FAIRGAZE PRESENTS

FREEVOICE MUN 2.0

Online Edition

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Disarmament and International Security Committee

DISEC

AGENDA

Discussing Meaningful Human Control in the Age of Autonomous Warfare: Negotiating a Legally Binding International Framework for Artificial Intelligence-Enabled and Autonomous Weapons Systems

4 November 2026 · Online

Open to students of Grade 6 and above

For the use of delegates only. This is not an official United Nations document.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Use This Guide

This guide is 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 do well in committee. Read it in order: Part I explains what an MUN is and how your committee works, Part II teaches the rules you will use on the day, 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 and other official sources available up to mid-2026. This agenda keeps changing, so always confirm the latest developments yourself before 4 November, and quote dated sources ("according to the October 2026 report of…") rather than live totals.

COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

Item	Details
Conference	FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0, Online Edition
Committee	Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)
Agenda	Discussing Meaningful Human Control in the Age of Autonomous Warfare: Negotiating a Legally Binding International Framework for Artificial Intelligence-Enabled and Autonomous Weapons Systems
Delegations	40 UN Member States allotted at the conference; each has one vote
Outcome	A resolution adopted by a simple majority of members present and voting
Date and format	Wednesday, 4 November 2026; one day of online committee sessions on a video-meeting platform. The meeting link and timings are shared in your committee's WhatsApp group.
Who can take part	Students of Grade 6 and above. Registration is free.

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our privilege to welcome you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) at FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0. FreeVoice is built on a simple idea: every voice deserves to be heard. It is free, it is online and it is open to any student from Grade 6 upwards, wherever you live. Whether this is your tenth conference or your first, you belong 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: Discussing meaningful human control in the age of autonomous warfare, and negotiating a legally binding international framework for AI-enabled and autonomous weapons systems. Machines that can find, choose and attack targets are no longer science fiction. Governments are building them, militaries are using drones with growing autonomy, 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 law that applies 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.

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. Keep your camera on, keep your notes close, and do not be afraid to raise your hand. We look forward to an informed, respectful and lively debate.

With warm regards,
The Executive Board
Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)
FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0

PART I

Understanding Model United Nations

What an MUN is, and how your committee works in the real world

1. What is a Model United Nations?

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

MUN conferences began in universities 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: usually a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur. They keep order, apply the rules, recognise speakers and evaluate delegates.
Secretariat	The FairGaze team that organises the whole conference: the meeting links, schedules, technical help and certificates.
Host / tech support	In this online edition, manages the meeting room: admitting delegates, muting and unmuting, breakout rooms and screen sharing.

IN SIMPLE WORDS

Think of MUN as a mini United Nations on your screen. 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 Charter entered into force. Its purposes, set out in Article 1 of the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, and to achieve international co-operation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights. Today it has 193 Member States. The Charter created six principal organs:

Principal organ	In one line
General Assembly	Every Member State, one vote each; discusses any issue and makes recommendations.
Security Council	15 members, 5 of them permanent with a veto; the only organ whose decisions bind all States.

Principal organ	In one line
Economic and Social Council	Co-ordinates the UN's economic, social and environmental work and its agencies.
Trusteeship Council	Supervised territories on their way to independence; inactive since 1994.
International Court of Justice	The UN's court in The Hague; settles legal disputes between States.
Secretariat	The UN staff, led by the Secretary-General, who carry out the Organization's day-to-day work.

Your committee is part of the General Assembly, the only principal organ in which every Member State is represented with an equal vote. The Assembly divides its work among six Main Committees; DISEC is the First.

3. The General Assembly and its First Committee

Under Article 11 of the Charter, the General Assembly 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.

The First Committee, known in MUN as **DISEC**, deals with disarmament and threats to international peace. 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 AI. Drafts approved by the First Committee go to the full General Assembly for final adoption.

DISEC cannot itself write a treaty, but it can decide to **convene negotiations**, as the General Assembly did for the Arms Trade Treaty (2013) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017).

