



## Convention on Cluster Munitions

### 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties

**Thank you Mr. vice President.**

The State of Palestine welcomes Mexico's and the Republic of Iraq presidency of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. We assure you of our delegation's full support.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit for its excellent preparation for this meeting;

**Mr. vice President,**

It is deeply deplorable that cluster munitions continue to be used to kill and injure innocent civilians. We call on all use, transfer and production of these weapons to cease immediately.

As we speak, the Israeli colonial power continues **its genocide in Gaza** and the most sustained and intense bombing campaign of a populated area in history, with the explicit stated intent to maximize destruction. More than 70 ,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza, equivalent in weight to four nuclear bombs of the kind dropped by the United States on Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War. The illegal occupying power has killed more than 41,000 Palestinian have been killed, 72% of whom are women and children, more than 94,800 injured and over 10,000 buried under the rubble. According to the UN reports, there are over 41 million tons of debris caused by United States-made weapons and those obtained by the occupying power from other countries. Additionally, 692 Palestinian including **158 children** killed and over 5,400 injured in the West-Bank.

Today , the early morning , the first day of our conference , one of the most horrific massacres since the beginning of the Israeli genocide on Gaza happened, at least 40 Palestinians have been killed and 60 wounded in an Israeli air strikes on so called " humanitarian zone " in southern Gaza 's al **Mawasi**, The strike targeted tents sheltering forcibly displaced Palestinians . Footage from the direct aftermath showed Palestinians desperately digging for their loved ones in the deep craters , " **entire families** " has " **disappeared** " **in the sand. At least five rockets fell in the area** , the strikes created craters up to nine meters deep, these 9 meters deep craters used to be a refugee camp , dozens of tents housing hundred of forcibly displaced people . **All gone.**

**What kind of bomb creates a 30 foot deep crater?** And what kind of illegal power uses such a bomb to attack a refugee camp filled with people displaced for the third or fourth time, after enduring 11 months of bombing massacres, starvation and disease ??

Israeli's use of internationally banned weapons in its attacks on the Gaza Strip is undermining our shared humanity. documented cases of injuries among Palestinian people in Gaza due to Israeli air strikes that are similar to those caused by the cluster bombs. In addition: There are bodies in Gaza that appear to **have evaporated or melted** as a result of Israeli bombing of homes.

Mr vice President ,

The State of Palestine acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2015, with the conviction that the universalization of disarmament conventions would strengthen the international disarmament and arms control regime, enhance compliance towards international humanitarian law, and improve accountability against all violations, including the use of weapons prohibited under international law. But the Ongoing Genocide demands a real stance on the effective implementation of the whole disarmament and arms control treaties.

The State of Palestine was the third State in the Middle East region to join this Convention after Lebanon and Iraq. We urge all States to accede to the Convention, which is considered to be an extension of IHL and is vital to the reduction of human suffering in the times of conflict.

We encourage the Coordination Committee to enter into a structured dialogue with States not Party to the Convention that are major producers and exporters of cluster munitions, relevant delivery systems, and relevant parts and components to accede to the Convention.

**Mr. vice President,**

As there are documented cases of Israel's current use of cluster munition in Gaza, we insist on the need for letting the support unit of the independent commission of inquiry to investigate the of cluster munitions in Gaza

We remind States Parties to the CCM that are aiding the Israeli Occupying power of their obligation under Article (1) (c) In the Convention, which provides that "Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:.. (c) Assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention". This assistance does not only include **providing weapons** that are prohibited themselves, but also providing any kind of assistance, **whether providing materials, technical and technological and even political assistance.**

**Mr. vice President,**

In closing, the State of Palestine remains fully committed to the International Law rules-based order, which we believe is critical for ensuring freedom, justice and peace for all.

