

Committee: Disarmament and International Security (GA1)

Issue: Taking Measures to Inhibit the Proliferation and Use of Cluster Munitions

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Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ariadni loakimidi, and I attend the 11th grade at the German School Thessaloniki. I am honored to be serving as one of the Co-Chairs of the Disarmament and International Security Committee in the 7th DSTMUN session.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's DSTMUN conference. I am positive that this event is going to be an enriching experience, full of fruitful debates and innovative resolutions.

One of the two topics this committee focuses on are measures to inhibit the proliferation and use of Cluster Munitions. The provided study guide offers essential information to comprehend this topic. You are however encouraged to conduct further independent research to gain a deeper understanding. The bibliography at the end can serve as a starting point for further examination of this critical issue.

If you have any questions concerning the topic, the committee, or the conference, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at: ariadnioakimidi@gmail.com

I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,
Ariadni loakimidi

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Cluster munitions, also commonly referred to as cluster bombs, are weapons that disperse numerous smaller submunitions over a wide area upon ejection.¹ These weapons have been utilized in various global conflicts, including the Vietnam War, the war in Syria, and Russia's attack on Ukraine. Due to their extensive impact and the significant risk of unexploded ordnance (UXO) continuing to harm civilians long after a conflict has ended, the use of cluster munitions has raised serious ethical and humanitarian concerns. Examples of such include psychological trauma by the fear of constant threat, and strains on the healthcare systems because of the numerous severe injuries, such as amputations, which overwhelm local healthcare facilities that may already be under-resourced in post-conflict settings.

Cluster munitions are also extremely popular in warfare due to their indiscriminate nature, whereby they can attack and destroy people as well as equipment. They disperse bomblets, which cover wide regions, frequently causing civilian casualties when they are used. In addition, mine clearance specialists have stated that 10% to 30% of these submunitions do not detonate at impact, producing lethal UXO that can last for decades.² These unexploded bomblets pose a long-term threat to civilian communities, impeding growth and economic recovery by rendering large areas of land unsuitable for agriculture or habitation, even after the conflict has ceased.

Cluster munitions development and use is a serious threat to security and human rights globally. The effects of cluster munitions use on civilians have made the international community gravely concerned. To this end, it has encouraged several significant actions, including the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the promotion of international awareness and advocacy, as well as the support of wide-scale demining operations. Through these actions we can work toward a world free from the deadly effects of these indiscriminate weapons by implementing comprehensive steps to address this issue and thus promote peace and aid at the de-escalation of international conflicts. Similar to this year's conference theme.

¹ "Cluster Munitions at a Glance." *Arms Control Association*, Jan. 2009,

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009-01/countries-sign-cluster-munitions-convention>.

² "Cluster Munitions: Background and Issues for Congress." *Congressional Research Service*, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS22907/29>.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Arms Control

Arms control refers to international efforts and agreements to regulate and limit the development, production, stockpiling, proliferation, and use of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. It aims to enhance global security, reduce the risk of conflict, and promote stability and peace.³

Cluster Bomb Units (CBUs)

Cluster Bomb Units is a synonym for Cluster Munitions.

Cluster Munitions

Cluster Munitions are made out of a dispenser, which releases the submunitions above the target, the submunitions spread out as they fall. The submunitions explode when they hit the ground affecting a much larger area than a single, concentrated explosion⁴

Humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Humanitarian NGO are independent organizations dedicated to providing aid and relief to people in crises, such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, and famines. They operate based on principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, aiming to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. These organizations often deliver essential services like food, water, shelter, medical care, and education, working in areas that governments or other agencies may not be able to reach.⁵

³ Arms Control. 7 Aug. 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/arms-control.

⁴ "Cluster Munitions: What Are They, and Why Is the United States Sending Them to Ukraine?" *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 7 July 2023, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cluster-munitions-what-are-they-and-why-united-states-sending-them-ukraine>.

