

Documentation of the Work of the **General Assembly First Committee (GA1)** NMUN Simulation*



**National Model United Nations
Washington, DC
8 – 10 November 2024**

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General Assembly First Committee (GA1)

Committee Staff

Director	Kaytlyn Marcotte
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Agenda

1. Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
2. Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
GA1/1/1	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	34 in favor, 28 against, 27 abstentions
GA1/1/2	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	47 in favor, 24 against, 18 abstentions
GA1/1/3	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	51 in favor, 17 against, 21 abstentions
GA1/1/4	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	54 in favor, 13 against, 22 abstentions
GA1/1/5	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	44 in favor, 10 against, 35 abstentions
GA1/1/6	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	44 in favor, 17 against, 28 abstentions
GA1/1/7	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	49 in favor, 11 against, 29 abstentions
GA1/1/8	Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	53 in favor, 12 against, 24 abstentions

Summary Report

The General Assembly First Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. #2 Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
2. #1 Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Security

The session was attended by representatives of 88 Member States and 0 Observer States.

On Friday, the committee adopted its agenda and began discussion on the topic of “Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems”. By Saturday, the Dais received a total of 15 working papers covering a wide range of sub-topics, organizing the importance of defining LAWS, the acceptable application of LAWS, setting standards regarding the regulation of LAWS, the necessity of guidelines accountability for LAWS, reaffirming the essence of frameworks delving into human control for LAWS. On Friday and Saturday, the atmosphere of the committee displayed eagerness to begin speeches sharing their proposals regarding the topic set. Member States efficiently commenced collaborating to draft working papers and engage in mergers early on.

By Sunday, 8 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, 0 of which had amendments. The committee adopted 8 resolutions following voting procedure, 0 of which were adopted without a recorded vote. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including defining LAWS, the acceptable application of LAWS, setting standards regarding the regulation of LAWS, the necessity of guidelines accountability for LAWS, and reaffirming the essence of frameworks delving into human control for LAWS.

Over the weekend, the body established the agenda and collaborated with delegations to formulate working papers addressing the significance of the topic set. The body tackled mergers early on, developing a concise set of familiar proposals throughout working papers and conclusively working alongside one another to merge proposals. As sessions progressed the stress levels within working groups rose. By Sunday, Member States of the body submitted a total of 8 draft resolutions which were approved by the Dais and in voting procedure all 8 were adopted by recorded vote.



Code: GA1/1/1

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Having studied the ethical and moral implications of Lethal Autonomous Weapons, otherwise known as LAWS, as outlined by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ethics in the International Regulatory Debate on Autonomous Weapon Systems,

Bearing in mind the current definition of LAWS as laid out in the report titled the *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*, to be Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS), which are systems that, upon activation by human users, use the processing of sensor data to select and engage targets with force without human intervention, because LAWS are not one or two types of weapons, instead, they are a capability category, exemplified as a weapon system incorporating autonomy in its critical functions, specifically in target selection and engagement; the challenges associated with these weapon systems stem from this capability, which lends itself to layers of unpredictability and cascading impacts,

Recognizing the various levels of complexity that LAWS manifest themselves in, while still maintaining the potential to inflict great harm to Member State citizens before, during, and after periods of conflict,

Further recognizing the lack of regulations and standards for the proper usage of LAWS in accordance with humanitarian law,

Acknowledges the importance of international accountability regarding international security and the initiatives taken to promote international peace,

1. *Recommends* revisions to the definition of LAWS referred to in the *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* to include a categorization of LAWS to further educate Member States on the various forms LAWS exist in, limit ambiguity on what weapons fall within the regulations regarding these weapons, and facilitate United Nations efforts to discuss these weapons in future talks, as follows:
 - a. Tier I LAWS are weapon systems that require significant technological and industrial capabilities to produce, deploy, and operate, they may include the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist in the selection and engagement of targets, this can include loitering munitions and newly developed missile defense systems;
 - b. Tier II LAWS are weapon systems that require a significant industrial capability to produce, but not to the extent of Tier I LAWS, this includes anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines, as well as sea mines;
 - c. Tier III LAWS are weapon systems that do not require significant industrial capability to produce and can be made using commercially available products, This includes improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that function as landmines;
2. *Strongly encourages* the Security Council to consider the creation of a new subsidiary organ that will address and lay out the proper usage and standards of LAWS, which:
 - a. Functions as a committee that sets standards and regulations for LAWS, which can include the strictly prohibited use against civilian targets with a zero-tolerance policy

for this stipulation, including civilian and industrial infrastructure, or repercussions are implemented; even in the event of an accident, and in the event a target is purposely seeking shelter in civilian infrastructure, LAWS can not be used; boots-on-the-ground missions must be used instead to ensure human judgment is applied and the damage is not indiscriminate;

