

Report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 78/31 on Youth Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Submission to Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament, and non-proliferation. Please note the maximum length for submissions is 500 words

In alignment with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/31, which underscores the vital role of youth in promoting sustainable peace and security, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL) has implemented a strategy to engage and empower young individuals in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Regarding the educational initiatives, the CCBL launched the "Yovenes Contra los Robots Asesinos" initiative in collaboration with Stop Killer Robots. This digital educational platform engaged over 100 youth across Latin America, focusing on the humanitarian, legal, and ethical implications of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Participants received tools on advocacy and created digital content for social media, contributing to broader awareness campaigns on disarmament and non-proliferation. The CCBL has also worked closely with multiple universities to create awareness between youth about the risks posed by weapons in a country who is in constant armed conflict like Colombia.

Also, as part of its youth engagement strategy, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL) also facilitated direct advocacy processes between its youth members and key political representatives in Colombia. These included constructive dialogues with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of Congress, and local authorities such as mayors and governors. Through meetings and public forums, young advocates presented disarmament proposals, emphasized the humanitarian consequences of weapons, and called for stronger national commitments to international treaties. Youth members of the CCBLs are also constantly participating in small grants proposals in all stages of the process (from design to executing resources).

In our attempt to strengthen international collaboration, the CCBL amplified youth voices in international forums of disarmament. At the 2024 (COP16) held in Cali, Colombia, a CCBL youth delegate collaborated with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and discussed the intersections between nuclear weapons, humanitarian impact, and climate action, which was broadcasted in national television. Additionally, CCBL youth representatives in collaboration with Control Arms contributed to the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT CSP10), addressing regional implications of arms transfers and the responsibilities of the firearms industry in Latin America.

CCBL's initiatives resonate with the objectives outlined in Resolution 78/31, particularly in promoting the meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in disarmament discussions. By fostering education, capacity-building, and active engagement, CCBL contributes to the realization of sustainable peace and security, as emphasized in the resolution.

Executive summary of your organization's submission. Please note the maximum length for submissions is 200 words.

- In alignment with UN General Assembly Resolution 78/31, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL) has engaged youth in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
- CCBL launched the "Jóvenes Contra los Robots Asesinos" initiative with Stop Killer Robots, educating over 100 Latin American youth on the humanitarian, legal, and ethical implications of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). The initiative empowered participants with advocacy tools and content creation skills, amplifying disarmament messages through social media and awareness campaigns. The CCBL Youth members also worked closely with universities in Bogotá, Colombia to raise awareness about the harm that weapons pose in a country in which armed conflict is still present.

- CCBL facilitated youth participation in international disarmament forums, including COP16 and ATT CSP10 in collaboration with organizaztions such as ICAN and Control Arms, where delegates addressed issues such as nuclear disarmament, climate impact, and regional arms trade dynamics.
- Through education, capacity-building, and international advocacy, CCBL reinforces Resolution 78/31's call for inclusive youth participation in promoting sustainable peace and security.