

CCM – 12 MSP
Mexican Presidency
Youth contest

Contest Title: *“Igniting Change- Youth for humanitarian disarmament”
Advancing the goals of the Cluster Munitions Convention*

This initiative is being supported by the European Union

Motivation: Mexico’s longstanding commitment to disarmament education; the SG’s New Agenda for Peace; strengthening the norms of humanitarian disarmament; and raising awareness/ demystifying the topic

Objective:

The primary goal of this contest is to encourage participants to express their thoughts, insights, and perspectives on the connections between the unacceptable harm caused by cluster munitions and 1) risk education; 2) humanitarian disarmament and 3) sustainable development. Through expressive writing and creative content, we aim to raise awareness; foster understanding, and inspire action towards a world free from the devastating impact of cluster munitions.

Categories:

1) Cluster Munition Risk Education:

- <https://www.gichd.org/our-response/explosive-ordnance-risk-education/>
- <https://www.unmas.org/en/risk-education-iraq-youth>

2) Humanitarian Disarmament and cluster Munitions

- <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-statement-10th-meeting-states-parties-convention-cluster-munitions>
- <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2023/cluster-munition-monitor-2023.aspx>
- <https://www.disarmamenteducation.org/index.php?go=education&do=training-ewipa>

3) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Cluster Munitions:

- <https://disarmament.unoda.org/sustainable-development/>
- <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/4646-disarmament-and-development>
- <https://www.youth4disarmament.org/news/how-disarmament-and-arms-control-contribute-sustainable-development>

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- Include materials of each category with the call of submission to empower youth participation

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/ the link of the CCM with the SDGs.

Essays/Op-Eds: 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 / 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/ the SDGs.

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

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 submission 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 or artist statement and can be submitted via a shared link.

Length: Essays and op-eds entries should be between 800 and 1,000 words. Poetry submissions can be up to two pages. One photograph/short film/animation/visual art product.

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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 should agree that their contribution will be used by the organizers on their website, social media and exhibition material, while of course duly acknowledging the author. Only entries submitted by date and time 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 cluster munitions and their impact.

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 as of submission date
- 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.

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- 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, availability to travel to Geneva in September 2024

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

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.
- Chosen submissions will also be portrayed in an exhibition at the Palais de Nations during the 12th MSP.

TIMELINE

Launch: March 5th, 2024 (International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness)

Submission deadline:16.06.24

Selecting winner(s): June/July 2024

Call with winner(s): July 2024

Presentation 12MSP September 2024

LAUNCH (March 2024):

- Topic: risk education, humanitarian disarmament, SDGs
- Opening remarks: UNODA Chief Geneva, ISU Director, Amb. Knudsen
- Panelists: ICRC/GICHD/MAG
- Closing remarks: Amb. Méndez / youth representative
- To be recorded

POTENTIAL JURY

- Ambassador Méndez/ISU Director/ UNODA representative / ICBL-CMC/ EU Representative

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Social Media:

Participants are encouraged to share information about the contest on social media using the hashtags. Hashtags proposals:

- *#Youth4Change*
- *#IgnitingChange*
- *#CCM12MSP*

Submission Instructions:

Submit via email: cjovenescmr12@sre.gob.mx

This contest aims to harness the power of creative expression to demystify the connections between cluster munitions risk education, humanitarian disarmament, and the SDGs to foster a deeper understanding and commitment to addressing this critical issue.