



Amman-Al Quds Model United Nations  
نسخة الأمم المتحدة لعمان والقدس

## UNDC TOPIC 1

### **Strengthening the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Addressing Violations Through Punitive Measures.**

Cluster bombs are among the most deadly weapons of war, putting civilians to extreme and long-lasting injuries years after the conflict is over. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) becoming effective in 2008 was a major landmark in the campaign against the use, development, trade, and storage of the indiscriminate weapon. Despite growing numbers of states that have joined the Convention, abuses continue, especially in zones of lengthy or asymmetric conflict, where non-state actors and states alike are more concerned with strategic gain than with humanitarian obligations. In Yemen and Syria, for instance, cluster bombs have caused widespread civilian fatalities, a breach of international humanitarian law and moral norms of warfare in this day and age. Strengthening of the CCM is as much a matter of ethics as it is a matter of law and pertains to fundamental issues of global peace and dignity of human beings.

Ongoing use of cluster bomb capability reflects a fundamental failure to keep states in line with the CCM due to an interconnected combination of geopolitical interests, deficient verification measures, and divergent global commitment to the Convention. Most of the principal warring parties have not signed the CCM, indicating their quest for security autonomy and strategic interests. This is not only frustrating the international cluster bomb convention, but also encouraging others to ignore international norms. Moreover, the absence of severe punitive actions for breaches, whether it was political, economic, or judicial, has meant that the criminals are unpunished.

With increasing urbanized conflict, civilians are increasingly at risk, worsening the humanitarian crisis, and fueling displacement, poverty, and trauma for vulnerable groups. At the same time, advancing technology in weapons and manufacturing makes it more difficult for existing legal frameworks to keep up, necessitating ongoing re-adaptation and alertness from the international community.

This agenda item recalls questions regarding whether the international system is able to deliver justice and safeguard vulnerable individuals. At the heart of this matter is a challenge of world inequality: the worst cluster bomb victims are rarely the individuals using them.

Enforcement and penal argument should therefore be guided not only by law, but by a sense of justice, responsibility, and protecting the often voiceless—the civilians in war-torn and politically marginalized regions. In the debate over general disarmament, the question challenges representatives to think about whose voices are being represented in international security and what precisely it is to strive for a peace that is just, enforceable, and inclusive.