SHANTI NIKETAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, BHADRA

in association with FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.

SNPS FAIRGAZE MUN 1.0

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations General Assembly

First Committee: Disarmament and International Security

DISEC

AGENDA

Addressing the implications of artificial intelligence in the military domain for international peace and security, with special emphasis on the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems

21–22 November 2026

Shanti Niketan Public School, Bhadra, District Hanumangarh, Rajasthan

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Use This Guide

This guide has been written for delegates who may be attending a Model United Nations (MUN) conference for the very first time. You do not need any previous MUN experience to read it, understand it and perform well in committee. Read it in the order given: Part I explains what an MUN is and how the United Nations works, Part II teaches the rules you will use in committee, Part III explains the agenda in depth, and Part IV shows you how to research and prepare.

- **Blue boxes** explain an idea in simple words.
- **Gold boxes** are practical tips for delegates.
- **Green boxes** contain key facts and figures you can quote in committee.
- **Red boxes** warn you about common mistakes.

Facts in this guide were checked against United Nations documents and other reliable sources as of October 2026. Diplomacy on this topic is moving quickly, so always confirm the latest developments yourself before the conference.

COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

Item	Details
Committee	United Nations General Assembly, First Committee: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)
Agenda	Addressing the implications of artificial intelligence in the military domain for international peace and security, with special emphasis on the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems
Members	All UN Member States allotted at the conference; each delegation has one vote
Outcome	A resolution adopted by a simple majority of Members present and voting
Dates	21–22 November 2026, four committee sessions
Venue	Shanti Niketan Public School, Bhadra, District Hanumangarh, Rajasthan

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our privilege to welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) at **SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0**. This is the first edition of a conference that brings the work of the United Nations to Bhadra, and you are among its very first delegates. Whether you have attended many conferences or this is your first, you are welcome here, and you will leave a more confident speaker and a sharper thinker.

Our agenda is one of the most important questions facing the world today: *Addressing the implications of artificial intelligence in the military domain for international peace and security, with special emphasis on the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems.* Machines that can find, choose and attack targets are no longer science fiction. Governments are building them, militaries are testing them, and diplomats are arguing about whether and how to control them. In November 2026, the very month of our conference, the States parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons meet in Geneva for their Seventh Review Conference, where the future of these talks will be decided. You will be debating a question that real diplomats are debating at the same time.

This guide is your starting point, not your finishing line. It explains the rules of procedure, the history of the issue, the legal questions and the positions of different countries. Your task is to go further: to discover what *your* country believes, why it believes it, and what it would be willing to agree to. The best delegates are not those who speak the loudest, but those who listen carefully, negotiate in good faith and write solutions that others are willing to sign.

Please remember that in committee you represent your allotted country, not your personal opinion. You may be asked to defend a position you personally disagree with. That is the real skill of diplomacy, and it is what makes MUN such a valuable experience.

Free pre-conference training will be held in the first week of November 2026. Come with questions. We look forward to an informed, respectful and lively debate.

With warm regards,

The Executive Board
UNGA First Committee (DISEC)
SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0

PART I

Understanding Model United Nations

What an MUN is, and how the real United Nations works

1. What is a Model United Nations?

A Model United Nations is an educational simulation of the United Nations. Each student becomes a **delegate** who represents a country (called a **portfolio**) in a UN committee. Delegates research their country's views, give speeches, debate, form alliances, negotiate and finally write and vote on a **resolution**, which is the formal document in which the committee records what it has agreed, exactly as real diplomats do in New York and Geneva.

MUN conferences began in universities in the United States in the mid-twentieth century and are now held in schools across the world. In India they have become one of the most respected co-curricular activities, because they build skills that classrooms alone rarely develop: public speaking, research, negotiation, teamwork and clear formal writing.

Who is who in committee

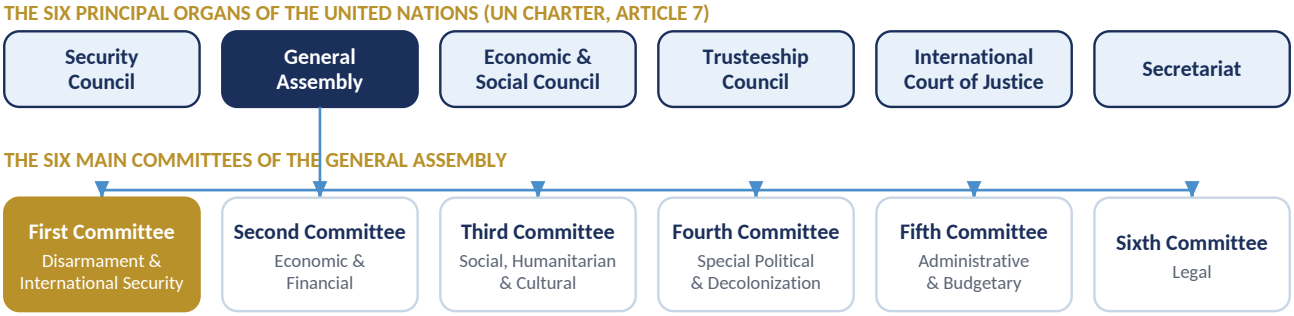
Role	What they do
Delegate	Represents a country. Speaks, negotiates, drafts documents and votes according to that country's policy.
Executive Board (EB)	Chairs the committee: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur. They keep order, apply the rules, recognise speakers and evaluate delegates.
Secretariat	The organisers of the whole conference, led by the Secretary-General. They manage logistics, schedules and the overall conduct of the conference.
Pages / Volunteers	Carry chits (written notes) between delegates and help the committee run smoothly.

IN SIMPLE WORDS

Think of MUN as a mini United Nations in your school auditorium. You are not playing a character in a play; you are doing the real work of a diplomat: understanding a problem, speaking for your country and persuading others to agree on a solution.

2. The United Nations in Brief

The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945, after the Second World War, when its founding Charter entered into force. Its first purpose, set out in Article 1 of the **Charter of the United Nations**, is "to maintain international peace and security." Today it has **193 Member States**. The Charter created six principal organs, shown below. Your committee is part of the General Assembly, the only organ in which every Member State is represented with an equal vote.



Your committee: the First Committee (DISEC), where all 193 Member States sit with one vote each.

Figure 1. Where DISEC sits within the United Nations system.

3. The General Assembly and its First Committee

The **General Assembly** is the main deliberative body of the United Nations. Under **Article 11** of the Charter it may consider "the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments," and make recommendations to Member States and to the Security Council. Because the Assembly has so much work, it divides it among six Main Committees.

