

Committee: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Agenda: Addressing the Proliferation and Militarization of Autonomous Weapons Systems and Artificial Intelligence in Armed Conflict

Position Paper by country - The United States of America

Introduction

AI and advanced autonomous weapons are changing how wars are fought because they can act faster than humans and improve accuracy while reducing risks to soldiers. These systems can make decisions on their own, which raises concerns about whether they follow important international laws meant to protect people during war. Key rules like correctly identifying targets, avoiding unnecessary harm, and taking precautions become harder to ensure when machines act without direct human control. Since similar AI technology is easily available for civilian use, there is a risk that dangerous groups could access it, leading to misuse, instability, and possible unintended conflicts.

The American Doctrine: Responsible Governance Over Categorical Prohibitions

- The United States believes that staying ahead in technology is very important for national security and global stability.
- It does not support a complete global ban on autonomous weapons because such a ban would be hard to enforce and could slow down useful technological progress, while other countries might still develop these weapons secretly.
- Instead, the U.S. supports responsible use, where each country is accountable for how it develops and uses these technologies.
- The U.S. also stresses that humans should still have control over important decisions, and that these systems must follow international laws, be well-tested, and be carefully designed before being used

Precedents in Accountability: Pioneering Global Norms for Military AI

The United States has taken the lead in creating basic guidelines (not strict laws) for how AI should be used in the military.

National Rules: The U.S. Department of Defense follows a rule (Directive 3000.09) that requires careful review by senior officials before any autonomous weapon is used, to make sure it is safe and follows the laws of war.

Global Efforts: The U.S. started an important agreement called the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI, which many countries support to promote safe and responsible use of AI

Working with Others: In the United Nations, the U.S. is part of expert groups discussing autonomous weapons, helping to create shared understanding while still protecting each country's right to defend itself.

Strategies for Global Control and Safe Use of Military AI

- The United States asks the UN Security Council not to completely ban AI weapons, but instead focus on making them safe, transparent, and controlled.
- **Checking Weapons Properly:** All countries should review AI weapons carefully before using them to make sure they follow international laws.
- **Controlling Spread of Technology:** Countries should work together to track and stop the spread of important AI technology to terrorists or unsafe groups.
- **Helping Developing Countries:** The UN should support programs that help less-developed countries learn how to safely use and manage AI technology.
- **Reducing Errors and Bias:** Nations should test AI systems well to avoid mistakes, like wrongly identifying civilians as targets, especially in crowded areas.

Conclusion: Moving Forward Responsibly

In conclusion, the United States believes that global security depends not on stopping new technology, but on using it wisely and responsibly. Completely banning autonomous weapons is not practical, as technology will continue to grow. Instead, the best approach is to manage these systems through clear national rules, strong oversight, and strict controls on their spread. The U.S. is committed to working with the United Nations to ensure that as technology advances, countries continue to follow international laws and maintain global peace and stability.