⁵ "Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)." *UC Berkeley Library Guides*, University of California, Berkeley, <https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=496970&p=3626027>.

Impact Assessment

Impact assessment is a systematic approach employed to identify, predict and rate the possible implications of a suggested initiative, plan, project or action. This process assesses the probable environmental, social, economic and cultural influences that may arise due to the implementation of the proposed project.⁶

International Law

International law governs the relationships between states and other entities in the international community. It encompasses a wide range of rules, norms, and standards designed to regulate interactions and maintain global order.⁷

Military Use

Military use of cluster munitions involves employing these weapons for specific tactical and strategic purposes during armed conflicts.

The Munroe effect

It is described as the following: a shaped charge incorporates a conical metal liner, often made from copper. On detonation, the liner is forced by the detonating wave from the explosive into a high-velocity molten jet, which is projected forward into the target. The high density and velocity of this jet give it the ability to penetrate armor and other hard surfaces to a far greater depth than the high explosive charge could otherwise achieve.

Treaty Compliance

Treaty compliance refers to the adherence of signatory parties to the terms, conditions, and obligations outlined in a treaty. This involves implementing the treaty's provisions into domestic law, regularly monitoring and reviewing compliance actions, and enforcing measures to address violations. Compliance also includes

⁶ "Impact Assessment." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/impact-assessment>.

⁷ "Understanding International Law." *United Nations*, 2010, https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/events/2010/Press_kit/fact_sheet_5_english.pdf.

providing periodic updates and documentation to international bodies overseeing the treaty and holding parties accountable for any breaches.⁸

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

Cluster Submunitions that have reached the ground but did not detonate upon impact are called UXOs. They pose a great threat to civilians even years after conflict has ceased, because they can still detonate anytime.⁹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Types of Cluster Munitions

Cluster munitions can be in the form of artillery shells, rockets, or air-delivered munitions, meaning they can be dispersed or released from aircraft, rockets, artillery projectiles, and mortar rounds. Some cluster munitions disperse only two bomblets while others can spread up to hundreds of submunitions over a large area. These weapons are designed for use against massed formations of troops and armor or broad targets, such as airfields. The standard U.S. submunition is called dual-purpose improved conventional munition, or DPICM. It is dual-purpose because it has effects on both vehicles and personnel. The most recent version,¹⁰ the M77, has a penetrating charge for attacking vehicles and a fragmentation element for attacking personnel. 'Combined effects munitions' (CEM) on the other hand, add an additional incendiary element to the weapon. This move towards multi-purpose ammunition is partially responsible for the increased employment of cluster munitions in recent conflicts.

Development of Cluster Munitions through the years

The United States used the first cluster bombs in World War II. These early versions were relatively simple, consisting of bombs that released multiple small

⁸ "Understanding International Law." *United Nations*, 2010, https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/events/2010/Press_kit/fact_sheet_5_english.pdf.

⁹ "Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)." *GlobalSecurity.org*, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/munitions/uxo.htm>.

¹⁰ "What Are They, and Why Is the United States Sending Them to Ukraine?" *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cluster-munitions-what-are-they-and-why-united-states-sending-them-ukraine#:~:text=>

explosive devices (bomblets) over a wide area. The U.S. developed and fielded the first precision-guided munitions in the 1960s and 1970s.¹¹ Among the precision weapons introduced in the 1960s was the Walleye television-guided bomb, which contained a TV camera inside. It would send a signal back to the weapons officer in a two-seater F-4 Phantom fighter jet before the firing; he would then select the target. Then the bomb could take advantage of the camera to guide itself when it was dropped. Another type of precision munition was laser-guided bombs, which could use a laser beam to target. These new advances were designed to be partnered with better sensors for finding targets. In other words, if guided munitions and sensors are going to work together as devised, one has the power to see all the important targets on a battlefield and then destroy them with direct hits. This accuracy, developed as a way to more efficiently place explosives for maximum effect in a large battle, had a follow-on effect of making it possible for militaries to launch airstrikes in cities with the intent of hitting only the suspected insurgents or militants. And it is at least logically possible that a drone-fired guided weapon will in fact only hit its intended target or targets, and nobody else. Experience in such matters teaches, however, that pinpoint targeting, or more technically, 'precision destruction', not only demands precise weaponry but a precise disposition of who is in the crosshairs. This is also illustrated by the data collected by the Cluster Munition Monitor, which indicates that noncombatants have comprised more than 85 percent of all casualties from cluster munitions in the past decade.¹²

