



Coordinating Committee Meeting Friday 7 November 2014

President's Summary

1. Opening remarks

The meeting of the Coordinating Committee was opened by its Chair, Ambassador Pedro Comissario of Mozambique. Participating in the meeting were the following: Members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation – Ecuador, Ireland and Poland; Members of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance – Algeria, Canada, Chile and the Netherlands; Members of the Committee on Victim Assistance – Costa Rica, Senegal and Thailand; Members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance – Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Switzerland; Other participants: Belgium (14MSP Presidency), Australia (Sponsorship Programme Coordinator), UNODA (on behalf of the United Nations system), GICHD, ICBL and ICRC.

The Chair expressed his gratitude that the four Committees established at the June 2014 Maputo Review Conference had commenced their work. He noted that the main purpose of the meeting was to take stock of what each Committee has done to date and what its plans are in the period leading to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2015.

2. Overview of the composition and mandate of the Coordinating Committee

The Chair called upon the Director of the Implementation Support Unit to give a short briefing on the mandate and composition of the Coordinating Committee.

The ISU Director recalled that the Third Review Conference agreed that “the Coordinating Committee is a coordinating body and does not have substantive decision-making capacity,” that “its mandate is to coordinate the work flowing from and related to formal and informal meetings of the States Parties, and that “the Committee will also fulfil responsibilities related to Implementation Support Unit accountability as agreed to at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties.” The ISU Director noted that these decisions maintain the status quo with respect to the purpose and mandate of the Coordinating Committee. That is, the Coordinating Committee in essence is tasked with the efficient management of the work of the Convention but without the authority to take decisions on matters of substance.

The ISU Director recalled that the Third Review Conference agreed that “the Coordinating Committee will be composed of the President, the President-designate during the year prior to his/her presidency, the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the members of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance, and the members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance” and that, “in keeping with past practice, the Coordinating Committee will invite the United Nations, ICRC, ICBL and GICHD as observers.”

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

The ISU Director noted that, as was the case with respect to the Coordinating Committee's mandate, as concerns the composition of the Coordinating Committee, the States Parties decided to maintain the status quo, particularly through the reference to "in keeping with past practice." He noted that past practice has seen the GICHD, the ICBL, the ICRC and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) take part in Coordinating Committee meetings, along with the Coordinators of the informal mechanisms (i.e., Contact Groups and the Sponsorship Programme) as well as the President-Designate. The practice since 2007 has been that the United Nations system as a whole has been represented by the Geneva Branch of the UNODA given that it has been mandated by the Convention's depository – the UN Secretary General – to carry out functions of the depository particularly as relates to the convening of formal meetings in Articles 11 through 14 but also concerning transparency reporting in Article 7, and compliance clarification in Article 8.

It was recalled that debates about composition have come up in the Coordinating Committee (with some advocating expanding the composition to include additional organizations and others suggesting limiting participation to solely States Parties serving as office holders) and that the matter essentially has been put to rest by the decisions of the Third Review Conference, subject to any changes agreed to at any subsequent Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference.

3. Update on the activities of the President

The Chair reported that, in accordance with the mandate given to the President to fill all Committee posts, in September he wrote to all delegations to inform them that this task had been complete with one exception. He indicated that he is still in the process of identifying a State Party from Asia to serve on the Committee on Victim Assistance and that one State Party is currently giving serious consideration to offering its service.

The Chair reported that, on 29 September 2014, he organized a briefing in Geneva on the outcomes of the Maputo Review Conference. He expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Tamar Gabelnick from the ICBL, who joined Mozambique as panellists during this event.

The Chair reported that, in October, in collaboration with Algeria and Belgium, and with the cooperation of many others, Mozambique submitted the annual UN First Committee resolution on the Convention. The Chair indicated that, on 3 November 2014, the vote on this resolution took place in the First Committee with 160 States in favour, none opposed, and 17 abstentions.

The Chair reported that he is exploring ways that he can execute other aspects of the President's mandate before Mozambique's term expires at the end of this year. He recalled, in particular, that the matter of stockpile destruction is part of the President's mandate and that he intends to follow up with those States Parties that have missed deadlines for the completion of stockpile destruction obligations and which have committed, by December 31st, 2014, in accordance with Action #5 of the Maputo Action, to provide a plan for stockpile destruction.

