

COMMITTEE: Disarmament

QUESTION OF: Ethical guidelines for the deployment of emerging autonomous weapons

SUBMITTED BY: United States of America

CO-SUBMITTED BY: United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil

SIGNATORIES: Ghana, France, El Salvador, Italy, Switzerland, India, Netherlands, Ecuador, Hungary, South Africa, Cuba, Egypt, Greece

The General Assembly,

Recognizes the confusion regarding the technical and legal definition of LAWS due primarily to the absence of a universally accepted definition, with only a few explanations provided by different organizations, and the lack of communication between countries,

Realizing the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and countering threats and challenges associated with the use of AI by others is one of the most critical strategic challenges of our time,

Acknowledged the benefits that Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) offers,

Puts forth that autonomous systems could be used to reduce risks and potential harm to civilians

- a. Autonomous weapons have the potential to reduce the number of noncombatant casualties and minimize collateral damage during warfare
- b. LAWS possess more objective viewpoints and can potentially prevent human errors in judgment,

Recognizes the eleven guiding principles contained in the reports adopted by the GGE, represent important areas of international consensus and provide an excellent basis from which to develop a normative and operational framework,

1. Endorses a universal definition of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) as a weapon system that can independently identify a target and make use of its weapon system, with the ability to engage and destroy a target without the need for manual human control of the system beyond its initial installation,
 - a. Distinguishes between fully and partially LAWS:
 - i. Fully LAWS imply a **total** absence of human supervision, wherein there exists no link (communication or control) with military chain of command; the system must then possess self-learning capabilities and the ability to select a target and initiate/modify an attack, including land mines,
 - ii. Partially LAWS encompass systems that possess the ability to select and attack targets within a framework defined by human operators; humans

can manually intervene in such systems at any time, including while on course for their designated target, this includes the use of autonomous missile defense systems that operate and fire without human intervention but can be overridden by a human operator before reaching its target,

- iii. Such a definition is universal in terms of the understanding by the expert community comprising scientists, engineers, technicians, military personnel, lawyers and ethicists,
 - iv. The punishment for using fully LAWS being labeling their use as a war crime and subjecting that corresponding nation with economic sanctions,
 - v. Ensure frequent and extensive tests and thorough oversight to ensure that partial LAWS function as intended and do not become erratic or disloyal due to unwanted advancement or development in AI,
 - vi. Ensure the initial design and development of these weapons be under the review of subcommittee to ensure their autonomy is only partial and, despite their autonomous features, their function is ultimately controlled by humans;
2. Requests that member states ensure transparency and accountability by providing periodical detailed reports on the development, testing, and deployment LAWS, including their intended use and safeguards to prevent misuse or unlawful action from being taken;
 3. Strongly condemns any use of fully lethal autonomous systems, whether for defense or offense and deems any such use as a war crime,
 - a. Permits the research and development of fully autonomous systems outside of the weapons industry, but *emphasizes* that no one, including private companies, can develop, sell, produce, or deploy their fully autonomous lethal weapons to governments or other private entities,
 - b. Demands economic sanctions from the UN DISEC fund on any nation or private company that deploys fully autonomous lethal weapons, including but not limited to, retribution to families of victim;
 4. Seeks to establish an overarching council to oversee and regulate the research, development, and legislation regarding the deployment of emerging autonomous weapons, under the Disarmament and International Security Committee,
 - a. Designates the responsibilities of such a committee as,
 - i. creating and updating regulations and guidelines on the deployment and design of autonomous weapons,
 - ii. handling violations of international law related to the use of autonomous weapons and recommending appropriate punishment, such as sanctions,

- iii. approving the design of newly created autonomous weapons to ensure they satisfy regulations and guidelines,
 - iv. conducts searches to ensure that fully autonomous weapons are not in use,
 - b. The sub-body will be funded by a contribution of 2.5% of the total annual value of nations' autonomous weapon contracts,
 - c. The makeup of a sub-committee will be as follows,
 - i. Ten long-term members, including an equal mix of high income and low income nations, they will be evaluated on a ten-year basis by the advisory panel and temporary members, the advisory panel and temporary members will also determine if the nation is fit to be on the sub-committee,
 - ii. Twenty short-term members are randomly selected on an annual basis from members of this committee,
 - iii. A multidisciplinary network of experts and various social activists groups (i.e. Human Rights Watch and Article 36) to work through the legal and ethical implications of autonomous weapons systems and to provide approval of the development of new technology,
 - d. Regulates the research and development of new technology and weapon systems,
 - i. Legal reviews of new weapons means and methods of warfare are crucial to determining whether a system can be used in compliance with IHL, meticulous and rigorous reviews will be conducted for new technologies, completed by the sub-council consisting of social activist groups and experts,
 - ii. Setting out high level unilateral policy frameworks for the intended use of autonomous systems, the characteristics of acceptable systems, and ethical development and operational practices,
 - iii. *Requests* that in the development of LAWS there should be established technical requirements for predictability and reliability (including in the algorithms used);
- 5. Implements constant human supervision and the ability to intervene and deactivate, for all partially autonomous weapons,
 - a. Establish requirements for meaningful human control over individual attacks,
 - i. A human operator, and others responsible for attack planning, need to have adequate contextual information on the target area of an attack, information on why any specific object has been suggested as a target for attack, information on mission objectives, information on the immediate and longer-term weapon effects that will be created from an attack in that context,
 - ii. Initiating the attack should require a positive action by a human operator,

- iii. Those responsible for assessing the information and executing the attack need to be accountable for the outcomes of the attack,
 - b. Utilizes Human Machine Teaming (HMT) to maintain common ground and communication between human and machine to achieve operational goals, the human operator must be trained by an expert in the field in order to fully understand the system and take regular aptitude tests and psychological evaluations to determine and assure competency,
 - c. Suggests that all autonomous weapons must have a form of manual override on the device to ensure that the weapon can be sufficiently controlled in the event of a malfunction in order to reduce the threat to life,
 - i. The manual override must have an authentication system: only the human operator can shut down the weapons in order to prevent unauthorized parties from gaining control of the weapon system,
 - ii. Verified humanitarian organizations, especially those included in the advisory panel, will be given the ability to manually override systems immediately upon the end of an armed conflict in order to prevent autonomous weapons from becoming abandoned but still active;
- 6. Urges nations to continue providing aid to veterans even if they are discharged in order to be replaced by autonomous units and to ensure that a portion of all nations reserve armies are still made up of soldiers.