- b. Creates a regulation that requires every LAWS to have some level of human interface controls to ensure human judgment can be used if appropriate in a given situation;
 - c. Ensures that in the event that LAWS incur destruction, an appropriate amount of human judgment must be used with accordance to the amount of damage wished to employ, which should be meticulously premeditated by the Member State before beginning the mission using LAWS;
 - d. Must operate according to a pre-set timeframe and geography according to each specific mission; if failing to maintain within the pre-distinguished bounds, immediate abandonment of mission shall ensue, which will be enforced by the Security Council and monitored by the committee;
 - e. Ensures that in the event of misuse, the committee shall recommend to the Security Council to review the data and information system in order to form an appropriate penalty;
 - f. Ensures that all LAWS must be in accordance with software, system safety, instruction, and military standards set by the committee in order to be considered legitimate, and will suggest the Security Council enforce said standards;
3. *Reiterates its desire* for Member States to establish standards of accountability among all parties whose usage of LAWS results in damage to civilian infrastructure and the loss of innocent lives;
 4. *Further recommends* that the International Court of Justice place special emphasis on cases in which parties who misuse LAWS are prosecuted.



Code: GA1/1/2

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Recognizing the need for an explicit working definition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) given the wide variety of proposed definitions as highlighted in Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) 2023/CRP.1,

Reaffirming that LAWS pose a significant challenge to global security and humanitarian principles, necessitating urgent investigations, regulations, and restrictions to mitigate their inevitable harm as affirmed in General Assembly resolution 78/241, which emphasizes that international law applies to autonomous weapons systems and acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) under the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*,

Emphasizing General Assembly resolution 32/152, which highlights the importance of restricting, banning, and removing any weaponry that is deemed excessively harmful, and whose effects are indiscriminate,

Noting the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 51/22 on the implications of emerging technologies in the military domain, such as algorithm-based programming and how it affects human rights defenders and international human rights law, while also taking into account discussions in progress within the United Nations,

Recalling the Report of the Special Rapporteur Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism regarding the potential effects of LAWS to enable non-state armed groups (NSAGs) to access LAWS primarily affecting Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Addressing the urgent danger fully autonomous LAWS created using loosely regulated Artificial Intelligence (AI) pose to civilians, especially when in the hands of NSAGs as noted in United Nations resolution 78/241, which necessitates further regulation of the development and use of AI,

Further noting the importance of collaborative initiatives such as the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) as forums for building strong relations and developing policy, especially in the context of regulating LAWS,

Noting with deep concern the potential risk of malfunctions in LAWS underlined by the United Nations Office of Disarmament and Research (UNIDIR), which in turn hurt civilians that are not involved in the conflict and are biased towards certain people more than others, increasing targets towards them,

Further acknowledging that according to the UNIDIR, the rapid growth and advancement of LAWS and the increasing demand for AI technologies is resulting in autonomous systems failures that could increase harm,

Further acknowledging the work of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) Container Control Programme (CCP), an existing international joint initiative that inspects and checks shipping containers at over 120 cooperating ports to intercept and seize ammunition, weaponry, and contraband,

Alarmed by the use of LAWS by NSAG as discussed General Assembly resolution 79/88 that in turn creates negative effects such as changes in the programming of LAWS in which it targets and harms innocent civilians,

Further noting the existing condemnation of LAWS by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, stating that LAWS are morally repugnant and should be prohibited under the 2023 New Agenda for Peace while also realizing that the lack of legally binding frameworks towards LAWS will garner enforcement of the continuous development,

Noting with approval the points of the GGE, focusing on examining the technological, military, ethical, and legal dimensions of LAWS,

Furthering the recognition of the characterization of LAWS brought forward by the GGE on LAWS,

Further recalling Human Rights Council report 23/47 regarding the ability to produce LAWS at lower costs, therefore potentially creating an incentive to create and use them,

Bearing in mind proper allocation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and voluntary funding is needed to prevent the excessive use and spread of LAWS,

Commending the progress that regional councils, such as the Christian Council of Mozambique, have made in converting small arms into pro-peace art displays, which promote international harmony, global sustainability and raise both public support and funding for disarmament programs whose ideas can be globalized and expanded to LAWS,

Further recognizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production),

Further recognizing the work done to define Meaningful Human Control and the necessity to incorporate them in LAWS for the purpose of risk mitigation as stated by GGE in working paper CCW/GGE.1/2023/WP.6,

Taking into consideration of the opinion of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the prohibition of the utilization of LAWS to indiscriminately target civilians,

Guided by the UNIDIR's reports, The International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and The International Tracing Instrument: Examining options to support operationalization,

