, indicating that it had retained 1,146 anti-personnel mines of which 369 will be used for training purposes and 777 for the APOPO mine detection research project.
- **Mauritania** reported that it had 728 anti-personnel mines in 2005, that 85 mines will be used for training purposes and that the remaining 643 mines will be employed for the same purpose and accounted for in future reports.
- **Tajikistan** completed the destruction of its stockpile in March 2004 and reported that 225 mines are retained for training purposes in the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction.
- **France** indicated that it shares the view that the amended Form D is a useful transparency tool.
- **Germany** reported that it retains 3,000 anti-personnel mines for research and training purposes with these activities carried out by authorised centres. It also reported that it is currently testing new metal detectors.
- **Turkey** reported that during 2005 it had consumed 850 anti-personnel mines for training purposes, thus reducing to 15,150 the number of mines retained under Article 3.
- **Hungary** presented a video in which it displayed the destruction of the remaining mines which previously had been retained under Article 3.

- **Human Rights Watch** indicated that it had observed that only six States Parties had used the amended Form D and that in 2004, 36 States Parties did not report on the use of anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3. It raised the question of whether it is necessary to consume live mines in order to train demining personnel or is it sufficient to use other methods. It also suggested that the use of live mines in dog training activities poses the problem of how long these mines remain emplaced.

VII. Updates on Article 9

The Co-Chairs recalled that the *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each State Party” and that Article 9 accordingly requires each party to take “all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction and control.” At the request of the Co-Chairs, the ICRC provided an update on the status of implementation of Article 9.

- The **ICRC** indicated that 50 States Parties have reported having adopted legislation to implement the Convention, 32 States Parties have reported being in the process of adopting legislation, 25 States Parties have reported that they consider existing laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention, and 5 States Parties have reported that they are assessing whether to adopt legislation, and that there are 34 States Parties for which information is unknown or unclear.
- **Tanzania** reported that it has considered its existing legislation sufficient but that it will now look at adopting legislation in accordance with Article 9.
- The **ICBL** reported the lack of information concerning the application of penal sanctions in different countries and suggested that this raised the doubt if this is a lack of information or a lack of legislation. The ICBL called on States Parties to provide a report on the application of relevant penal sanctions.

VIII. The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention

The Co-Chairs recalled that *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that the States Parties will “exchange views and share their experiences in a cooperative and informal manner on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3, to continue to promote effective and consistent application of these provisions.” The following States Parties and organizations took advantage of the opportunity presented by the Co-Chairs to share such views and experiences.

- The **ICBL** noted that despite the success of the Convention, it considers that some issues remained open. It called for a uniform interpretation of what is understood to be an anti-personnel mine, recalling its view that anti-vehicle mines equipped with tripwires, tilt rods and breakwires should be treated as anti-personnel mines. According to ICBL there are still some States Parties in possession of such anti-vehicle mines.
- The **United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA)** recalled that in accordance with Article 8 the UN Secretary General must prepare and update a list of qualified experts that might be designated for all fact-finding missions. In acting upon this obligation, the UNDDA reported that it had distributed a note verbale and a registration

form and it indicated that an updated version of the above mentioned list will be distributed by the 7MSP.

- **Belarus** reported that the Belarus Campaign to Ban Landmines was organizing a seminar on the implementation of the Convention in Minsk from 22 to 24 May 2006.
- **Croatia**, with respect to matters concerning Article 2, indicated that all TMRP-6 mines in its possession will be used exclusively as anti-vehicle mines which can only be detonated by pressure force of 250 – 300 kilograms. Croatia indicated that it fully subscribes to the statement “that a mine that relies on tripwire, breakwire or a tilt rod as its sole mechanism should be considered an anti-personnel mine”.
- The **ICRC** emphasized the importance of Action #54 in fostering transparency and reinforcing cooperation among States Parties. With respect to Article 3, the ICRC stressed that the number of mines retained should be the minimum necessary for permitted purposes. In addition, it recalled its view that anti-vehicle mines that are equipped with sensitive fuses should be considered anti-personnel mines.
- With respect to Article 9, **South Africa** encouraged incorporating penal sanctions into national legislation.
- **Canada** underlined the progress achieved since the 6MSP in developing a link between mine action and development. It noted efforts to put mine action in the OECD-DAC agenda and programme of work for 2007-2008 as well as efforts to establish an ongoing dialogue. Canada indicated that it would favour the establishment of practical guidelines for development agencies. It also announced that it will convene a contact group on mine action and development with the aim being to promote those practical guidelines and with this contact group being a complement to the existing resource mobilization contact group.
- **Moldova** indicated that it is asking the Russian Federation to provide all information about anti-personnel mines under Russian control on the territory of Moldova. Moldova also called for a total ban on all anti-vehicle mines.
- **Kenya** called for a total ban on anti-vehicle and sensitive mines.

IX. Preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP)

A. Introduction:

The Co-Chairs recalled that at the 6MSP in Zagreb, it was agreed that Australia would designate a President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and it was decided to hold the 7MSP in Geneva, from 18 to 22 September 2006. In addition, they noted that it has been the tradition that the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention has served as a forum for views to be shared on proposed procedural matters concerning the next Meeting of the States Parties.