The **First Committee**, known in MUN as **DISEC**, deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community, and seeks solutions to challenges in the international security regime. It meets every year in October and November in New York and considers dozens of draft resolutions on nuclear weapons, conventional arms, outer space, cyber security and, since 2023, autonomous weapons and military artificial intelligence. Drafts approved by the First Committee go to the full General Assembly for final adoption.

What DISEC can do	What DISEC cannot do
Discuss any disarmament or security question and recommend action to all States	Impose sanctions, authorise the use of force or deploy peacekeepers (these belong to the Security Council)
Request reports from the UN Secretary-General and convene meetings, consultations or conferences	Make its recommendations legally binding on Member States
Encourage negotiations on new treaties and endorse existing ones	Negotiate a treaty on behalf of States that do not wish to join it
Recommend confidence-building measures, transparency and capacity-building	Overrule decisions taken in other forums such as the CCW

DELEGATE TIP: STAY WITHIN THE MANDATE

A DISEC resolution that "imposes sanctions" or "deploys UN troops" is outside the committee's powers. Use verbs that fit a General Assembly body: *recommends*, *calls upon*, *encourages*, *requests the Secretary-General*, *decides to convene*, *invites*.

PART II

Rules of Procedure

How debate is run at SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0

Every MUN committee follows a set of rules of procedure so that debate is fair and orderly. The rules below are those followed at SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0. They are based on the procedure commonly used at school conferences in India. The Executive Board may interpret or adjust them where needed, and its decision is final.

4. The Flow of Committee

Most committee sessions follow the order shown below. Do not worry about memorising it now: the Executive Board will guide the committee through each stage.

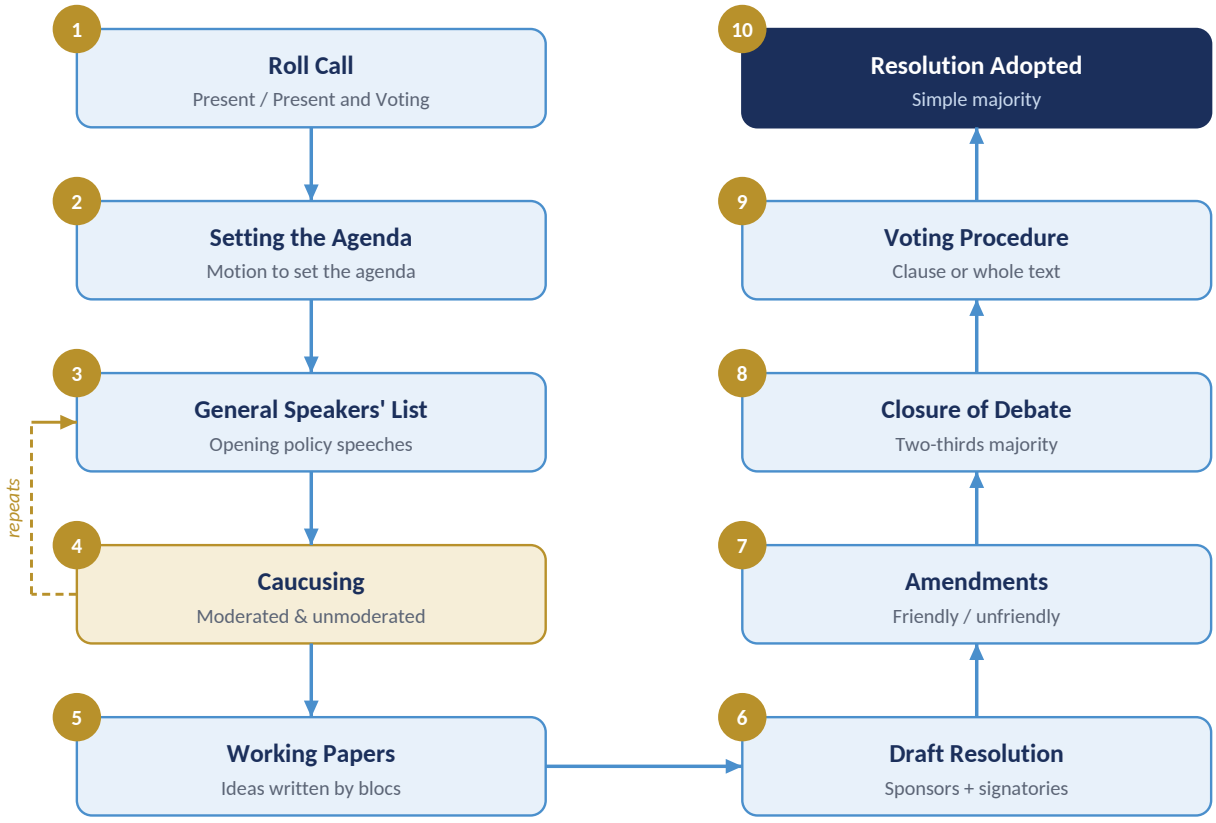


Figure 2. The usual flow of a DISEC session, from roll call to the adopted resolution.

5. Stages of Debate

5.1 Roll call

At the start of each session the Chair reads out the names of all countries. Delegates raise their placards and reply **"Present"** or **"Present and Voting."** A delegate who says "Present and Voting" gives up the right to abstain on substantive votes and must vote either for or against. The roll call also establishes **quorum**, the minimum number of delegates needed for the committee to work, usually one-third of members to begin debate.

5.2 Setting the agenda

Since DISEC has a single agenda, a delegate simply raises a *motion to set the agenda* to the topic in this guide. It passes by a simple majority.

5.3 General Speakers' List (GSL)

The GSL is the backbone of debate. Delegates who wish to speak are added to a list, and each speaks in turn for a set time, usually 60 to 90 seconds. The first GSL speech is your **opening speech**: it presents your country's position. The GSL stays open throughout committee; when no motion is on the floor, debate returns to it. If time remains at the end of a GSL speech, the speaker must **yield** it:

Yield	What happens
Yield to the Chair	The remaining time is given back to the Executive Board. This is the most common yield.
Yield to another delegate	Another delegate uses the remaining time. They cannot yield it again.
Yield to Points of Information	Other delegates may ask the speaker questions about the speech, as many as the time allows.

5.4 Moderated caucus

A moderated caucus is a focused debate on one sub-topic, for example *"Accountability for attacks by autonomous weapons."* A delegate proposes it with a total time, a time per speaker and a topic. If the motion passes, the Chair calls on speakers one by one. Moderated caucuses keep debate specific and fast-moving.