What DISEC can do	What DISEC cannot do
Discuss any disarmament or security question and recommend action to all States	Make its recommendations legally binding
Decide to convene a negotiating conference or open-ended working group	Force a State to join a treaty
Request reports from the Secretary-General and set deadlines	Overrule decisions of the CCW Review Conference
Recommend confidence-building measures, transparency and capacity-building	Impose sanctions or authorise force

DELEGATE TIP: STAY WITHIN THE MANDATE

Use verbs that fit a General Assembly body: recommends, calls upon, encourages, decides to convene, requests the Secretary-General. A DISEC resolution may decide to start negotiations on a treaty, but it cannot itself 'ban' a weapon or 'impose' obligations.

PART II

Rules of Procedure

How debate is run at FreeVoice MUN 2.0, online

Every MUN committee follows rules of procedure so that debate is fair and orderly. The rules below are those commonly used at school conferences in India, adapted for an online committee. 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 1. The usual flow of a DISEC session, from roll call to the final vote.

5. Stages of Debate

5.1 Roll call

At the start of each session the Chair reads out the names of all countries. When your country is called, unmute and reply "Present" or "Present and Voting", then mute again. 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.

5.2 Setting the agenda

DISEC has a single agenda, so 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. Your first GSL speech is your **opening speech**: it presents your country's position. When no motion is on the floor, debate returns to the GSL. 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 goes 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 "Defining meaningful human control". 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 so that delegates can talk freely, form blocs and write working papers. Online, the Executive Board may open **breakout rooms**, or delegates may use the chat and shared documents as the Board directs. This is where most negotiation happens, so 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. Online, use the **Raise Hand** button (or hold your placard up to the camera, if the Board asks for placards) and wait to be recognised before you unmute.

Point	When to use it	Can it interrupt a speaker?
Point of Personal Privilege	You cannot hear the speaker, your connection has dropped, 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 about 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
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	Simple majority
Adjourn the meeting	Ends the session 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 between delegates or to the Executive Board. In this online edition, chits are sent in the way the Board announces at the start of committee, usually as private messages in the meeting chat. All chits must be in English, relevant to committee and diplomatic in tone; the Board may read them and may count good chits towards your evaluation.

COMMON FIRST-TIMER MISTAKES

- Speaking in the first person ("I think"). Always use the third person: "The delegate of Kenya believes..."
- Giving your personal opinion instead of your country's policy.
- Unmuting or interrupting a speaker. Only a Point of Personal Privilege about audibility may interrupt.
- Leaving your camera off, or a display name that does not show your country.
- Quoting a figure without saying where it comes from and how recent it is.

7. Documents of Committee



Figure 2. 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. Online, blocs usually write it together in a shared document and send it to the Executive Board, who may share it on screen.

7.2 Draft resolutions

A draft resolution is a formal document written in the format of a real 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. Preambulatory clauses cannot be amended.

7.4 Voting

Once debate is closed, no one may join or leave the meeting until voting ends. Each draft resolution is voted on in the order it was introduced. Delegates vote Yes, No or Abstain (unless they declared "Present and Voting"), by voice, by Raise Hand or by the poll tool the Board opens. A draft resolution passes with a **simple majority of members present and voting**, as in 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: DISEC; 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. Decides to convene negotiations on a legally binding instrument;

Preambulatory phrases	Operative 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	Affirms, Calls upon, Decides, Decides to convene, Encourages, Endorses, Invites, Notes, Recommends, Reminds, Requests the Secretary-General to, Stresses, Supports, Takes note of, 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,

Deeply concerned by the risk of an arms race in autonomous weapons and of lowering the threshold for conflict,

1. Affirms that the use of force must always remain subject to meaningful human control, so that responsibility and accountability are retained by humans;

2. Decides to convene, in 2027, negotiations on a legally binding instrument that prohibits autonomous weapons systems that cannot be used with meaningful human control and regulates all others;

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

9. The Position Paper and Your Opening Speech

A **position paper** is a one-page summary of your country's views on the agenda. It shows the Executive Board that you have researched well. If the Organising Committee asks for position papers, it will share the format and deadline in your WhatsApp group. Even if it does not, writing one is the best way to prepare. A strong position paper has four short sections:

1. **Background:** the problem in two or three sentences, in your own words.
2. **International action:** what has already been done, with document names and years.
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.