4. Activities and plans of the Committees

Members of the **Committee on Victim Assistance** recalled the two parts to the Committee's mandate – to provide advice and support to States Parties in the fulfillment of their commitments under the Maputo Action Plan and to engage in outreach to raise awareness, in other relevant fora, of the importance of addressing the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims. Committee Members noted some of the actions they will take to fulfill this

mandate, including by preparing a conceptual tool for States Parties to communicate information and presenting this tool at a briefing on 24 November 2014. In addition, the Committee will reach out to victim assistance coordinators from the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions to exchange information, address and meet with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, and seek a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Members of the **Committee on Article 5 Implementation** indicated that, in keeping with the Committee's mandate, they will give due regard to all States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, they will emphasise the States Parties' embrace of completion by 2025 as found in the Maputo Declaration, and that they will use the timing of the Fourth Review Conference in 2019 as a means to motivate more States Parties to complete implementation by that time. Committee Members also indicated that they are in the process of reviewing a significant number of proposed milestones for the work of the Committee and they will inform States Parties concerned of the Committee's plans.

Members of the **Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance** indicated that they have established three goals and a number of related objectives.

- First, the Committee will promote partnerships between those with needs and those in a position to assist, including by enhancing the usability of the platform for partnerships in the course of the overhaul, by the ISU, of the Convention's website, and, serve as an intermediary between specific States Parties with needs and those in a position to provide assistance.
- Second, the Committee will assist States Parties in enhancing their prospects for attracting and providing assistance, including by issuing an open invitation to States Parties to meet with the Committee to discuss challenges they may currently face in attracting and providing assistance, meeting with mine clearance operators to acquire more and better information about challenges in various countries, organizing events to deepen understanding, provide an arena for regular dialogue, and engage a wide range of actors.
- Third, the Committee will collaborate with others beyond the Convention with a view to multiplying the effect of cooperation and assistance efforts carried out under this Convention, including by meeting with others involved in cooperation in other Conventions to exchange experiences and to identify synergies.

Members of the **Committee on Cooperative Compliance** indicated that there are expectations that the Committee will produce results and do so in a cooperative manner. To this end, the Committee will commence with the substance of its work by engaging three States Parties in which States Parties' documents have recorded credible cases of compliance that warrant further follow-up. Commensurately, the Committee will document its working methods, in part by drawing upon its substantive work.

With respect to all Committees, it was noted that results are expected from each, that the mandates of each Committee have been well spelled-out, that, while good plans have now been articulated, each must now proceed in implementing its plan, and that each Committee should meet as often as possible in the lead-up to the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

5. Update on ISU activities and finances

The ISU Director distributed a detailed written report on activities and finances since the Maputo Review Conference. (See attached.) With particular regard to finances, the ISU Director emphasised the seriousness of the current financial situation. The ISU's 2014 estimated costs total approximately CHF 977,000. When this is combined with a negative carry-over from 2013, the ISU's total financial needs in 2014 amount to CHF 996,650. To date in 2014, a total of CHF 405,728 have been received. The ISU is in the process of securing approximately CHF 200,000 in additional contributions meaning that a total of approximately CHF 372,000 are still required by year-end.

The Coordinating Committee took note of the serious financial situation facing the ISU. The Chair indicated his commitment to carry-out various actions to mobilise resources and he called upon Members of the Coordinating Committee, whom have been elected to positions of leadership, to lead by example in funding the ISU.

6. Other updates

Australia, in its capacity as Coordinator of the informal Sponsorship Programme, recalled that the programme was established on a voluntary basis by an interested group of States Parties in 2000. Australia thanked the ISU for its sound strategic advice to the programme's Donors' Group and the GICHD for its continued administration of the programme at no cost. Australia reported that three States Parties – Australia, Denmark and Norway – provided financial contributions to the programme in 2014. Australia further reported that the programme supported the participation of 11 delegates representing 11 States Parties at the Convention's meetings in April 2014 and 21 delegates representing 19 State Parties at the Maputo Review Conference.