5.5 Unmoderated caucus

During an unmoderated caucus, formal debate is suspended. Delegates leave their seats, talk freely, form blocs and write working papers. This is where most negotiation happens. Use it well: find allies, share ideas and draft clauses together.

> **EXAMPLE MOTIONS, EXACTLY AS YOU WOULD SAY THEM**
>
> **Moderated caucus:** "The delegate of Brazil would like to raise a motion for a moderated caucus of 10 minutes, with 1 minute per speaker, on the topic 'Defining meaningful human control.'"
>
> **Unmoderated caucus:** "The delegate of Japan would like to raise a motion for an unmoderated caucus of 15 minutes to begin drafting working papers."

6. Points and Motions

Points are requests a delegate makes to the Chair. **Motions** are proposals that the committee does something, and most are put to a vote. Delegates raise their placard and wait to be recognised.

Point	When to use it	Can it interrupt a speaker?
Point of Personal Privilege	You cannot hear the speaker, the room is too cold, or you are personally uncomfortable.	Yes, only if it concerns audibility
Point of Order	You believe the rules of procedure have been applied incorrectly.	No
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	You have a question about the rules or what is happening in committee.	No
Point of Information	You wish to ask another delegate a question about their speech.	No; only when the speaker yields to points

Motion	What it does	Vote needed
Set the agenda	Begins debate on the agenda topic	Simple majority

Motion	What it does	Vote needed
Moderated caucus	Focused debate on a sub-topic with set speaking time	Simple majority
Unmoderated caucus	Informal negotiation and drafting time	Simple majority
Extend the caucus	Adds time to the current caucus (usually not more than half the original time)	Simple majority
Introduce a working paper or draft resolution	Presents a document formally to the committee	Simple majority, at the Chair's discretion
Divide the question	Votes on operative clauses separately	Simple majority
Close debate	Ends debate and moves the committee into voting	Two-thirds majority
Suspend the meeting	Pauses committee for a break or lunch	Simple majority
Adjourn the meeting	Ends the session for the day or the conference	Simple majority

6.1 Right of Reply

If a delegate's speech insults the national integrity of your country, you may send a written request for a **Right of Reply** to the Chair. If the Chair grants it, you may respond briefly. A Right of Reply to a Right of Reply is not allowed.

6.2 Chits

Chits are short written notes passed through the pages. Use them to contact allies, invite delegates to join a bloc or ask the Executive Board a question. All chits must be in English, relevant to committee and diplomatic in tone.

COMMON FIRST-TIMER MISTAKES

- Speaking in the first person ("I think"). Always use the third person: *"The delegate of Kenya believes..."*
- Speaking for yourself instead of your country. Your personal opinion does not matter in committee; your country's policy does.
- Interrupting a speaker. Only a Point of Personal Privilege about audibility may interrupt.
- Using laptops or phones without the Executive Board's permission.

7. Documents of Committee



Figure 3. The life of a resolution in committee.

7.1 Working papers

A working paper is an informal document that sets out a bloc's ideas. It has no fixed format and can include bullet points, tables or proposed clauses. Working papers help the committee see which ideas have support. They are introduced to the committee with the Chair's approval.

7.2 Draft resolutions

A draft resolution is a formal document written in the format of a real UN resolution. It needs **sponsors** (the main authors, usually two to five countries, who must support the document) and **signatories** (countries that wish to see it debated but need not agree with all of it). The Executive Board sets the minimum number of signatories. Once approved by the Chair, it is introduced, read out and debated.

7.3 Amendments

An amendment adds, removes or changes an **operative** clause. A **friendly amendment** is accepted by all sponsors and is added without a vote. An **unfriendly amendment** is not supported by all sponsors and must be voted on by the committee. Preambulatory clauses cannot be amended.

7.4 Voting

Once debate is closed, the doors are sealed and no one may enter or leave. Each draft resolution is voted on in the order it was introduced. Delegates vote **Yes**, **No** or **Abstain** (unless they declared "Present and Voting"). A draft resolution passes with a **simple majority** of members present and voting, which follows the practice of the real General Assembly committees. Abstentions do not count as votes cast.

8. How to Write a Resolution

A resolution is one long sentence. It begins with the name of the committee, continues with **preambulatory clauses** that explain the background and reasons, and ends with **operative clauses** that say what the committee will actually do.

Part	Rules	Example
Heading	Committee, agenda, sponsors and signatories	*Committee: UNGA First Committee; Sponsors: …; Signatories: …*
Preambulatory clauses	Begin with an *italicised* phrase; end with a comma; are not numbered; cannot be amended	*Recalling* its resolution 80/57 of 1 December 2025,
Operative clauses	Begin with an underlined verb; are numbered; end with a semicolon; the last ends with a full stop	1. Calls upon all States to conduct legal reviews of new weapons;

Preambulatory phrases
Acknowledging, Affirming, Alarmed by, Aware of, Bearing in mind, Concerned by, Convinced, Deeply concerned, Determined, Emphasizing, Expressing concern, Fully aware, Guided by, Having considered, Mindful of, Noting with concern, Observing, Reaffirming, Recalling, Recognizing, Seeking, Stressing, Taking into account, Underlining, Welcoming

Operative phrases
Affirms, Calls upon, Condemns (Security Council language; use carefully), Decides, Declares accordingly, Encourages, Endorses, Invites, Notes, Proposes, Recommends, Reminds, Requests, Requests the Secretary-General to, Stresses, Supports, Takes note of, Transmits, Trusts, Urges, Welcomes

Sample clauses on our agenda

The clauses below show the style. They are examples only and do not represent any country's position.

Recalling its resolutions 78/241 of 22 December 2023, 79/62 of 2 December 2024 and 80/57 of 1 December 2025 on lethal autonomous weapons systems,

Reaffirming that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, applies to all weapons systems, including those with autonomous functions,

Deeply concerned by the possible negative consequences of autonomous weapons systems for global security, including the risk of an emerging arms race and of lowering the threshold for conflict,

1. Calls upon all States to ensure that the use of force remains subject to context-appropriate human judgement and control, so that responsibility and accountability are always retained by humans;

2. Encourages the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to use the Seventh Review Conference to agree a mandate for further work on an instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to support capacity-building for developing countries so that all States can take part fully in these discussions.