The Past Use of Cluster Munitions

In the latter part of the 20th century, cluster munitions were employed and used in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina in Yugoslavia. NATO forces used 1,765 cluster bombs during that time—or around 295,000 submunitions. The United States used 1,228 cluster bombs and delivered a total of 248,056 submunitions in Afghanistan from October 2001 through March of the following year. U.S. and British forces utilized nearly 13,000 cluster munitions containing a minimum of 1—at the time well over 2 million - submunitions during just three weeks of combat in Iraq (2003).¹³

Today, these bombs are still claiming civilian lives in numerous conflicts, one of them being the invasion of Ukraine.

¹¹ "A look at the history of cluster munition development." *Popular Science*, 25 July 2023, <https://www.popsci.com/technology/cluster-bombs-ukraine-russia/>.

¹² "Stigmatizing Cluster Munitions: A Decade of Success." *Arms Control Today*, Oct. 2020, <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-10/features/stigmatizing-cluster-munitions-decade-success>.

¹³ "Cluster Munitions: Background and Issues for Congress." *Congressional Research Service*, 16 May 2023, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS22907>.

United States-led attack on Afghanistan

On October 7, 2001, the U.S.-led coalition began its attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing campaign by American and British forces as a response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.¹⁴ During the conflict, the U.S. military considered cluster bombs a valuable part of their arsenal. With 232 strikes during the first six months of the war, the United States dropped about 1,228 CBUs with 248,056 bomblets.¹⁵ United Nations officials have moreover stated that on October 22, 2001, U.S. cluster bomb submunitions landed on the village of Shaker Qala, near the city of Herat in western Afghanistan, killing nine civilians and injuring fourteen.¹⁶ The head of the United Nations Mine Action Program in Afghanistan (U.N. MAPA) noted that villagers are afraid to leave their homes after encountering the yellow soda can-like objects characteristic of CBU-87 submunitions that were left scattered in the village after an airstrike on a nearby military camp. The population in Afghanistan is seen to still be both emotionally and physically scarred even years after the air raids have ceased, with UXOs still being scattered across the country and endangering their lives.

The Invasion of Ukraine

On 22 February 2022, Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine, sending troops into the country from three fronts and firing missiles on several locations near the capital, Kyiv, in a broad attack.¹⁷ At dawn, troops and armor crossed into eastern Ukraine from the Russian border, as well as from Belarus in the north and Russia-annexed Crimea to the south. Since then, Russian armed forces have used cluster munitions in attacks that have caused hundreds of civilian casualties and damaged civilian objects, including

¹⁴ "U.S.-Led Attack on Afghanistan Begins." *History.com*, 7 Oct. 2001, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-led-attack-on-afghanistan-begins>.

¹⁵ "IV. Cluster Bomb Use in Afghanistan." *Human Rights Watch*, Dec. 2002, <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/us-afghanistan/Afghan1202-04.htm#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20military%20considered%20cluster%20bombs%20a%20valuable,life%20to%20the%20push%20for%20cluster%20bomb%20regulation>.

¹⁶ "Cluster Bombs in Afghanistan." *Human Rights Watch*, Oct. 2001, <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/arms/cluster-bck1031.htm>.