A 90-second opening speech

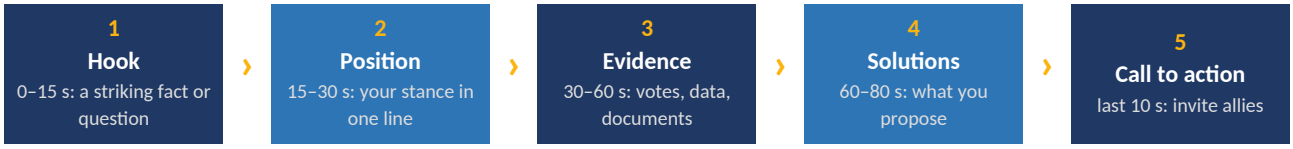


Figure 3. A simple structure for a strong first speech on the GSL.

10. Committee Etiquette, Online

Diplomacy depends on respect. The Executive Board evaluates not only what you say but how you say it.

- Address the Chair as "Honourable Chair" and other delegates as "the delegate of [country]".
- Set your display name to your country and name, for example "Brazil – Aarav", before you join.
- Keep your camera on and your microphone muted unless you have been recognised.
- Use Raise Hand (or your placard) to be recognised. Never speak over another delegate.
- Join ten minutes early from a quiet place with a charged device and a stable connection. If you drop out, rejoin at once and tell the Board in the chat.
- 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 any dress code the Organising Committee shares.

Instead of saying...	Say...
"Your country builds killer robots."	"The delegate of Chile is concerned by the development of weapons that may operate without human control."
"That makes no sense."	"Could the delegate clarify how this proposal would work in practice?"
"We want a ban."	"The Federative Republic of Brazil 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 on a joint working paper."

Your day in committee

FreeVoice MUN 2.0 runs in a single day. The Executive Board decides the pace, but committees usually move through these stages. Exact timings are shared in your committee's WhatsApp group.

Session	What usually happens	Your goal
Session 1	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	Moderated and unmoderated caucuses on sub-topics; blocs form and write working papers	Join or lead a bloc and contribute to a working paper
Session 3	Draft resolutions introduced and debated, amendments, closure of debate and voting	Defend your clauses and vote according to your country's policy

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:** active involvement through every session, punctuality and online etiquette.

PART III

Understanding the Agenda

Artificial intelligence, autonomy and the future of armed conflict

11. Introduction to the Agenda

Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how wars are fought. Militaries use AI to analyse satellite images, recommend targets, guide drones, defend against missiles and help commanders decide faster than ever before. The most debated development is the **autonomous weapons system (AWS)**, sometimes called a 'killer robot': 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 wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, where both sides use thousands of drones and jamming pushes them towards more autonomy, have made the question urgent.

At the centre of the debate is the idea of **meaningful human control**: humans must keep enough understanding of, and control over, a weapon to be morally and legally responsible for its effects. The UN Secretary-General and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have asked States to conclude, **by 2026**, a legally binding instrument that prohibits autonomous weapons that cannot be used with human control and regulates all others. 2026 is now here. The Group of Governmental Experts under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) finished its mandate in September, and the CCW's Seventh Review Conference meets in Geneva in **November 2026**, the same month as our conference. Your committee must decide whether and how to negotiate that framework.

> **IN SIMPLE WORDS**
>
> Imagine a drone that can fly over a battlefield, decide by itself who is an enemy and attack, with no person pressing a button. Should that be allowed? If yes, with what limits? If something goes wrong, who is to blame? DISEC must decide whether the world needs a new treaty to keep humans in charge.