9. The Position Paper

A position paper is a one-page summary of your country's views on the agenda, usually submitted before the conference. It shows the Executive Board that you have researched well. The Organising Committee will share the format and deadline with registered delegates. A strong position paper usually has four short sections:

1. **Background:** the problem in two or three sentences, in your own words.
2. **International action:** what the UN and other forums have done, with document numbers.
3. **Your country's policy:** how your country has voted and what it has said, with evidence.
4. **Proposed solutions:** two to four concrete ideas your country would support in a resolution.

> **DELEGATE TIP**
> Write your position paper first. It will become the basis of your opening speech, your arguments in caucuses and the clauses you contribute to a draft resolution.

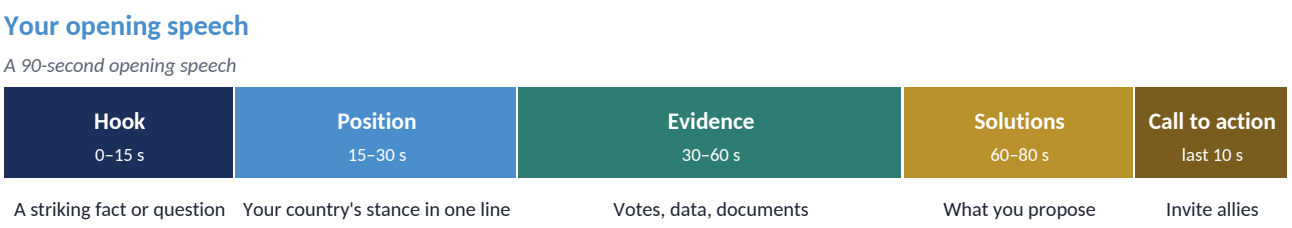


Figure 4. A simple structure for a strong first speech on the General Speakers' List.

10. Committee Etiquette and Diplomatic Language

Diplomacy depends on respect. The Executive Board evaluates not only what you say but how you say it. Follow these simple rules of decorum throughout the conference:

- Address the Chair as *"Honourable Chair"* or *"Madam/Mister Chair"* and other delegates as *"the delegate of [country]"*.
- Speak only when recognised by the Chair, and stand when you speak unless asked otherwise.
- Never criticise another delegate personally. Disagree with a policy, not a person.
- Use formal English. Avoid slang, jokes about other countries and offensive language.
- Follow the dress code shared by the Organising Committee and keep your placard and badge with you at all times.

Instead of saying...	Say...
"I think China is wrong."	"The delegate of India respectfully disagrees with the delegate of China on this point."
"That makes no sense."	"Could the delegate clarify how this proposal would work in practice?"
"We want a ban."	"The Republic of Austria calls for a legally binding instrument prohibiting weapons that operate without meaningful human control."
"Join our group."	"The delegation of Kenya invites all like-minded delegations to work together on a joint working paper."

Your two days in committee

SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0 has four committee sessions. The Executive Board decides the pace, but committees usually move through these stages:

Session	Time	What usually happens	Your goal
Session 1	Day 1, 11:30 AM–2:00 PM	Roll call, setting the agenda, opening speeches on the GSL, first moderated caucuses	Deliver a clear opening speech and note who agrees with you
Session 2	Day 1, 2:30–4:00 PM	Moderated and unmoderated caucuses on sub-topics; blocs begin to form	Join or lead a bloc and start a working paper
Session 3	Day 2, 9:45 AM–12:30 PM	Working papers merge into draft resolutions; drafts are introduced and debated	Contribute clauses and gather signatories
Session 4	Day 2, 1:00–3:00 PM	Amendments, closure of debate and voting	Defend your clauses and vote according to your country's policy

Timings follow the tentative conference itinerary and may change.

HOW DELEGATES ARE USUALLY EVALUATED

- **Research and knowledge:** accurate facts, correct use of documents and a clear understanding of the agenda.
- **Speeches and points:** clarity, structure, confidence and relevance on the GSL and in caucuses.
- **Diplomacy:** staying in your country's policy, building alliances and negotiating respectfully.
- **Documentation:** meaningful contributions to working papers, draft resolutions and amendments.
- **Participation and conduct:** regular involvement throughout all four sessions and respect for the rules.

PART III

Understanding the Agenda

Artificial intelligence, autonomy and the future of armed conflict

11. Introduction to the Agenda

Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing almost every part of human life, from medicine and banking to farming and education. It is also changing how wars may be fought. Militaries use AI to analyse satellite images, predict when equipment will fail, defend ships against missiles, guide drones and help commanders make decisions faster than ever before.

The most debated development is the **lethal autonomous weapons system (LAWS)**, sometimes called a "killer robot" by campaigners. Put simply, it is a weapon that, once switched on, can find, choose and attack a target without a human deciding each attack. Supporters say such systems could be more precise than tired or frightened soldiers and could protect a country's own troops. Critics say that a machine should never make a life-and-death decision, that such weapons may not be able to obey the laws of war, and that no one can be held responsible when something goes wrong.

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has called LAWS "politically unacceptable and morally repugnant." In his 2023 *New Agenda for Peace* he recommended that States conclude, by 2026, a legally binding instrument to prohibit autonomous weapons that function without human control or oversight and cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law, and to regulate all other types. This is the central question before DISEC: **should these weapons be banned, regulated, or left to existing law, and who should decide?**

> **KEY FACT**
> In December 2025 the General Assembly adopted resolution 80/57 on lethal autonomous weapons systems by **164 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions**, and resolution 80/58 on artificial intelligence in the military domain by **167 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions**. Both topics are now firmly on the UN's agenda.

12. Key Terms Explained

Term	Meaning in simple words
Artificial intelligence (AI)	Computer systems that perform tasks that normally need human intelligence, such as recognising images, understanding language, predicting outcomes or making decisions. There is no single agreed international definition.
Machine learning	A type of AI that learns patterns from large amounts of data instead of following only fixed, hand-written rules. Its decisions can be hard to explain, which is called the *black box* problem.
Autonomy	The ability of a system to carry out tasks without continuous human direction. Autonomy is a matter of degree, not a yes-or-no quality.
Critical functions	The functions of *selecting* and *attacking* a target. Autonomy in these functions is what makes a weapon an autonomous weapon.

Term	Meaning in simple words
Lethal autonomous weapons system (LAWS)	No agreed definition exists. The ICRC describes autonomous weapons as systems that select and apply force to targets without human intervention. The 2026 CCW expert text describes a system that, once activated, can identify, select and engage a target without further human intervention.
Meaningful human control	The idea, supported by many States, that humans must keep enough understanding and control over a weapon to be morally and legally responsible for its effects. Some States prefer the phrase *context-appropriate human judgement and control*.
Loitering munition	A weapon that flies over an area, searches for a target and then strikes it, often by crashing into it.
Decision-support system	AI software that helps humans analyse information and choose courses of action, including targets, without itself firing a weapon.
Dual-use technology	Technology with both civilian and military uses. Most AI is dual-use, which makes control difficult.
International humanitarian law (IHL)	The laws of war, mainly the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, which limit how wars may be fought in order to protect civilians.