B. 7MSP officials and assisting personnel:

Before proceeding with discussion on these procedural matters the Co-Chairs informed the Standing Committee of the following:

- With respect to who will preside over the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, the Co-Chairs indicated that they had been informed that Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia has been designated to serve as 7MSP President, subject to the acceptance by the States Parties at the beginning of the 7MSP.
- In keeping with practice which has seen Switzerland designate, when Meetings of the States Parties are held in Geneva, a Secretary-General to coordinate arrangements for the meeting's opening ceremonies and side events as well as other efforts in support of the Meeting, the Co-Chairs indicated that they had been informed that Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland had been designated Secretary-General-Designate of the 7MSP, subject to acceptance by the States Parties.
- In keeping with practice that has seen the States Parties request that the United Nations Secretary General appoint an Executive Secretary to provide and direct the staff required by the Meetings of the States Parties, the Co-Chairs indicated that they had made such a request to the United Nations Secretary General and that Tim Caughley, Director of the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, had been appointed Executive Secretary of the 7MSP.
- Regarding personnel that will support the States Parties' work in advance of and during 7MSP, the Co-Chairs reported that the designated Presidency had forwarded to the Director of the GICHD a request that the Manager of the ISU serve as the President's Executive Coordinator in advance of and during the 7MSP and that the GICHD Director had accepted this request.

C. Draft procedural documents:

The 7MSP President-Designate, Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia, introduced a paper containing initial ideas for the 7MSP, a draft agenda and draft programme for the meeting. She highlighted three priorities to pursue (mine clearance, victim assistance and universalization) while using the meeting as well to assess progress made since the 6MSP in all areas identified in the Nairobi Action Plan. She noted that the draft agenda had been sequenced to see a focus placed on mine clearance, the matter identified by the States Parties as the most significant challenge they faced during the period 2005-2009. In addition, she indicated that formal and informal sessions would be dedicated to this matter. As well, she indicated that she will prepare a draft *Geneva Progress Report* for consideration by the Meeting of the States Parties to capture progress made since the 6MSP and to identify priorities for the next year.

It was the sense of the Co-Chairs that the ideas proposed by Australia, including the agenda and programme, are generally acceptable to the States Parties and could be considered for adoption by the States Parties at the beginning of the 7MSP.

The Co-Chairs introduced draft rules of procedure for the 7MSP, noting that they are identical to the rules of procedure that served the States Parties well at the 6MSP, which in turn were rules that were adapted from those used at every previous Meeting of the States Parties.

It was the Co-Chairs' sense that the draft rules prepared are generally acceptable to the States Parties for their consideration at the 7MSP.

The Co-Chairs recalled that Article 14 of the Convention states that “the costs of Meetings of the States Parties (...) shall be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to this Convention participating therein, in accordance with the UN scale of assessment adjusted accordingly.” 7MSP Executive Secretary and Director of the Geneva Branch of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, Tim Caughley, introduced draft cost estimates for the 7MSP. It was the sense of the Co-Chairs that the cost estimates prepared by the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs are generally acceptable to the States Parties for consideration for adoption at the 7MSP.

D. Organizational matters:

7MSP Secretary-General-Designate, Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland, provided an initial overview of organizational matters, noting that an opening ceremony will be held at 10:00 on Monday 18 September. In addition, the Executive Secretary reported that official notification of the 7MSP had been issued by the UN Secretary General to all States and relevant organizations.

X. Matters pertaining to the general operations of the Convention

A. Coordinating Committee

Ms. Dijana Plestina of Croatia, Chair of the Coordinating Committee, underlined that the fact that the Nairobi Action Plan suggests continuity in the Convention’s work during the period 2005-2009 and that efforts should be strategic and focus on practical measures to realize progress, are principles that have guided the work of the Coordinating Committee in 2006. She further reported that the Coordinating Committee had met three times to date in 2006 to develop concrete objectives to achieve measurable progress in time for the 7MSP. She credited the instrumental role played by the Co-Chairs and other Coordinating Committee participants. In addition, she noted that the Coordinating Committee will continue to meet to ensure sound coordination of the work of the Standing Committees with the work of the 7MSP and that it would continue to operate in a transparent manner, making summaries of Coordinating Committee meetings available on the GICHD website.

B. Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

Ambassador Stephan Nellen, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, provided an update of efforts undertaken by the ISU since the 6MSP to assist States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. He mentioned that food for thought had been provided by the ISU to the Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators to assist them in advancing the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* and in pursuing the priorities identified in the *Zagreb Progress Report*. In addition, the ISU provided a set of recommendations to the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme to enhance proactive participation by sponsored delegates. The ISU also continued its work to maintain and enhance the Convention’s documentation centre, provided advice and information to those States Parties that are requiring them to better implement the Convention, and has developed a *Small States Strategy* to help these States to overcome various implementation and participation challenges. Mr. Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the ISU, added that it was his pleasure to serve the States Parties and that much credit for the support provided by the ISU should be attributed to its staff and interns.

Several delegations responded to the update provided to reaffirm their financial commitment to support ISU's activities.

C. Sponsorship Programme

In a statement read out by the ISU Manager, Mr. Guy Pollard of the United Kingdom, the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme, reported that the Programme's donors' group had sent out invitations to States which could have resulted in up to 72 delegates being sponsored for the May meetings and that on the basis of responses to these invitations a total of 41 delegates ultimately were sponsored. Mr. Pollard reported that the initial plan would be to invite a similar number to request sponsorship for the 7MSP.