12. Key Terms Explained

Term	Meaning
Artificial intelligence (AI)	Computer systems that perform tasks that normally need human intelligence, such as recognising images or making predictions. There is no single agreed international definition.
Machine learning	AI that learns patterns from data rather than following fixed rules. Its decisions can be hard to explain (the 'black box' problem).
Autonomy	The ability of a system to carry out tasks without continuous human direction. Autonomy is a matter of degree.
Critical functions	Selecting and attacking targets. Autonomy in these functions is what makes a weapon an autonomous weapon.
LAWS / AWS	Lethal autonomous weapons systems. No agreed definition; the CCW expert text describes a system that, once activated, can identify, select and engage a target without further human intervention.

Term	Meaning
Meaningful human control	Humans keep enough understanding and control over a weapon to be responsible for its effects. Some States prefer 'context-appropriate human judgement and control'.
Human in / on / out of the loop	In: a human approves each attack. On: the machine acts but a human supervises and can intervene. Out: no human involvement once activated.
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 that helps humans analyse information and choose targets without itself firing a weapon.
Two-tier approach	Prohibit some autonomous weapons outright and regulate all others with specific limits.
Automation bias	The tendency of people to trust a machine's recommendation too readily.

13. How AI and Autonomy Are Used in Warfare

Area	Examples	Main concern
Intelligence and surveillance	Analysing satellite, drone and radar data; recognising objects	Errors and bias in identifying people
Decision support and targeting	Recommending targets, predicting enemy movements	Humans trusting the machine too much
Uncrewed systems	Aerial drones, uncrewed boats and ground vehicles, drone swarms	Removing humans from attack decisions
Air and missile defence	Systems that automatically intercept rockets and missiles	Mistakenly engaging friendly or civilian aircraft
Cyber operations	Detecting and responding to cyberattacks at machine speed	Rapid, unintended escalation
Nuclear command and control	Early warning and data fusion for leaders	Speed and error in the most dangerous decisions

Meaningful human control can be exercised at different stages: when a weapon is **designed and tested**, when commanders decide **where, when and against what** it may be used, and **during use**, through the ability to supervise, intervene and switch it off. Proposed limits include restricting the types of target (for example, military objects only, never people), the duration and area of operation, and requiring that operators understand how the system works.

KEY FACTS

- In December 2025 the General Assembly adopted resolution **80/57** on lethal autonomous weapons systems by **164 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions**.
- Resolution **80/58** on AI in the military domain was adopted by **167 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions**.
- The CCW Group of Governmental Experts adopted its final report on **5 September 2026**, at the end of its mandate.
- By then, according to Human Rights Watch, **76 States** had backed moving to negotiations on a legally binding instrument.
- In November 2024 the leaders of the United States and China affirmed that humans, not AI, must control decisions to use nuclear weapons.

14. Historical Timeline

Year	Event
1980	The CCW is adopted to restrict weapons that cause unnecessary suffering or affect civilians indiscriminately.
1995	CCW Protocol IV bans blinding laser weapons before they are ever used, a model for pre-emptive bans.
2012	US Department of Defense Directive 3000.09 sets the first national policy on autonomy in weapons.
2013	UN Special Rapporteur Christof Heyns calls for national moratoria; CCW States agree to discuss LAWS.
2016	The CCW Fifth Review Conference creates the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE).
2019	CCW States endorse 11 Guiding Principles on LAWS.
2021	UN Panel of Experts on Libya reports on the Kargu-2 loitering munition; the ICRC recommends new legally binding rules.
2023	REAIM Summit in The Hague; US Political Declaration on responsible military AI; Secretary-General and ICRC call for a treaty by 2026; first UNGA resolution on LAWS (78/241). The CCW gives the GGE a mandate to 2026.
2024	Vienna Conference 'Humanity at the Crossroads'; REAIM Summit in Seoul; UNGA resolutions 79/62 (LAWS) and 79/239 (AI in the military domain).
2025	Informal consultations on LAWS in New York (May); UNGA resolutions 80/57 and 80/58 (December).
2026	GGE sessions in March and August–September; final report on 5 September; informal exchanges on military AI in Geneva; CCW Seventh Review Conference in November decides what comes next.