7. Next meeting

The Chair indicated that he will convene the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Friday 12 December at 10:00.

UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

7 NOVEMBER 2014

Since the Third Review Conference, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) has continued to implement its 2014 work plan, albeit with adjustments made (as noted in the ISU's 2015 work plan) to take into account the new committee structure established at the Review Conference. What follows is an update on activities since the Review Conference and on ISU finances.

Support to the President, Committee Members and Implementation Machinery:

- The ISU has met frequently with the Presidency and has supported the Presidency in issuing communications to the States Parties, organizing a post-Maputo meeting of the President's Drafting Group and a post-Maputo briefing in Geneva, facilitating matters concerning the annual United Nations General Assembly First Committee resolution on the Convention, and arranging meetings between the President and the four Committees established by the Third Review Conference.
- The ISU has followed up on behalf of the Presidency in soliciting the interest on the part of a State Party from Asia to serve as a Committee Member.
- The ISU has met with the President-Designate of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties and maintained frequent contact with his officials. The ISU has provided a draft set of key dates and deliverables to the President-Designate for his consideration.
- The ISU met, in Santiago in July, with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of Chile to brief on Chile's responsibilities related to hosting and presiding over the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2016.
- The ISU has had 13 meetings with Committees or Committee Members. The ISU has provided food-for-thought to each Committee and has followed up on Committee discussions by providing each Committee with a draft results-based plan for their consideration.
- The ISU has provided the Sponsorship Programme Donors' Group with an interim report on 2014 activities and has kept the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator apprised of the programme's finances.
- The ISU supported the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee since the Maputo Review Conference, on 7 November 2014.
- The ISU assisted the Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group by supporting a gathering of Geneva-based points of contacts on universalization on the occasion of a visit to Geneva by His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan on 29 September 2014.

Support to individual States Parties:

- The ISU wrote to all delegations to ascertain which States Parties consider themselves a "State Party with mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control" in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan in order that the ISU could target its advisory support.

- The ISU provided advice to each of the four States Parties (Cyprus, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Senegal) which were expected to submit requests for extended mine clearance deadlines for consideration at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
- The ISU maintained frequent contact with and provided advice to Mozambique's National Demining Institute (IND) regarding Mozambique's pending completion of the implementation of the Convention's mine clearance obligations under Article 5.
- The ISU carried out a HALO Trust-organized mission to Zimbabwe immediately following the end of the Third Review Conference in June to better understand the challenges faced by Zimbabwe in implementing Article 5 and to provide advice and support.
- In July, the ISU supported a high level mission to Peru by His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan during which Prince Mired engaged the President of Peru and its Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence, commending Peru for its efforts to implement the Convention and encouraging completion by Peru by its 2017 deadline.
- The ISU joined colleagues from the GICHD in carrying out a mission in October to Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide advice on various aspects of mine clearance implementation by Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The ISU carried out a mission to Ecuador and Peru in October to provide advice on national demining planning as a follow-up to an ISU-supported binational workshop that took place in 2013.
- The ISU carried out a mission to Tajikistan in October to provide advice in expressing victim assistance objectives in more specific, time-bound manner and in supporting Tajikistan's path towards accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The ISU continued its engagement with Equatorial Guinea, resulting in Equatorial Guinea submitting its initial transparency report and therefore addressing a concern about compliance with the Convention that had spanned more than a decade.
- In addition to the missions it has carried out, the ISU has continued to provide advice and support to numerous States Parties, principally as concerns the mine clearance and victim assistance aspects of the Convention, as well as on other matters such as stockpiled destruction, transparency reporting and compliance.