Levels of human involvement

Experts often describe autonomy by asking where the human stands in relation to the decision to use force, or the *loop*:

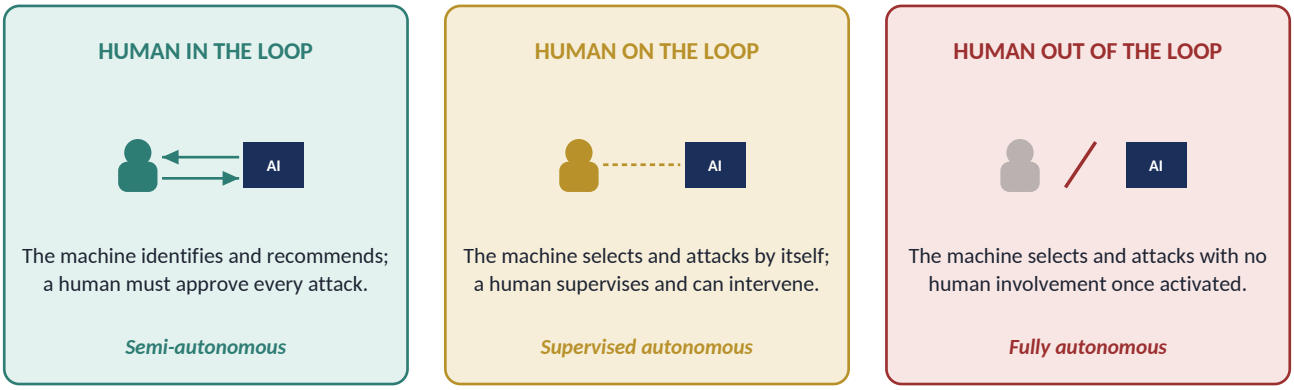


Figure 5. Human in, on and out of the loop. Most debate concerns systems on the right of this diagram.

13. How AI is Used in the Military Domain

Not all military AI is a weapon. The UN Secretary-General's 2025 report on AI in the military domain (A/80/78) notes that military and security uses range from weapons to logistics, maritime security, counter-terrorism and border security. The main areas are:

Area	Examples	Main concern
Intelligence and surveillance	Analysing satellite, drone and radar data; recognising objects in images	Errors and bias in identifying people and objects
Decision support and targeting	Recommending targets, predicting enemy movements, planning operations	Humans may trust the machine too much (*automation bias*)
Uncrewed and autonomous systems	Aerial drones, uncrewed ships and ground vehicles, swarms of small drones	Removing humans from attack decisions
Air and missile defence	Systems that automatically detect and intercept incoming rockets and missiles	Mistaken engagement of friendly or civilian aircraft

Area	Examples	Main concern
Cyber operations	Detecting and responding to cyberattacks at machine speed	Rapid, unintended escalation
Logistics and maintenance	Predicting equipment failure, managing supplies, training simulations	Generally low risk; mostly non-lethal
Command and control, including nuclear	Early warning and data fusion for senior commanders	Speed and errors in the most dangerous decisions of all

THINK ABOUT IT

Many States have said that the decision to use nuclear weapons must always remain with humans. In November 2024 the leaders of the United States and China affirmed the need to maintain human control over the decision to use nuclear weapons. Should DISEC encourage every nuclear-armed State to make the same commitment?

14. Historical Timeline

Discussions on autonomous weapons at the United Nations began more than a decade ago. The timeline below shows the most important milestones. Gold markers show General Assembly decisions and other turning points.



Figure 6. Key milestones in the international debate on LAWS and military AI.

15. The International Legal Framework

No treaty specifically bans or regulates autonomous weapons today. However, these weapons are not used in a legal vacuum. Almost all States agree that existing international law applies to them. The disagreement is about whether existing law is enough.

14.1 The Charter of the United Nations

Article 2(4) prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. **Article 51** recognises the inherent right of self-defence if an armed attack occurs. Any use of an autonomous weapon must respect these rules, just like any other weapon.

14.2 International humanitarian law

IHL applies during armed conflict. Its core principles create the hardest tests for autonomous weapons:

Principle	What it requires	The challenge for autonomous weapons
Distinction	Attacks may be directed only at combatants and military objectives, never at civilians.	Can a machine tell a soldier from a civilian, or a soldier who is surrendering or wounded?
Proportionality	Expected civilian harm must not be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.	This is a judgement about values. Can it be turned into computer code?
Precaution	Those who plan attacks must take all feasible precautions to avoid or minimise civilian harm.	Can a human take precautions for an attack whose exact time and place they do not know?
Humanity and the Martens Clause	Where no specific rule exists, people remain protected by the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience.	Many argue that delegating killing to machines offends the dictates of public conscience.

14.3 Legal reviews of new weapons

Article 36 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the Geneva Conventions requires each State party to determine whether a new weapon, means or method of warfare would be prohibited by international law. Many States argue that strong national weapons reviews are the best way to deal with autonomy, while others reply that few States carry out such reviews and that reviewing a learning system that can change its behaviour is very difficult.

14.4 Human rights and accountability

International human rights law, including the right to life and the right to dignity, applies at all times, including in policing and border control, where autonomous systems could also be used. A further problem is the **accountability gap**: if an autonomous weapon kills civilians, who is responsible? The commander, the programmer, the manufacturer or the State? International criminal law is built on the responsibility of individual humans, and a machine cannot be put on trial.

16. The United Nations and Multilateral Response

15.1 The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

The CCW, adopted in 1980, restricts or bans weapons considered to cause unnecessary suffering or to affect civilians indiscriminately. Its Protocol IV, adopted in 1995, banned blinding laser weapons *before* they were ever used in battle, an example often cited by those who want a pre-emptive ban on LAWS. Since 2014 the CCW has been the main forum for the debate. Its **Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)**, which first met in 2017, works by **consensus**, which means that a single State can block an outcome.