15. The International Legal Framework

No treaty specifically bans or regulates autonomous weapons today. However, almost all States agree that existing international law applies to them. The disagreement is about whether existing law is enough.

Rule	What it requires	The challenge for autonomous weapons
UN Charter, Arts. 2(4) and 51	No use of force except in self-defence or with Security Council authority	Machine-speed decisions could escalate a crisis before humans react.
Distinction	Attack only combatants and military objectives	Can a machine tell a soldier from a civilian, or a soldier who is surrendering?
Proportionality	Civilian harm must not be excessive compared with the military advantage	This is a judgement about values. Can it be turned into code?
Precaution	Take all feasible precautions to minimise civilian harm	Can a human take precautions for an attack whose exact time and place they do not know?
Martens Clause	Where no rule exists, the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience still apply	Many argue that delegating killing to machines offends public conscience.
Additional Protocol I, Art. 36	Review every new weapon for legality	Few States do reviews, and learning systems can change their behaviour.
Human rights law	Right to life and dignity, at all times	Autonomous systems could also be used in policing and border control.
Individual criminal responsibility	People, not machines, are tried for war crimes	Who is responsible: commander, programmer, manufacturer or State? (the 'accountability gap')

16. The United Nations and Multilateral Response

16.1 The CCW and its Group of Governmental Experts

Since 2014 the CCW has been the main forum. Its GGE works by **consensus**, so a single State can block an outcome. In 2023 States gave it a mandate until 2026 to formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument. The Chair worked from a 'rolling text' covering a definition, the application of international humanitarian law, specific prohibitions and regulations including human judgement and control, and other provisions. The final report of September 2026 goes to the Seventh Review Conference, which must decide whether to start negotiations.

16.2 The General Assembly

Frustrated by slow progress in the CCW, a group of States led by Austria brought the issue to the General Assembly, where every Member State can take part and vote.

Resolution	Adopted	Vote (yes–no–abstain)	What it did
78/241 LAWS	22 Dec 2023	152–4–11	First UNGA resolution; asked for a Secretary-General's report on States' views (A/79/88)
79/62 LAWS	2 Dec 2024	166–3–15	Convened open informal consultations in New York in 2025
79/239 AI in the military domain	24 Dec 2024	159–2–5	Affirmed that international law applies throughout the AI life cycle; requested a report (A/80/78)
80/57 LAWS	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	1 Dec 2025	167–5–5	Decided to hold informal exchanges in Geneva in 2026

16.3 Other initiatives

- **The Secretary-General and the ICRC** jointly urged States in October 2023 to negotiate a binding instrument by 2026.
- **REAIM Summits** (The Hague 2023, Seoul 2024) produced a Call to Action and a Blueprint for Action on responsible military AI.
- **The Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy**, launched by the United States in 2023, sets non-binding best practices.
- **Regional calls for a treaty**: Latin American and Caribbean States (Belén Communiqué, 2023), CARICOM (2023) and ECOWAS (Freetown Communiqué, 2024).
- **Other treaty models**: when consensus forums stalled, States negotiated the Ottawa Treaty on landmines (1997) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008) outside the CCW.

17. Case Studies

17.1 Libya, 2020

The UN Panel of Experts on Libya reported in 2021 that retreating forces were 'hunted down and remotely engaged' by drones including the Kargu-2, a loitering munition 'programmed to attack targets without requiring data connectivity between the operator and the munition'. It remains unclear whether it attacked without human direction. How could the world verify whether a weapon acted autonomously?

17.2 Drones in Ukraine and the Middle East

Since 2022 Russia and Ukraine have used millions of drones. Because jamming cuts the link between drone and operator, both sides have added autonomy, especially in the final stage of an attack. In 2026 the war involving Iran, Israel and the United States again saw mass use of drones and automated air defence. Does battlefield pressure make rules more urgent, or harder to agree?

