

DISARMAMENT & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DISEC

POSITION PAPER | REPUBLIC OF INDIA

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

I. COMMITTEE & COUNTRY POSITION

The Republic of India recognizes that rapid advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning, autonomy, and sensor technologies are transforming the security environment. India maintains that technological innovation must remain subject to international law, human responsibility, and effective accountability. India therefore supports the development of a legally binding international framework that establishes meaningful human control over AI-enabled and autonomous weapons systems while preserving legitimate national security interests and responsible technological development.

II. INDIA'S CORE PRINCIPLES

MEANINGFUL HUMAN CONTROL — Human judgment must remain central to decisions involving the selection and engagement of targets, particularly where lethal force may be used.

ACCOUNTABILITY — Autonomy must never create an accountability gap. States and responsible individuals must remain answerable for unlawful actions.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW — Autonomous weapons must comply with distinction, proportionality, precautions in attack, and other applicable rules of international humanitarian law.

RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION — International regulation should reduce humanitarian risks without unnecessarily restricting beneficial AI research, civilian applications, or defensive technologies.

III. INDIA'S POLICY APPROACH

India supports negotiations toward clear, practical, and universally applicable international standards for autonomous weapons. These standards should define the degree of human involvement required during development, testing, deployment, targeting, and post-use review. India supports rigorous testing, verification, traceability, risk assessment, and human authorization mechanisms before systems capable of causing lethal effects are deployed.

India emphasizes that regulation must distinguish between autonomy in navigation or defensive functions and autonomy in decisions to apply lethal force. A credible framework should prohibit systems whose design or deployment makes meaningful human control impossible, while allowing responsible innovation under appropriate safeguards.

IV. INDIA-SPECIFIC POLICY PROPOSALS

- ◆ Negotiate a legally binding international instrument establishing minimum standards for meaningful human control over AI-enabled and autonomous weapons systems.
- ◆ Establish internationally recognized requirements for human authorization in the initiation of lethal force and, where technically feasible, the ability to intervene, suspend, or terminate system operations.

- ◆ Require mandatory testing, validation, and risk-assessment procedures before deployment, including testing under realistic and contested operating conditions.
- ◆ Require robust audit trails and system logging to support investigation, attribution, accountability, and post-incident review.
- ◆ Develop common standards for reliability, predictability, cybersecurity, data quality, fail-safe mechanisms, and bias assessment.
- ◆ Strengthen international cooperation on capacity-building and responsible technology transfer so developing countries can participate meaningfully in global AI governance.
- ◆ Promote transparency and confidence-building measures while protecting legitimate national-security information.
- ◆ Establish regular review conferences so the framework can adapt to technological developments without weakening its core humanitarian protections.

V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

India calls for an inclusive, consensus-oriented process involving developed and developing States, relevant UN bodies, technical experts, and other stakeholders. Cooperation should focus on shared legal standards, responsible research, capacity-building, confidence-building measures, and mechanisms that prevent an arms race in increasingly autonomous weapons technologies.

VI. CONCLUSION

India believes that the central question is not whether artificial intelligence will influence future warfare, but whether the international community will establish effective rules before technological change outpaces accountability. The Republic of India stands ready to work constructively toward a legally binding framework that preserves meaningful human control, upholds international humanitarian law, prevents unacceptable autonomous uses of force, and enables responsible technological progress.