¹⁷ "Timeline of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: What We Know So Far." *CNN*, 24 Feb. 2022, <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/24/europe/ukraine-russia-attack-timeline-intl/index.html>.

homes, hospitals, and schools. The deadliest attack in Ukraine, according to the country's prosecutor general's office, was a bombing on a railway station in the town of Kramatorsk that killed 53 people and wounded 135. Altogether, though these bombs have claimed even more civilian lives.¹⁸

The Ukrainian military, however, has also not denied credible evidence of its own use of cluster munitions in the conflict and has publicly asked to be supplied with the weapon. Transfers of cluster munitions from the US have taken place. The Ukrainian use of such weapons affects international and U.S.-sponsored mining efforts in the country. The usage has however proven to be effective for the Ukrainian side, as on 13 July 2024, Ukrainian defenders successfully repelled multiple Russian attacks near Donetsk's Kostiantynivka using cluster munitions, and drones. Despite new Russian tactics, the Ukrainian forces inflicted heavy losses, though gradual Russian advances continued through attrition.¹⁹

Humanitarian Impact

Civilian casualties and injuries

During conflict, civilian casualties often occur because cluster munitions scatter huge numbers of explosive submunitions over very large areas. Since these submunitions are generally free-falling, various factors – such as human error and wind, can cause them to strike well outside the intended target area, destroying homes and people alike. Due to the inability to be absolutely precise, cluster bombs have killed and maimed thousands of civilians, who are overwhelmingly the main victims. Up to 97% of the recorded victims are civilians—in other words, almost all victims are civilians.²⁰ As to maiming, cluster munitions tend to cause injuries to the upper body, including loss of upper limbs and blindness.²¹

¹⁸ "Cluster Munition Deaths in Ukraine Pass Syria, Fueling Rise in a Weapon the World Has Tried to Ban." *MSN*, 25 July 2023, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/cluster-munition-deaths-in-ukraine-pass-syria-fueling-rise-in-a-weapon-the-world-has-tried-to-ban/ar-AA1gg3re?ocid=BingNewsVerp>.

¹⁹ "Frontline Report: Cluster Munitions Prove Effective in Halting Russian Advance Near Kostiantynivka." *Euromaidan Press*, 13 Aug. 2024, <https://euromaidanpress.com/2024/08/13/frontline-report-cluster-munitions-prove-effective-in-halting-russian-advance-near-kostiantynivka/>.

²⁰ "What Are Cluster Bombs?" *Handicap International*, <https://www.hi-us.org/en/news/what-are-cluster-bombs>.

²¹ "The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions." *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, https://www.clusterconvention.org/files/external_publications/the-humanitarian-impact-of-cluster-munitions-335.pdf.

Survivors of cluster munition incidents almost always require medical attention and long-term care. In some cases, the victim must walk for miles to the nearest medical center. Some incidents occur in such remote parts of a country that it is not possible to transport the injured to a medical facility. Many contaminated countries have limited healthcare provisions or are simply not equipped to treat traumatic injuries effectively. On the other hand, when help is available, the costs can be prohibitive or lead to indebtedness. It has been reported that many victims and their families become dependent on assistance from NGOs. Furthermore, injuries caused by submunitions add to the load on the healthcare system, which in many cases is already overstretched, with limited staff and resources.

Psychological Impact

Cluster munition contamination produces fear. The fear of UXO is considered one of the most significant obstacles standing between those seeking to overcome the psychological trauma of war. It may even be the obstacle that's preventing the establishment of peace in some countries. This fear becomes a reality for casualties of contamination. Apart from the physical injuries, survivors also undergo psychological effects. Although patients who sustain traumatic injury, like amputation, may be destined to progress differently due to differential factors like personality, age, family, economic situation, and social and cultural environment, early responses from the trauma can initially occur with denial, anger, depression, disconnection, disempowerment, and vulnerability.²² While survivors try to adapt themselves to the new situation, their feelings may vary according to their stage of life. Some people cannot even make a psychological adjustment—its result may be an inability to readapt to society, or maybe even suicide.

