

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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14 September 2006

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**NOTE VERBALE DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 2006 FROM THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE  
ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A LETTER ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE PROPOSING  
FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE'S SESSION IN  
2007 THE SUBJECT OF THE USE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS  
AND PHOSPHORUS SHELLS BY ISRAEL AGAINST  
LEBANESE CIVILIANS**

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Syrian Mission requests that the letter be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

I am writing to you in response to your invitation to the delegations to the Conference on Disarmament to propose subjects for discussion at the 2007 session of the Conference.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic should like to propose the subject of Israel's use of cluster munitions and phosphorus bombs against Lebanese civilians during the Israeli war against Lebanon in July and August 2006.

The Israeli army has admitted to having made wide use of these weapons against Lebanese civilians. An Israeli army general told the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, on 12 September 2006, that the Israeli army had dropped around 1,800 cluster bombs containing over 1.2 million bomblets. Israeli soldiers confirm that the Israeli army used phosphorus shells during the war: the use of such shells is prohibited under international law.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that this matter be discussed under the agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments" and that the present letter be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Khalil Bitar  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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