In 2019 the GGE agreed 11 Guiding Principles, including that IHL applies fully to all weapons systems and that human responsibility for decisions on the use of weapons must be retained. In 2023 States gave the GGE a mandate until 2026 to formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument. From late 2025 the Chair, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch of the Netherlands, worked from a “rolling text” organised in five “boxes” covering a definition, the application of IHL, specific obligations including human judgement and control, bias and understanding of systems, and other provisions. The GGE adopted its final report on 5 September 2026. Human Rights Watch reported that 76 States had by then backed moving to negotiations, while some major

military powers resisted parts of the text. The CCW **Seventh Review Conference** in November 2026 will decide what comes next.

15.2 The General Assembly

Frustrated by the slow, consensus-based CCW process, a group of States led by Austria brought the issue to the General Assembly. The Assembly's resolutions do not replace the CCW, but they allow every Member State, including those not party to the CCW, to take part and to vote.

Resolution	Adopted	Vote (yes–no–abstain)	What it did
78/241 Lethal autonomous weapons systems	22 Dec 2023	152–4–11	First UNGA resolution on LAWS; asked the Secretary-General for a report on States' views (issued as A/79/88)
79/62 Lethal autonomous weapons systems	2 Dec 2024	166–3–15	Convened two days of open informal consultations in New York in 2025
79/239 AI in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security	24 Dec 2024	159–2–5	First UNGA resolution on military AI generally; affirmed that international law applies throughout the AI life cycle; requested a report (A/80/78)
80/57 Lethal autonomous weapons systems	1 Dec 2025	164–6–7	Called on CCW States to complete the elements of an instrument, with a view to future negotiations
80/58 AI in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security	1 Dec 2025	167–5–5	Decided to hold three days of informal exchanges in Geneva in 2026 and to keep the item on the agenda of the 81st session

Vote totals are as recorded in the UN Digital Library. Check the voting record of your country for each resolution.

15.3 Other initiatives

- **The Secretary-General and the ICRC:** on 5 October 2023 they jointly urged States to negotiate, by 2026, a legally binding instrument with clear prohibitions and restrictions.
- **REAIM Summits:** the summits on Responsible AI in the Military Domain, held in The Hague (2023) and Seoul (2024), produced a Call to Action and a Blueprint for Action on responsible military AI.
- **Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy:** launched by the United States in 2023 and endorsed by a large group of States, it sets out non-binding best practices.
- **Regional statements:** Latin American and Caribbean States (Belén Communiqué, 2023), CARICOM (2023) and ECOWAS States (Freetown Communiqué, 2024) called for a legally binding instrument.
- **Vienna Conference (2024):** Austria hosted "Humanity at the Crossroads," which called for urgent action on autonomous weapons.
- **Wider AI governance:** the Pact for the Future (2024) and the work of the UN on an independent scientific panel and global dialogue on AI show growing concern over AI risks in general.

17. Case Studies

Case study 1: Libya, 2020

The UN Panel of Experts on Libya reported in March 2021 (S/2021/229) that, during fighting in 2020, retreating forces were "hunted down and remotely engaged" by drones including the STM Kargu-2, a loitering munition that the Panel said was "programmed to attack targets without requiring data connectivity between the operator and the munition." The report attracted world attention as a possible first use of an autonomous

weapon in combat, although it remains unclear whether the weapon actually attacked without human direction. *Question for delegates:* how could the international community verify whether a weapon acted autonomously?

Case study 2: Drones in the war in Ukraine

Since 2022, both Russia and Ukraine have used very large numbers of drones. Because radio jamming often cuts the link between a drone and its operator, both sides have reportedly worked to give drones more autonomy, especially in the final stage of an attack. Many analysts see the conflict as a "testing ground" that is speeding up the development of autonomy. *Question for delegates:* does battlefield pressure make international rules more urgent, or harder to agree?

Case study 3: Automated air defence and automation bias

Air defence systems such as the Phalanx close-in weapon system have been able to engage incoming threats automatically for decades. During the 2003 Iraq war, Patriot missile batteries operating with a high level of automation mistakenly shot down a British and a United States aircraft. Investigations pointed to problems in identification and to operators trusting the system too readily. *Question for delegates:* what does meaningful human control require when decisions must be made in seconds?

Case study 4: AI decision-support in targeting

In 2024 investigative journalists reported that AI-based decision-support systems were used to generate large numbers of targets during the hostilities in Gaza. The Israeli military stated that such tools assist human analysts and that humans make targeting decisions. The reports started a global debate on whether systems that recommend targets, even when a human gives the final approval, need the same scrutiny as autonomous weapons. *Question for delegates:* is a human who approves a machine's recommendation in a few seconds truly in control?

18. Key Issues for Debate

Issue	Why it matters
Definition	Without an agreed definition it is hard to ban or regulate anything. Narrow definitions cover only fully autonomous systems that do not yet exist; broad ones may include defensive systems used for decades.
Human control	What level of human judgement and control is required, at which stage (design, deployment, use) and over which functions? Is "meaningful human control" the right standard?
Compliance with IHL	Can autonomous weapons respect distinction, proportionality and precaution? Should systems that cannot do so be prohibited outright?
Accountability	How can States and individuals be held responsible for the actions of autonomous systems, and how can victims obtain justice?
Arms race and escalation	Will fear that rivals are developing LAWS push every State to build them? Could machine-speed warfare lead to accidental escalation, including in the nuclear domain?
Proliferation	Cheap drones and open-source AI could put autonomous weapons in the hands of terrorist and other non-State armed groups. How can transfers be controlled?
Bias and reliability	AI trained on incomplete data may misidentify people because of their appearance, age, gender or disability. How can systems be tested and verified?
Innovation and dual use	Most AI research is civilian. How can rules be designed so that they do not prevent peaceful uses of AI, including by developing countries?
The digital divide	Most developing countries do not build military AI but could be affected by it. How can they take part equally in setting the rules?

19. Positions of Countries and Blocs

Country positions are complex and change over time. The descriptions below are broad starting points only. Every delegate must research their own country's official statements and voting record.

THE SPECTRUM OF POSITIONS IN THE DEBATE

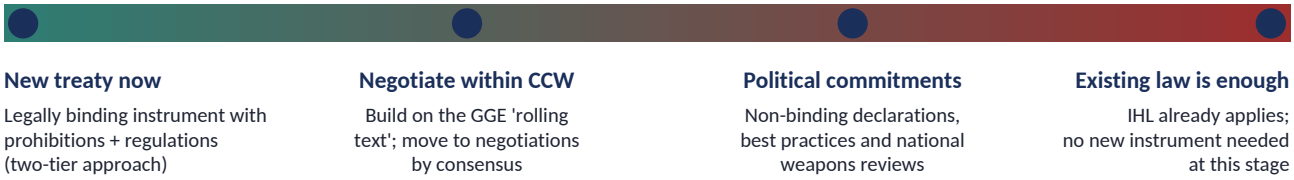


Figure 7. A simplified spectrum. Most States sit somewhere between these points.