Economic Impact

Cluster munition use and contamination have an impact on the economy in a variety of ways. Aside from the damage to infrastructure and property, livelihood activities are interrupted or limited because of this damage or the lack of safe access to resources.

²² "The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions." *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, https://www.clusterconvention.org/files/external_publications/the-humanitarian-impact-of-cluster-munitions-335.pdf.

Long Lasting Effects

Large numbers of submunitions often fail to detonate as intended, contaminating large areas with deadly unexploded ordnance. Many thousands of civilians have been killed or injured by these devices. The presence of these weapons makes farming a dangerous activity and hinders the reconstruction and development of vital infrastructure such as roads, railways and power plants. Clearing unexploded submunitions after a conflict is often difficult and dangerous. Clearance personnel are at risk of injury or death as they undertake their duties.²³The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) states that during 2005 and the first six months of 2006 there were reported casualties during clearance operations in 29 countries and areas.

Environmental Impact

A number of states have cluster munition contamination in ecologically important areas and prioritization and planning for survey and clearance must incorporate the principles of sustainable development in post-clearance land use. Changes in land use and economic development in cleared areas can increase deforestation and biodiversity loss. Contaminated areas include agricultural fields and cultural and historic monuments. The destruction of such areas poses great economic and cultural effects on the country.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

India

India is not a signatory of the CCM, but the government acknowledges the humanitarian concerns associated with these weapons. The country is, however, still a major producer of Cluster Munitions. It uses those bombs for its arsenal but also exports a variety of cluster munitions to other countries. These exports can be a

²³ "The Humanitarian Impact." *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, clusterconvention.org/files/A5-HumImpact%20of%20CM%20Chapters.indd.

significant source of revenue, contributing to the growth of its economy. It is however stated that the country has never made use of such bombs, although on one occasion in 2019, Pakistan insinuated that India uses cluster munitions along the Line of Control (LOC) and targets civilians. The Indian Army denied these allegations as lies by the Pakistani establishment, and fault could thus not be proven.

Iraq

Iraq has suffered great losses due to drops of Cluster Munitions primarily by the U.S. and the U.K. They used nearly 13,000 cluster munitions containing an estimated 1.8 to 2 million submunitions in three weeks of major combat.²⁴ In a single day, U.S. cluster-munition attacks in Hilla on March 31 killed at least 33 civilians and injured 109.²⁵ After the conflict had ceased, the hospital director in the southern Iraqi city stated to the Human Rights Watch that cluster munitions caused 90 percent of the civilian injuries that his hospital treated during the war. After the end of the war, more than 4,000 civilians were killed or injured by cluster munition duds.²⁶

Today, the country is still facing major difficulties in dealing with the remains of the cluster bomb attacks. As unreliable munitions, which did not necessarily detonate on impact, were used by the U.S. during this attack, the country has been left littered with thousands of UXOs. Post-conflict, the Iraqi economy was and is still today not able to fund major clearance initiatives. The persistent trauma and ongoing fear of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) have further impeded economic recovery, as productivity levels among the population have yet to improve.

Russian Federation

Russia is not a member of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which bans the use of cluster bombs, and thus continues to use them freely. Russia's repeated use of cluster munitions since the start of its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has killed and wounded civilians, damaged civilian objects, and contaminated agricultural land. According to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, cluster munitions killed more than 300 people and wounded over 600 in

²⁴ "RS22907." *Congressional Research Service*, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS22907>

²⁵ "U.S.: Hundreds of Civilian Deaths in Iraq Were Preventable." *Human Rights Watch*, [U.S.: Hundreds of Civilian Deaths in Iraq Were Preventable | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](https://www.hrw.org/report/2003/04/01/us-using-cluster-munitions-iraq)

²⁶ "U.S. Using Cluster Munitions In Iraq." *Human Rights Watch*, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2003/04/01/us-using-cluster-munitions-iraq>

Ukraine in 2022, meaning that Ukraine has suffered the highest number of cluster munition casualties in the world as of now, overtaking Syria.²⁷

United Kingdom

On 3 December 2008, the United Kingdom officially became a signatory to the CCM. Over the following years, it destroyed all of its stockpiles in regards to cluster munitions. Additionally, the country actively promotes the treaty. In 2001, for example, the UK assumed the presidency of the CCM. It has pledged to use its presidency of the CCM to focus on mine action and driving support for the clearance of unexploded ordnance, as well as the persuasion of more countries to join the treaty.