Universalisation:

- The ISU participated in events in New York in August surrounding the deposit, by Oman, of its instrument of accession.
- The ISU organized a day-long seminar on the Convention to which each State not party was invited. The following States took part in in-depth discussions on the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines: Armenia, Azerbaijan, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

Communications and outreach:

- On 27 August 2014, the ISU led a seminar on the Convention for the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme.
- In September 2014, the ISU released two publications – one containing the Maputo Review Conference outcome documents and one containing the Chairperson’s Summary of the April 2014 Bridges between Worlds global victim assistance conference.
- On 10 October 2014, the ISU held a seminar on the Convention for Geneva-based representatives of States Parties who new to working on the Convention.
- In October 2014, the ISU provided expert inputs at a conference in Algeria that was organized as part of the GICHD’s Arabic Language Outreach Programme.
- On 6 November 2014, the ISU contributed to a GICHD-organized training session on mine action contracting.
- Since the Third Review Conference, the ISU has issued 14 press releases or news items on various aspects of the work to universalize and implement the Convention.
- ISU has continued to make good use of Facebook, Twitter and Flickr as complementary means of communication. Dozens of photos from Convention activities have been made available to interested parties, including for use by individual States Parties for their own public relations purposes.
- In July, the ISU hosted a student group for the Melbourne University (Australia) Law School.
- In addition to maintaining the Convention’s website, the ISU has begun collaborating with the GICHD on a comprehensive overhaul of the Convention’s website with a view to completing this task by June 2015.

Liaison and coordination:

- The ISU has met with, on more than one occasion, the ICRC and the ICBL and is in contact with each frequently.
- In August 2014 in New York, the ISU met with UNICEF to discuss areas of common interest and to explore ways and means to continue collaboration. The ISU has met with and maintained frequent contact with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labour Organization. The ISU attended an event convened by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in October had has proposed meeting to follow-up on concrete suggestions that the ISU has made regarding collaboration between the ISU and UNMAS.
- The ISU has offered advice and suggestions to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons’ Implementation Support Unit on matters pertaining to victim assistance and reporting.
- In August 2014 in New York the ISU met with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Secretariat, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

- In September, the ISU addressed the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and met with a number of its Committee Members. Also in September, the ISU met with the Executive Director and Geneva-based staff of the International Disability Alliance.
- On 5 September and 2 October 2014, the ISU participated in meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group on Accessibility. The ISU is in the process of completing an audit of access to ISU offices and facilities which could be an important input to this working group.
- On 31 October, the ISU took part in the ILO's Global Business and Disability Network Meeting entitled "Business as unusual: Making workplaces inclusive of people with disabilities".
- On 6 November 2014, internationally renowned expert on disability, development and human rights, Catalina Devandas, has held her first meeting, since being appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, with the staff of the Implementation Support Unit.
- The ISU has established a regular coordination and information exchange meeting with the GICHD's Director of Operations and staff. The ISU and the GICHD have deepened collaboration and have worked well together with respect to the provision of complementary advice to various States Parties and in the further development of the concept of *residual contamination*.
- On 1 October 2014 in Brussels, the ISU addressed the European Union's disarmament and non-proliferation coordinating body (CODUN) and had meetings with senior officials from the European Union's External Action Service and with Members of the European Parliament.
- The ISU has maintained frequent contact with leading non-governmental demining organizations with a view to collaborating on country-specific support and to facilitate interaction with Committee Members. The ISU has been invited to have more in-depth liaison meetings with two organizations in 2015.
- The ISU has maintained frequent contact with the CCW ISU, the CCM interim ISU and the BWC ISU with a view to ensuring sound coordination and identifying ways and means to pursue work in efficient ways.

ISU Finances:

The ISU's 2014 work plan and budget, which were adopted by the 13MSP, contain cost estimates for 2014 totalling approximately CHF 977,000. In January 2014, the 13MSP President appealed to each State Party to consider directing its financial contribution to the ISU as soon as possible to ensure that the work plan agreed to at the 13MSP is fully funded. In September 2014, the Review Conference Presidency and the ISU Director carried out a number resource mobilising efforts targeting approximately 40 States Parties that might be most likely in a position to contribute to the ISU.

As mentioned, the ISU's 2014 estimated costs total approximately CHF 977,000. When this is combined with a negative carry-over from 2013, the ISU's total financial needs in 2014 amount to CHF 996,650. To date in 2014, a total of CHF 405,728 have been received. The ISU is in the process of securing approximately CHF 200,000 in additional contributions. A total of approximately CHF 372,000 are still required.