Group	Examples	General view
Supporters of a new legally binding instrument	Austria, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Pakistan and many States of Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, supported by the ICRC and the UN Secretary-General	Favour a two-tier treaty: prohibit autonomous weapons that cannot be used with meaningful human control or that target people, and regulate all others. Many prefer to start negotiations soon, inside or outside the CCW.
European and allied middle powers	Many EU members, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada	Largely support a two-tier approach and the GGE rolling text, and prefer to keep the work inside the CCW. Positions differ on how binding the final outcome should be.
Major military powers favouring existing law	United States, Russian Federation, Israel	Argue that IHL already applies and that a new treaty is premature or would harm legitimate defence and innovation. The United States promotes non-binding best practices; the Russian Federation opposes new legal restrictions.
Distinctive positions	China, India and others	China has supported prohibiting “unacceptable” fully autonomous systems but uses a narrow definition and has abstained on the LAWS resolutions. India prefers the CCW as the forum and stresses technology access; it voted against 78/241, abstained on 79/62 and voted in favour of 80/57.

How major States voted on the General Assembly resolutions

State	78/241 (2023)	79/62 (2024)	80/57 (2025)	79/239 (2024)	80/58 (2025)
China	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
India	No	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Federation	No	No	No	No	No
United States	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Israel	Abstain	Abstain	No	Yes	No

Source: UN Digital Library voting records. The first three columns are LAWS resolutions; the last two are resolutions on AI in the military domain.

20. Questions a Resolution Must Answer

A strong resolution does not need to solve everything, but it should give clear answers to the most important questions. Use these to guide your research and your negotiations:

1. How should the international community define lethal autonomous weapons systems?
2. Should some autonomous weapons be prohibited outright? If so, which ones, for example those that target humans directly?
3. What does meaningful human control, or context-appropriate human judgement and control, require in practice?
4. Should the next step be negotiations on a legally binding instrument, a political declaration, or further discussion? In which forum?
5. How can the accountability gap be closed for States, commanders and manufacturers?
6. How can States make their weapons reviews and military AI policies more transparent and build trust with one another?
7. How can autonomous weapons be kept out of the hands of terrorists and other non-State armed groups?
8. How should the risk of escalation, especially involving nuclear command and control, be reduced?
9. How can developing countries be supported to take part fully, and how can peaceful uses of AI be protected?
10. What should DISEC ask the Secretary-General, the CCW or the next session of the General Assembly to do?

DELEGATE TIP: THINK IN SOLUTIONS

Possible ideas include a two-tier treaty, a moratorium on certain systems, national weapons reviews with shared best practices, confidence-building measures, a voluntary information-sharing mechanism, a capacity-building fund, and commitments to keep humans in control of nuclear launch decisions. Choose the ones your country would genuinely support.

Policy options at a glance

Option	What it means	Strengths and weaknesses
Two-tier legally binding treaty	Prohibit unacceptable systems; regulate all others with legal obligations	Strong and clear, but major military powers may refuse to join
Negotiations within the CCW	Turn the GGE rolling text into an instrument at or after the Review Conference	Includes military powers, but consensus allows any State to block
Negotiations outside the CCW	A stand-alone treaty process open to all willing States, as was done for landmines and cluster munitions	Faster, but may not include the States that build these weapons
Political declaration	Non-binding commitments and best practices	Easier to agree, but not enforceable
Moratorium	A temporary halt on developing or using certain systems	Buys time, but is hard to verify
Transparency and confidence-building	Sharing national policies, weapons-review practices and incidents	Builds trust, but does not limit weapons
Capacity-building	Funding and training so developing countries can take part	Widens participation, but needs donors

PART IV

Research and Preparation

How to research your country and the agenda

21. How to Research the Agenda

Good research is the single most important thing that separates strong delegates from the rest. Follow these seven steps:

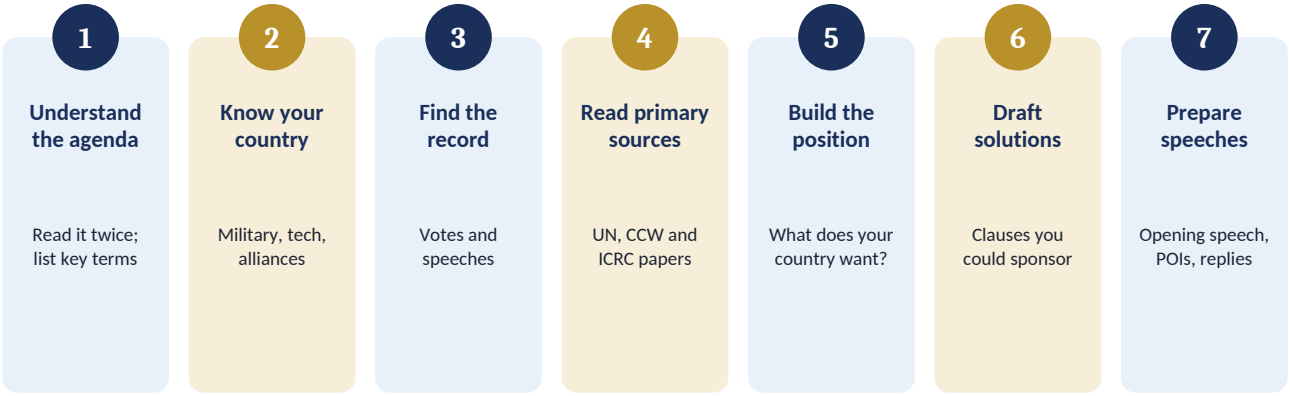


Figure 8. Seven steps from a blank page to a confident first speech.

Step-by-step guidance

1. **Start with this guide.** Read it once quickly and once slowly. Write down every term you do not understand and look it up.
2. **Profile your country.** Is it a major military power, a technology producer or a country that buys weapons? Is it a party to the CCW? Which alliances or groups does it belong to, such as NATO, the African Union, ASEAN, the Non-Aligned Movement or the European Union?
3. **Find the voting record.** Search the UN Digital Library for resolutions 78/241, 79/62, 80/57, 79/239 and 80/58 and open the "Voting data" for each. Note how your country voted.
4. **Read what your country has said.** Look for its statements at the First Committee, the CCW GGE and the 2025 informal consultations. Reaching Critical Will and the UNODA Documents Library publish many of these.
5. **Read the primary documents.** Read the Secretary-General's reports A/79/88 and A/80/78, especially the views of your own country in their annexes.
6. **Write down your country's red lines.** What will it never accept? What does it want most? Where could it compromise?
7. **Prepare your material.** Write your position paper, a 90-second opening speech, two or three moderated caucus topics and some draft clauses.