17.3 Automated air defence and automation bias

During the 2003 Iraq war, highly automated Patriot missile batteries shot down a British and a US aircraft. Investigations pointed to identification problems and operators trusting the system too readily. What does meaningful human control require when decisions must be made in seconds?

17.4 AI decision support in targeting

In 2024 journalists reported that AI decision-support systems were used to generate large numbers of targets in Gaza; the Israeli military said humans make targeting decisions. Is a human who approves a machine's recommendation in a few seconds truly in control?

18. Key Issues for Debate

1. **Definition.** Narrow definitions cover only systems that barely exist; broad ones may include defensive systems used for decades. Which should a treaty use?
2. **Meaningful human control.** What does it require, at which stage, and over which functions?
3. **Prohibitions.** Should weapons that target people directly, or that cannot be understood or controlled, be banned outright?
4. **Regulation.** What limits should apply to all other autonomous weapons: on targets, time, area, testing and transparency?
5. **Forum.** Negotiate inside the CCW by consensus, at the General Assembly by vote, or in a stand-alone process open to willing States?
6. **Accountability.** How can States and individuals be held responsible, and how can victims obtain justice?
7. **Proliferation.** How can cheap autonomous drones be kept from terrorists and other non-State armed groups?
8. **Military AI beyond weapons.** Should the framework cover decision-support systems and nuclear command and control?
9. **Equity.** How can developing countries take part equally and keep access to peaceful AI?

19. Positions of Countries and Blocs

Country positions are complex and change over time. These are broad starting points only; check your country's statements and voting record.

Group	Typical position
Supporters of a new legally binding instrument (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Philippines, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and many others)	Favour a two-tier treaty and want negotiations to start soon, inside or outside the CCW; supported by the ICRC and the Secretary-General. Pakistan stresses that the weapons lower the threshold for war.
European and allied middle powers (Germany, France, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada)	Largely support a two-tier approach and the GGE text and prefer to keep the work inside the CCW; differ on how binding the outcome should be. France and Germany have promoted a two-tier political approach.

Group	Typical position
Major military powers favouring existing law (United States, Russian Federation, Israel)	Argue that international humanitarian law already applies and a new treaty is premature or would harm legitimate defence and innovation. The US promotes non-binding best practice; Russia opposes new legal restrictions. All three voted against 80/57.
United Kingdom	Says it does not possess and does not intend to develop fully autonomous weapons, supports the CCW process and context-appropriate human control, and is cautious about a new treaty.
China	Supports prohibiting 'unacceptable' fully autonomous systems but uses a narrow definition; abstained on the LAWS resolutions and voted for those on military AI.
India	Prefers the CCW as the forum and stresses technology access and national security; voted against 78/241, abstained on 79/62 and voted for 80/57.
Others (Türkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Ukraine)	Mixed: some are major drone producers or users (Türkiye, Iran, Ukraine, UAE); many ASEAN States support regulation; Ukraine stresses self-defence needs in an ongoing war.

20. Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How should autonomous weapons systems be defined?
2. What does meaningful human control require in practice?
3. Which systems should be prohibited, and how should all others be regulated?
4. Should negotiations on a legally binding instrument begin, in which forum, and with what deadline?
5. How will compliance be verified and the accountability gap closed?
6. How will proliferation to non-State actors be prevented, and how will developing countries be supported to take part?

Option	What it means	Strengths and weaknesses
Two-tier legally binding treaty	Prohibit unacceptable systems; regulate all others	Strong and clear, but major military powers may refuse to join
Negotiations within the CCW	Turn the GGE text into an instrument after the Review Conference	Includes military powers, but consensus allows any State to block
Negotiations outside the CCW	A stand-alone treaty open to willing States, as for landmines	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 certain systems	Buys time, but is hard to verify

PART IV

Research and Preparation

How to turn this guide into a winning position

21. How to Research the Agenda

1. **Understand the agenda.** Read Part III twice. Write the agenda in your own words in one sentence.
2. **Find your country's position.** Search your country's foreign or commerce ministry website, its statements at the UN or other forum, and how it voted on the key documents named in this guide.
3. **Know your allies and opponents.** Look at which bloc your country belongs to (Section 19) and who voted the same way.
4. **Collect evidence.** Pick three to five facts with a source and a date. Quality beats quantity.
5. **Prepare solutions.** Write three or four operative clauses your country would support and that others could accept.
6. **Practise.** Time your opening speech aloud. Prepare answers to the two hardest questions someone could ask you.

