

## **Presentation on the Coordination Committee General Status and Operation of the Convention**

As you all know, the Second Meeting of States Parties realized that there was a need to have some sort of structure that could follow the day to day implementation of the Convention and in particular, the Intersessional Work Programme. The decision to create the Coordinating Committee under the Chairmanship of the President of the Meeting of States Parties and the membership of the Co Chairs of the Standing Committees was adopted.

As past Co Chair of the Victim Assistance, Socio-economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness Standing Committee I was able to participate in the first year of Coordinating Committee. I can say that it provided all of us as Co Chairs the opportunity to exchange ideas about the Intersessional Work Programme, including agendas and presentations, logistical issues such as invitations and establishing deadlines for the documentation of the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings. Also, particularly important for Nicaragua, as Host Country of the Third Meeting of States Parties, the Coordinating Committee provided the chance to address a number of procedural and logistical questions and obtain advice and support from the other Co Chairs and Co Rapporteurs.

As the Co Chair has mentioned, the Third Meeting of States Parties recognized the value and importance of the Coordinating Committee in the effective functioning of the Convention. During the Third Meeting of States Parties in Managua, States Parties agreed that the Presidency, as Chair of the Coordinating Committee, would report on its functioning to the Intersessional meetings, as well as the annual Meeting of States Parties.

I am happy to report that there have been four meetings of the Coordinating Committee while Nicaragua has had the Presidency: the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2002. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining provides us with the venue and provides some logistical support for which I would like to express my thanks. Likewise, because of the vast and complicated agendas of diplomats here in Geneva with one meeting or another, it has been custom to hold light lunch meetings which have been sponsored by different Co Chairs and would also like to take this opportunity to thank them.

The main objective of the first meeting was to have all of the Co Chairs and Co Rapporteurs meet. It also provided the opportunity to assess the Third Meeting of States Parties before many would have to leave for the Meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly in New York. The general view expressed was that the Meeting of Managua had been very successful and had contributed to the consolidation of the Convention, especially in the light of the recent events. I understand that several Co Chairs expressed that the host country had organized an excellent meeting. Some members raised concern about the time allocation in the sense that the general exchange of views took longer than foreseen and that not enough time had been devoted to substantive discussions. Some discussion was given to the follow up to

decisions taken at the Managua Meeting particularly regarding the establishment of the ISU. Finally, Co Chairs were encouraged to start working on the preparation of the Standing Committee Meetings keeping in mind the President's Acton Programme.

In the following three meetings, the Intersessional Work Programme was addressed, as the Presidency Co Chairs asked the Co Chairs to give updates on the preparations of the Agendas of the Standing Committee Meetings and deadlines were suggested and the logistical documents were reviewed. Some thought was given to the modification of time allocation in the future.

Likewise, other issues from the Third Meeting of States Parties were addressed including the concern raised in Managua about transparency in the CC. As a result of this exchange, Brief Summaries of the Meetings of the CC, elaborated by the Presidency, are made available on the GICHD Website. These are translated, on an Ad Hoc basis, into French and Spanish. The maintenance of certain compliance issues on agenda was deemed appropriate. Also, information was shared about the UN First Committee Meeting Resolution on the Convention presented by Nicaragua, Norway and Belgium.

One of the ongoing matters throughout the Coordinating Committee Meetings was the establishment of the ISU. Obviously, we wanted to comply as soon as possible with that decision of the Third Meeting of States Parties. In this sense, the Coordinating Committee was consulted on the Agreement signed between the GICHD and the President on behalf of States Parties, on the Draft Budget, and the Employment Contract. Similarly, the selection process undertaken for the ISU Manager leading to the recommendation of Kerry Brinkert was explained by the GICHD.

Pursuant to the request of the Third Meeting of States Parties for the Coordinating Committee to consider further improvements in the format, timing and work of the Standing Committees, during the last meeting of the CC the Chair asked that thought be given to this. It is an issue we plan to take up in the near future and continue to ask for input on this especially in light of the 2004 Review Conference.

Also during our last meeting, I reported on the optimism that I brought back from the transfer of government in Nicaragua. In that context, we welcomed the arrival of Kerry Brinkert and the work he had already embarked on and the chair expressed excitement about continuing to work together in the implementation of the Convention.