United States of America

The U.S. did not directly participate, not even as an observer, in the diplomatic Oslo Process in 2007 and 2008 that resulted in the May 2008 adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.²⁸ It has used Cluster Munitions excessively in the past causing millions of dollars worth of damage. For instance, in its attack on Iraq and Afghanistan.²⁹ The DOD has issued a report, stating that the U.S. has a stockpile of 5.5 million cluster munitions containing about 728.5 million submunitions. This figure, however, does not appear to be a full accounting of cluster munitions available to U.S. forces. In particular, the tally does not include cluster munitions that are part of the War Reserve Stocks for Allies (WRSA). Human Rights Watch has previously reported that the U.S. inventory, including WRSA, totaled about one billion submunitions. Senior U.S. government officials have however stated that the United States has not used cluster munitions since the 2003 intervention in Iraq.³⁰ Still, the U.S. has committed over 2 million artillery shells to Ukraine.

²⁷ "Russia's Invasion Has Turned Ukraine into the Country with the Highest Cluster Munition Casualties in the World, Even More than Syria." *Business Insider India*, <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/russias-invasion-has-turned-ukraine-into-the-country-with-the-highest-cluster-munition-casualties-in-the-world-even-more-than-syria/articleshow/103439526.cms>

²⁸ "RS22907." *Congressional Research Service*, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS22907>

²⁹ "The Current U.S. Cluster Munition Stockpile." *Human Rights Watch*, <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounders/arms/cluster0705/2.htm>.

³⁰ "What Are They, and Why Is the United States Sending Them to Ukraine?" *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/cluster-munitions-what-are-they-and-why-united-states-sending-them-ukraine#:~:text=>

The Department of Defense (DOD)

The Department of Defense (DOD) continues to argue that cluster munitions are a military necessity, but in 2008 instituted a policy to reduce the failure rate of cluster munitions to 1% or less after 2018.³¹ In November 2017, DOD issued a new policy that essentially reversed the 2008 policy. The 2017 policy permits the use of cluster munitions that do not meet the 1% or less unexploded submunitions standard in extreme situations. In addition, the 2017 policy does not establish a deadline to replace cluster munitions exceeding the 1% rate and states that DOD “will retain cluster munitions currently in active inventories until the capabilities they provide are replaced with enhanced and more reliable munitions.”³²

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Founded on February 17, 1863, the ICRC is a neutral, independent organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for people affected by armed conflict and other violence. The ICRC assists States in achieving the humanitarian goals of the Convention, both through law and policy advocacy. They are also providing technical and financial support to initiatives that address weapon contamination in up to 50 countries. Additionally, the ICRC provides support to 323 facilities and projects to support the rehabilitation of persons with physical disabilities in 37 countries and territories.³³

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, for example, the UK, Germany and Sweden should be part of this bloc. Their goal is to prevent and limit the use of such weapons by implementing strict rules. Moreover, their aim is to launch and fund a lot of clearance initiatives as well as support and offer financial aid to countries recovering from such attacks. These countries should condemn the use of such weapons and pursue the implementation of consequences for their employment.