A WORD ON SOURCES

Wikipedia, blogs and AI chatbots can help you start, but they are not evidence. Quote the UN document, the official statement or the report itself, and check every figure an AI tool gives you, because such tools often invent numbers and document symbols. The Executive Board may ask for your source.

22. Official Sources and Reference Pointers

Source	What you will find
digitallibrary.un.org	Texts and voting records of resolutions 78/241, 79/62, 79/239, 80/57 and 80/58.
disarmament.unoda.org	Background on the CCW and the GGE on LAWS, and the official documents library.
icrc.org	The ICRC's position on autonomous weapon systems and IHL databases.
unidir.org and sipri.org	Research on AI, autonomy and military technology.
reachingcriticalwill.org	Statements and daily summaries of First Committee and CCW meetings.
Your government's foreign or defence ministry	Statements at the First Committee and the CCW, and national AI policies.

23. Countries in This Committee

These are the 40 delegations allotted in DISEC at FreeVoice MUN 2.0. Every UN Member State sits in the real First Committee.

Delegations			
Algeria	Ethiopia	Mexico	South Africa
Argentina	France	Morocco	South Korea

Delegations			
Australia	Germany	Nigeria	Switzerland
Bangladesh	India	Norway	Thailand
Brazil	Indonesia	Pakistan	Türkiye
Canada	Iran	Philippines	Ukraine
Chile	Israel	Poland	United Arab Emirates
China	Japan	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Colombia	Kenya	Saudi Arabia	United States
Egypt	Malaysia	Singapore	Vietnam

24. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980), the main forum for the LAWS debate.
GGE	Group of Governmental Experts, the CCW body that discussed LAWS.
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross, guardian of international humanitarian law.
IHL	International humanitarian law, the laws of armed conflict.
REAIM	Summits on Responsible AI in the Military Domain.
Moratorium	A temporary halt on developing or using something.
Bloc	A group of countries with similar positions that work together in committee.
Quorum	The minimum number of delegates who must be present for the committee to work.
Sponsor / signatory	Sponsors write a draft resolution; signatories only want it debated.

25. Delegate Research Worksheet

Fill this in before the conference and keep it open beside you in committee.

Question	Your notes
Is my country a party to the CCW? Does it build, buy or use military drones or AI?	
How did my country vote on 78/241, 79/62, 80/57 and 80/58?	
Does my country support negotiations on a legally binding instrument, and in which forum?	
Three facts I will quote (with source and date)	
Two operative clauses I want in the resolution	

Question	Your notes
Countries I will approach first in an unmoderated caucus	

26. References and Further Reading

Documents are listed by their official title and symbol so you can find them in the UN Digital Library or on the organisation's website.

Charter of the United Nations, Articles 2(4), 11 and 51.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980) and Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons (1995).

Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (1977), Articles 35, 36 and 57.

General Assembly resolutions 78/241 (2023), 79/62 (2024), 79/239 (2024), 80/57 (2025) and 80/58 (2025).

Report of the Secretary-General on lethal autonomous weapons systems, A/79/88 (2024).

Report of the Secretary-General on artificial intelligence in the military domain, A/80/78 (2025).

Guiding Principles affirmed by the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS (2019).

Final report of the 2026 session of the GGE on LAWS (September 2026).

Joint call by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC on autonomous weapons (5 October 2023).

ICRC, Position on Autonomous Weapon Systems (2021).

UN Secretary-General, A New Agenda for Peace (2023).

We look forward to seeing you in committee on 4 November.

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