POSITION PAPER

United Mexican States | United Nations General Assembly First Committee (DISEC)

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1. Background

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and full autonomy into military infrastructure presents a profound paradigm shift in international peace and security. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)— systems capable of selecting and engaging targets without direct human intervention— pose fundamental ethical, legal, and operational risks. From Mexico's perspective, removing human agency from life-and-death determinations violates the dictates of public conscience and threatens the foundational pillars of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). If left unregulated, an unbridled algorithmic arms race will severely lower the threshold for armed conflict, exacerbate global inequalities, and create severe accountability vacuums where no human can be held directly legally liable for battlefield atrocities or technical malfunctions.

2. International action

The international community has actively wrestled with this paradigm through the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS. Significant developments include the adoption of the 11 Guiding Principles in 2019, which established that IHL applies fully to the potential development of autonomous weapons. Furthermore, UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241 (2023) highlighted the urgent need for the international community to address the challenges of lethal autonomous systems. Despite years of rigorous multi-lateral deliberations within the CCW framework, consensusdriven mandates have repeatedly stalled due to geopolitical obstruction by major military powers, preventing the transition from voluntary, non-binding guidelines to concrete legal strictures.

3. Country policy

Mexico has long stood at the forefront of global disarmament and humanitarian diplomacy, fiercely advocating for a completely proactive and preventative approach to emerging dangerous technologies. In February 2023, Mexico hosted the historic Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, resulting in the Communiqué of Belén, which underscored the regional consensus that autonomous algorithms must never replace human judgment in kinetic operations. Mexico firmly maintains that "Meaningful Human Control" is an un-degradable legal necessity under IHL, specifically regarding the core principles of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity. Mexico’s national stance demands an absolute ban on fully autonomous

weapons systems that cannot be controlled by a human operator, alongside strict, verifiable regulations for semi-autonomous systems.

4. Proposed solutions

Mexico encourages DISEC to:

- **Initiate negotiations** for a legally binding international treaty establishing a strict prohibition on weapon systems that select and engage targets entirely without meaningful human control, or those that cannot be utilized in full compliance with International Humanitarian Law.
- **Establish a dual-category regulatory framework** that clearly delineates between prohibited systems (fully autonomous or unpredictable AI weapons) and regulated systems (semi-autonomous technologies requiring strict operational limits, spatial boundaries, and active temporal constraints).
- **Mandate rigorous national legal reviews** under Article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions for all new weapons, means, or methods of warfare utilizing artificial intelligence and predictive algorithms.
- **Promote capacity building and technical exchange** under UN auspices to ensure developing nations can establish robust national oversight mechanisms and regulatory bodies to monitor domestic AI dual-use developments.

Sources: United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/241 (2023); Communiqué of Belén (Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, 2023); Reports of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).