³¹ "RS22907." *Congressional Research Service*, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS22907>

³²Ibid

³³ "ICRC Statement: 'Any Use of Cluster Munitions, Anywhere, by Anyone, Must Be Condemned.'" *International Committee of the Red Cross*, [ICRC statement: "Any use of cluster munitions, anywhere, by anyone, must be condemned" | ICRC](#)

Bloc 2

This bloc should consist of countries that are still using cluster munitions/ have not signed the treaty. This Bloc should try to find mild solutions, that do not necessarily hinder the use of cluster munitions. Seeing as most of these countries have massive stockpiles of cluster munitions, they would rather avoid having them destroyed or taken away. Members of this bloc could, however, be willing to improve their cluster bombs to enhance their precision and thus minimize civilian casualties. Delegates of this bloc could include: the US, India, China

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
World War II (1939-1945) December 11th 1941	Entrance of the USA into WW2 on December 11, 1941. The first development and use of cluster munitions by the US.
Vietnam War (1964-1973)	Extensive use of cluster bombs by the United States in Southeast Asia, particularly in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
March 1999	NATO forces dropped 1,765 cluster bombs containing approximately 295,000 submunitions in Kosovo and the former Yugoslavia during the conflict.
2001-2002	The United States dropped 1,228 cluster bombs containing 248,056 submunitions in Afghanistan during the initial phase of the war.
March 31st, 2003	In a single day, U.S. cluster-munition attacks in Hilla killed at least ³⁴ 33 civilians and injured 109.
May 30th, 2008	The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was adopted, banning the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster bombs. The treaty was signed by 108 countries

³⁴ "U.S.: Hundreds of Civilian Deaths in Iraq Were Preventable." *Human Rights Watch*, [U.S.: Hundreds of Civilian Deaths in Iraq Were Preventable | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/05/30/iraq-cluster-bombs)

August 1st, 2010	The Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force, becoming legally binding for its signatories.
November 9th - 12th, 2010	The first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions was held in Laos, one of the countries most affected by unexploded cluster bomblets.
September 2014 - April 2022	The Yemen conflict saw significant use of cluster munitions by various parties, including reports of civilian casualties and unexploded submunitions.
November 23rd - 27th 2020:	The second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions was held, assessing progress over the past decade and reinforcing commitments to the treaty.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The Convention on Cluster Muniton (CCM)

The CCM³⁵ was entered into force on August 1, 2010. The Convention prohibits all use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. Its aim, enunciated in the Oslo Declaration, was a treaty prohibiting the use and stockpiling of “cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians” and securing care and rehabilitation to survivors and clearance of contaminated areas.³⁶ It has been signed by 123 countries and ratified by 112. States Parties pledge to properly execute the Convention, support its standards, and see to it that it is universalized. Its execution promotes international peace and security, human rights, and international humanitarian law in addition to helping accomplish the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The United States, China, Russia, India and Pakistan are examples of non-signatories. The underlying cause of this is that most of these countries are major producers and stockpilers of cluster bombs. Thus, their economy

³⁵ "2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions" *International Committee of the Red Cross*, [2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions | International Committee of the Red Cross \(icrc.org\)](https://www.icrc.org/en/document/convention-on-cluster-munitions)

³⁶ "Convention on Cluster Munitions." *United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law*, United Nations, <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ccm/ccm.html#:~:text=Its%20aim%2C%20enunciated%20in%20the%20Oslo%20Declaration%2C%20was, rehabilitation%20to%20survivors%20and%20clearance%20of%20contaminated%20areas.>

is heavily dependent on this type of weapon. Moreover, some of the non-signatory countries face an imminent threat of war. Banning a highly effective weapon is therefore not an option for them.

Resolution 70/54: “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”

Resolution 70/54,³⁷ adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2015, aims to urge more countries to join the CCM. By reaffirming its importance, expressing the General Assembly's disapproval regarding the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world, and deciding to include the topic in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament” and the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”, this Resolution is supposed to restrict countries from using these weapons even more.

