

CCM – 12 MSP
Mexican Presidency
Youth contest

Calling All Youth Changemakers! We Want to Hear Your Voice!

Youth Multimedia Contest

Igniting Change – Youth for Humanitarian Disarmament: Advancing the goals of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

The contest is jointly supported by the Mexican Presidency and the European Union and reflects a longstanding commitment to disarmament education and to strengthening the norms of humanitarian disarmament.

The contest is an open invitation to youth, aged 18-29, to share your thinking, insights, and perspectives on how the unacceptable harm caused by cluster munitions impacts lives and specifically:

- how cluster munitions impede progress towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#);
- how educating youth about cluster munitions saves lives;
- and how the international ban on the weapon contributes to humanitarian disarmament goals.

Contestants are invited to share your multimedia submission on what one or multiple these connections mean to you and to your communities. We want to hear your best thinking on igniting CHANGE, and how this can happen. We encourage deep dives into the connections between cluster munitions and education as a life-saving tool, humanitarian disarmament, and the Sustainable Development Goals. We want to hear how young people are helping to create solutions!

Categories:

- 1) How cluster munitions impede progress towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#):
 - <https://disarmament.unoda.org/sustainable-development/>
 - <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/criticalissues/4646-disarmament-and-development>
 - <https://www.youth4disarmament.org/news/how-disarmament-and-armscontrol-contribute-sustainable-development>

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- 2) How educating youth about cluster munitions saves lives: <https://www.gichd.org/our-response/explosive-ordnance-risk-education/> - <https://www.unmas.org/en/risk-education-iraq-youth>
- 3) How the international ban on the weapon contributes to humanitarian disarmament goals:
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-statement-10th-meeting-statesparties-convention-cluster-munitions>
 - <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2023/cluster-munition-monitor2023.aspx>
 - <https://www.disarmamenteducation.org/index.php?go=education&do=training-ewipa>

Submissions

Poetry/Songs: Encouraging poets to use their craft to evoke emotions, share stories, and convey the urgency of educating communities about the risks associated with cluster munitions; humanitarian disarmament and cluster munitions; and/or the link of the CCM with the SDGs.

Essays and Opinion/Editorial Pieces: Participants can present well-researched essays or opinion pieces discussing the historical context, humanitarian consequences, and the role of risk education in addressing the challenges posed by cluster munitions; the humanitarian aspect of the convention and its role within IHL; and/or the links between the convention and the SDGs.

Photography: Submit impactful photographs that capture the consequences of cluster munitions use and the importance of risk education; humanitarian disarmament; and/or the SDGs.

Visual Arts (e.g., Illustrations, Paintings, Digital Art): Participants can visually represent the connections between cluster munitions, risk education, humanitarian disarmament, and/or the SDGs.

Short Films/Animations: Entrants can create short films or animations that tell a story, share information, or advocate for action regarding cluster munition use and their impact on risk education, humanitarian disarmament, and/or the SDGs.

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Submission Guidelines:

- One submission per person.
- Submissions must be sent by an applicant acting in their own personal capacity and not on behalf of an organization, company, or government.
- All submissions must be an original work by the applicant, except for quotations from published and unpublished sources, which are clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. The articles submitted for the competition may undergo a thorough review for plagiarism and may be disqualified if any evidence of plagiarism is found.

Format: Submissions should be typed and submitted electronically. Visual arts, films, animations, and photographs should be accompanied by a brief description and can be submitted via a shared link using WeTransfer (link here <https://wetransfer.com/>).

Length/Quantity: Essays and Opinion/Editorial entries should be between 800 and 1,000 words. Poetry/Song submissions can be up to two pages. Short film/animation/visual art entries should be no longer than 5 minutes. In the case of **photographs and ALL other categories**, contestants may submit one product.

Language:

Submissions can be submitted in any UN language. Entrants are encouraged to send their submission in their native language and should provide a courtesy translation in English.

Non-Politicization and Contextualization: All contest entries must adhere to the principle of non-politicization and should not be contextualized to any specific geopolitical conflict. The purpose of this creative contest is to foster understanding, awareness, and dialogue on the broader issues of cluster munitions, risk education, humanitarian disarmament, and development.

Note: Selected winners agree that their contribution will be used by the organizers for web-based communications including web pages and social media, as well as part of an on-site exhibition, while of course duly acknowledging the author. **Only entries submitted by the 1 July closing date will be considered.**

Participants are kindly requested to:

Avoid Specific Geopolitical References: Entries should refrain from referencing or alluding to specific geopolitical conflicts, regions, or political entities. The focus should remain on the universal themes of humanitarian disarmament, risk education, and sustainable development.

Promote Inclusivity: Entries should aim to be inclusive and encourage a global perspective. Emphasize the shared humanity and collective responsibility in addressing issues related to

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cluster munitions and their impact. **Submissions from, about, and including survivors and communities directly impacted by cluster munitions, are highly encouraged!**

Highlight Universal Values: Entries should focus on universal values such as peace, human rights, and cooperation. The intention is to create a space for constructive dialogue and understanding that transcends specific geopolitical contexts.

Respect Diversity: Entries should respect the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds of the participants and potential audience. Divisive or controversial language should be avoided.

By adhering to these guidelines, participants contribute to the creation of an inclusive and constructive dialogue that transcends political boundaries, promoting a shared commitment to addressing the challenges posed by cluster munitions.

Participation criteria :

- Age-range: 18-29 years old by June 16th 2024.
- We encourage applications, without distinction, on the basis of gender, racial, ethnic or social origin, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, disability, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- The organizers shall have the right at any time to require proof of identity and/or eligibility to participate in the essay competition. Failure to provide such proof may result in disqualification. All personal and other information requested by and supplied to the organizers for the purpose of the competition must be truthful, complete, accurate, and in no way misleading.
- If selected, contestants should be available to travel to Geneva in September 2024 during the 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Evaluation Criteria:

Entries will be judged by an expert panel based on the following criteria:

- **Creativity and Originality:** How well does the entry engage the audience and present unique perspectives on the topic?
- **Clarity and Coherence:** Is the message clear, and does the writing effectively convey the links between cluster munitions and risk education; humanitarian disarmament and sustainable development goals
- **Impact and Emotional Resonance:** Does the entry evoke emotions, inspire empathy, and encourage reflection?
- **Relevance to the Theme:** How well does the entry address the specified theme of cluster munitions and risk education; humanitarian disarmament and sustainable development goals?

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PRIZE:

- The winner will be invited to present their submission **in-person** at the 12th Meeting of States Parties (12th MSP) in Geneva in September 2024.
- Chosen submissions will also be portrayed in an exhibition at the Palais de Nations during the 12th MSP.
- The winner will be announced over the summer.

Submission Instructions:

Submit via email: cjovenescmr12@sre.gob.mx. Larger multimedia files can be shared to this email via WeTransfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>).

Please indicate your country of residence and any organizational or work affiliation of relevance. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please do resend to ensure your submission is accounted for (we do not want to miss your contribution!).