The ISU is conscious of both the need to cut costs and to demonstrate value for money invested in implementation support. With respect to cutting costs, the ISU has progressively reduced costs for levels that exceeded CHF 1.0 million in 2010 and 2011 to projections for 2015 which are below CHF 900,000.

	ISU Budgeted Expenditures
2010	CHF 1'200'000
2011	CHF 1'050'000
2012	CHF 925'837
2013	CHF 940'694
2014	CHF 977'293
2015	CHF 898'077

Cost reductions between the highs of 2010 and 2011 were made first of all by a reduction in the size of the ISU staff complement. The position of victim assistance specialist was suppressed at the end of 2010. In addition, in 2011, one of the remaining professional officer positions was converted from 80 percent of full-time to 60 percent of full-time.

	Number of Staff Positions	Full-time equivalents
2010	6.0	5.3
2011	5.0	4.3
2012	5.0	4.1
2013	5.0	4.1
2014	5.0	4.1
2015	5.0	4.1

Further cost reductions have been made by trimming to the bone any resources beyond human resources costs, i.e., resources for carrying out activities. This has had a significant impact on the scope for the ISU to carry out its mandate to provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation of the Convention through advisory missions. For example, whereas in 2010 the ISU carried out 11 victim assistance advisory missions, in 2014 the ISU will have carried out only two – with the costs of both covered by a project that is distinct from our core work plan.

In terms of value-for-money, the ISU’s 2015 work plan was prepared using the principles of results based management in order to better demonstrate the intended results of our efforts and to provide a basis for reporting on actual versus expected results. In addition, we have changed the nature of our support position, from that of administrative support to communications support, which is a form of support that States Parties have clearly valued more.

The ISU is now at the point where its costs cannot be cut anymore without calling into question whether or not the ISU can minimally deliver on the mandate that was agreed to in 2010. It should be recalled that at the time decisions were taken on the ISU’s mandate in 2010 and to retain the voluntary funding model in 2011, that the ISU costs were in excess of CHF 1.0 million per year. That is, arguably it was understood at the time that approximately CHF 1.0 million to CHF 1.2 million would be required each year and that this would be generated through voluntary contributions.

While the ISU has been preoccupied with reducing costs and demonstrating value for money, the same energy and enthusiasm has not been given to resource mobilisation. It should be noted that it is not the ISU’s job to mobilise resources for the ISU. The 2010 ISU Directive states that “The financing of the ISU shall be subject to decisions by Meetings of the States Parties and Review

Conferences. The ISU will assist in this effort.” That is, the ISU’s task is to assist with respect to the decisions the States Parties have taken, first of all in 2001, “to endeavour to assure the necessary financial resources” are in place for the ISU and then in 2011, when the States Parties agreed “to work to improve the present funding model, and to ensure sufficient contributions are provided to the ISU as long as the financing model remains unchanged.”

The ISU in 2014 has necessarily taken on a more active role in resource mobilisation, notwithstanding the fact that the ISU’s mandate is simply to assist the States Parties in this regard. Approximately 10 percent of the ISU Director’s time since the Maputo Review Conference has been spent on resource mobilisation and a significant amount of other staff time has been directed towards resource mobilisation as well.

In order to fully appreciate the cost structure of the ISU, it is important to also understand what support is provided by the GICHD and what resources in addition voluntary funds for annual work plans that the ISU receives. With respect to this support, for which the ISU is greatly appreciative, for the most part the ISU does not receive money to spend. Rather, the ISU receives a package of facilities and services, with the GICHD estimating an approximate monetary value of these. That is, the GICHD provides the ISU with office space and supplies, information technology and telecommunications, website management, travel services, human resources management, insurance, financial management, and contract and document management. The GICHD estimated that the value of this support in 2014 would be approximately CHF 300,000.

Again, the GICHD’s support is greatly appreciated and it basically enables an ISU to exist. However, the States Parties did not establish an ISU to simply exist. Rather, they have expectations that the ISU will actually function, carrying out tasks and producing results in accordance with an agreed mandate and agreed work plans. As generous as the GICHD is with its support, this is of little consequences if the necessary financing to permit the functioning of the ISU is not in place.