Resolution 77/79: “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”

Resolution 77/79,³⁸ adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2022, is the most recent resolution on the topic of cluster munitions. Similar to resolution 70/54, its goal is to further urge all non-signatories to join this honorable cause, with clauses like those mentioned above. The next date where this topic is to be discussed is set to the General Assembly's seventy-eighth session.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Oslo Process

The Oslo Process³⁹ constitutes a diplomatic initiative launched by Norway in 2007 to create a legally binding instrument banning cluster munitions. It involved multiple international conferences and negotiations leading to the adoption of the CCM. It is considered an important milestone in humanitarian disarmament, seeing as its aim was to negotiate a treaty aiming to end the unacceptable harm caused by cluster munitions. Seeing as in less than two years, the ambitious goal of the Oslo

³⁷ "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions." *United Nations General Assembly*, United Nations, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/412/42/pdf/n1541242.pdf>

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ "Oslo Process - The Convention on Cluster Munitions." *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, <https://www.clusterconvention.org/oslo-process/#:~:text=In%20late%20February%202007%2C%2046%20States%20signed%20the,cluster%20munitions%20that%20cause%20unacceptable%20harm%20to%20civilians.%E2%80%9D>.

Declaration was achieved when 94 states signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions during the first week of December 2008 in Oslo, one could say that it was an efficient initiative.⁴⁰ While it is true that it has made significant strides in reducing the use and effects of these weapons, the process faces ongoing challenges, particularly in achieving universal adherence and ensuring effective implementation, seeing as key states, including the United States, Russia, China, and India, have not signed the CCM, limiting its global effectiveness. To increase and fortify the efficiency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, lobbying, and international collaboration must continue.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

Established in 1983, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons⁴¹ aims to restrict or prohibit the use of specific types of weapons deemed excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects. A major worldwide attempt to lessen the humanitarian impact of some conventional weapons is represented by it. Its framework's flexibility and adaptability enable it to handle a variety of weaponry and newly emerging problems. On the other hand, difficulties with participation, adherence, and the extent of prohibitions point to areas that need work.

On the topic of cluster munitions the CCW delivered disappointing results, seeing as it did not restrict the use of cluster munitions. Although a group of states initially sought to establish a new protocol banning cluster munitions in the CCW, years of negotiations in the consensus-based forum failed to produce such a protocol.⁴² This Convention was thus totally inefficient regarding this topic. The slow-moving CCW approach, however, prompted Norway to launch an alternative effort to negotiate a treaty on cluster munitions.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthen International Treaties and Agreements

⁴⁰Ibid

⁴¹ "The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons." *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*, <https://disarmament.unoda.org/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons#:~:text=The%20Convention%20on%20Prohibitions%20or%20Restrictions%20on%20the,CCW%2C%20is%20a%20key%20international%20humanitarian%20law%20instrument.>

⁴² "Cluster Munitions at a Glance." *Arms Control Association*, Jan. 2009, [https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009-01/countries-sign-cluster-munitions-convention.](https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009-01/countries-sign-cluster-munitions-convention)

The strengthening of international treaties and agreements refers to the establishment of new Agreements and Treaties with mutually agreed terms by all Member States. This would enable for a strong legal framework to be put into place, thus ensuring better legal mechanisms in regard to the prohibition of use of cluster munitions, but also accountability for the perpetrators. This solution would ensure the ban of the use and proliferation of cluster munitions.

Building Political Will

This solution focuses on rallying global support to ban cluster munitions. It places relevance on advocacy and diplomatic efforts as a solution to allow the world to view how disastrous the effects created are for the civilian population. The solution will also encourage states, international organizations, and civil societies to unite to convince those other states that have yet to sign the CCM. The political will would be further enhanced to create a stronger international consensus and ban these weapons of harm from all over the world, with better protection for civilians.

Development of Clearance Technologies

This solution under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) highlights how much better and more efficient ways to find and get rid of unexploded cluster munitions are needed. It asks for more investments to be made in research to come up with new clearance methods that work well and keep operators and local people safe. The solution also encourages governments, tech developers, and international groups to collaborate. By improving clearance technologies, the resolution aims to speed up the cleanup of dangerous areas, protect the lives of civilians, and bring back safe living conditions in places that have seen conflict.

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