WHERE TO FIND YOUR COUNTRY'S VIEW QUICKLY

The annexes of the Secretary-General's report **A/79/88** (2024) contain written submissions from many Member States on lethal autonomous weapons systems, and the annex of **A/80/78** (2025) contains submissions on AI in the military domain. If your country made a submission, it is the clearest statement of its official policy.

22. Official Sources and Reference Pointers

Use official and reliable sources first. Search engines and AI chatbots are useful for getting started, but always check the facts against an original document before you quote them in committee.

Source	What you will find	Web address
UN Digital Library	All UN resolutions, reports and voting records; search by document symbol, for example A/RES/80/57	digitallibrary.un.org
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)	Background on LAWS and the CCW, and the official Documents Library	disarmament.unoda.org docs-library.unoda.org
UN Meetings Coverage	Daily summaries of First Committee meetings, including what each country said	press.un.org
UN Web TV	Video of First Committee and General Assembly meetings	webtv.un.org
Charter of the United Nations	The full text of the Charter	un.org/en/about-us/un-charter
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	The ICRC position on autonomous weapon systems (2021) and IHL databases	icrc.org
UNIDIR	Research by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research on AI and autonomy	unidir.org
SIPRI	Research and data on military technology and arms from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	sipri.org
Reaching Critical Will	Statements, reports and daily summaries of First Committee and CCW meetings	reachingcriticalwill.org
Arms Control Association	News and analysis on arms control negotiations	armscontrol.org
Ministry of External Affairs, India	India's official statements and policies, a model for finding any country's foreign ministry website	mea.gov.in

HOW TO JUDGE A SOURCE

- **Official UN and government documents** are the most reliable evidence of a country's position. Quote them by their document symbol.
- **Research institutes** such as UNIDIR, SIPRI and the ICRC are reliable for facts and analysis.
- **Advocacy groups** such as the Stop Killer Robots campaign and Human Rights Watch provide useful information but argue for a particular outcome. Use them, but say who they are.
- **News reports** are useful for recent events. Prefer well-known outlets and check whether facts are confirmed.
- **Wikipedia, blogs and AI chatbots** are starting points only. They are not acceptable as evidence in committee.

Acceptable evidence in committee

The Executive Board will accept as evidence documents from the United Nations and its bodies, official government sources and reputable international news agencies. When you make a claim in committee, be ready to say where it comes from, for example: *"As stated in operative clause 2 of General Assembly resolution 80/57..."*

23. Glossary

Abstain: To choose neither yes nor no in a vote.

Bloc: A group of countries with similar positions that work together.

Caucus: A period of focused (moderated) or informal (unmoderated) debate.

CCW: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980), the main forum for the LAWS debate.

Consensus: Agreement without a vote, where no State objects.

Delegate: A student representing a country in committee.

Draft resolution: A formal document in UN format put to the committee for a vote.

EB: Executive Board: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur.

GGE: Group of Governmental Experts, the CCW body that discusses LAWS.

GSL: General Speakers' List.

ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross, the guardian of international humanitarian law.

IHL: International humanitarian law, the laws of armed conflict.

Moratorium: A temporary halt on developing or using something.

Operative clause: A numbered clause stating what the committee decides or recommends.

Portfolio: The country a delegate represents.

Preambulatory clause: A clause giving the background and reasons for a resolution.

Quorum: The minimum number of delegates needed for the committee to work.

REAIM: Summits on Responsible AI in the Military Domain.

Sponsor: A main author of a draft resolution.

Signatory: A country that wants a draft resolution debated, without necessarily supporting it.

UNODA: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Yield: Giving away the remaining time of a speech.

24. Delegate Research Worksheet

Fill in this page as you research your allotted country. Bring it with you to the training session and to committee.

My country (portfolio)

Region and groups it belongs to

Party to the CCW? (Yes / No)

Vote on 78/241, 79/62, 80/57

Vote on 79/239 and 80/58

Does it build or buy military AI?

Key quote from an official statement

Its position in one sentence

Likely allies

Likely opponents

Red lines (what it will not accept)

Two solutions it would support

Moderated caucus topics to propose

25. References and Further Reading

United Nations documents

Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, Articles 1, 2(4), 11 and 51.

General Assembly resolution 78/241, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems*, A/RES/78/241, 22 December 2023.

General Assembly resolution 79/62, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems*, A/RES/79/62, 2 December 2024.

General Assembly resolution 79/239, *Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security*, A/RES/79/239, 24 December 2024.

General Assembly resolution 80/57, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems*, A/RES/80/57, 1 December 2025.

General Assembly resolution 80/58, *Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security*, A/RES/80/58, 1 December 2025.

Report of the Secretary-General, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems*, A/79/88, 2024.

Report of the Secretary-General, *Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security*, A/80/78, 2025.

United Nations, *A New Agenda for Peace*, Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9, July 2023.

Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns, A/HRC/23/47, 9 April 2013.

Final report of the Panel of Experts on Libya, S/2021/229, 8 March 2021.

Joint call by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC for States to establish new prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems, 5 October 2023.

Treaties and other sources

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1980, and its Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons, 1995.

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (Protocol I), 1977, Articles 1(2), 36, 48, 51 and 57.

CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Guiding Principles affirmed by the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, 2019.

International Committee of the Red Cross, *ICRC Position on Autonomous Weapon Systems*, 12 May 2021.

US Department of Defense, Directive 3000.09, *Autonomy in Weapon Systems*, updated 25 January 2023.

Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, 2023.

REAIM Summit, *Call to Action* (The Hague, 2023) and *Blueprint for Action* (Seoul, 2024).

Reaching Critical Will, *CCW Report*, 2026 GGE on LAWS sessions.

Human Rights Watch, "UN Talks on Killer Robots End with Calls for Negotiations Growing," 7 September 2026.

Stop Killer Robots, "156 states support UNGA resolution on autonomous weapons," November 2025.

A FINAL WORD

Research deeply, speak clearly, listen generously and negotiate in good faith. The world's diplomats have not yet solved this problem. At SNPS FairGaze MUN 1.0, you have the chance to show how it might be done. We look forward to meeting you in committee.

The Executive Board, UNGA First Committee (DISEC)