1. *Recommends* to define LAWS as any weapon system incorporating automation into any critical infrastructure of active steering, engaging, targeting, and applying force to said targets by:
 - a. The ability to modify the weapon system's objectives without human intervention;
 - b. The ability to self-initiate, self-interpret, and self-regulate applied lethal forces during said objectives;
2. *Further recommends* the Security Council to create a task force focused on examining the use, lethality, and potential for civilian casualties associated with LAWS, ensuring that their deployment adheres to international peace and security standards by:
 - a. Conducting comprehensive studies on the impact of LAWS on civilian populations, including an assessment of scenarios in which these systems could be deployed, with a specific focus on compliance with international humanitarian law;
 - b. Evaluating LAWS' technological and operational capabilities to fully grasp the scope of current functioning advancements;

- c. Assessing existing international frameworks governing autonomous weapons and identifying gaps that may require the formulation of new treaties or amendments to existing regulations to enhance accountability;
 - d. Developing standardized guidelines and protocols for monitoring LAWS to minimize civilian harm and maintain compliance with peace and security mandates and establishing accountability mechanisms that hold states and actors responsible for any misuse or violations resulting from the deployment of LAWS in armed conflict;
 - e. Securing funding and resources through allocating contributions from Member States, emphasizing voluntary contributions from countries directly involved in the research and development of LAWS, while additional funding may be sourced through partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders committed to peace and humanitarian efforts;
 - f. Recommending an annual report to the General Assembly First Committee to document findings, track progress on adherence to humanitarian law, and suggest further actions or updates to international frameworks, with a distinct focus on operational and real-world deployment issues to supplement the ongoing efforts of the GGE on LAWS;
3. *Further recommends* Member States who possess LAWS prior to this resolution to suspend the funding and further development and deployment of these systems until the implementation of suggested solutions in the Security Council task force established in Clause 2 are properly in place;
4. *Encourages* the creation of new and promotion of existing collaborative initiatives, such as the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, that seek to create and adopt international frameworks regulating the use of autonomous LAWS developed with AI by:
 - a. Recognizing that easily accessible AI technology assists NSAGs in creating weapon systems such as autonomous drones, and that the current lack of international regulation poses a danger to civilians who may be targeted by LAWS;
 - b. Building upon existing ethical frameworks of AI application to limit the creation of AI-based LAWS to prevent civilian harm and encourage the development of legislation that addresses the harm done by those who use AI-based LAWS against civilians;
 - c. Calling Member States to work together to create an international program for LAWS to detect interference from NSAGs and changes that shut LAWS down and prevents them from being used so that innocent civilians are not targeted;
5. *Invites* the forming of a conference called The Global Conference on Autonomous Weapons and Security (GCAWS) under the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to bring Member States as well as private contractors and adjacent NGOs to discuss regulation and monitoring of LAWS by:
 - a. Organizing with expert groups from participating Member States and private contractors to develop policies and regulations specific to the deployment and development of LAWS;
 - b. Developing policy recommendations and monitoring systems to oversee the trade of LAWS and prevent the proliferation to NSAGs and work on data collection to oversee this initiative;

- c. Meeting bi-annually to discuss the listed above topics, by doing this, Member States will be able to gather recommendations regarding regulatory policies that participating members can potentially adopt domestically;
 - d. Establishing workshops such as those under Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) conferences to exchange information and best practices on AI development and safeguards against misuse of AI focus on tailoring LAWS development to align with IHL by raising awareness of AI development best practices and encouraging AI safety;
 - e. Granting potential funding from the Conventional Arms Fund and for this initiative to be organized and facilitated by UNODA, given their continued efforts to address LAWS and their security implications;
6. *Expresses its hope* that Member States implement national legislation that places preventative measures on LAWS that are in use in order where there are routine checks on the programming of LAWS through a program in order to detect malfunctions or potential errors to prevent the use of LAWS that will malfunction or have errors;
7. *Pushes for* a further focus on the Secretary-General's 2023 Agenda for Peace with the collaboration of Member States to prohibit and regulate the use of LAWS by 2026, and further:
 - a. Encourages to establish a timeline and clear objectives for the development of the 2023 plan to have a legally binding document by 2026;
 - b. Calls for the collaboration and agreement of Member States to work together on a legally binding document;
8. *Urges* Member States to implement Meaningful Human Control protocols on any LAWS, as defined above, by:
 - a. Implementing ability to modify, terminate, and adapt to all objectives by a human operator;
 - b. Providing spatial and temporal limits to each objective to restrict its self-targeting capabilities;
 - c. Ensuring the human operators comprehension of all LAWS' functionality and targeting system, to such an extent, to satisfy legal requirements allowing for the attribution of responsibility and accountability;
9. *Further recommends* Member States come together to create a forum where Member States can voluntarily sign up each year and donate extra funding to prevent the use of LAWS, in which:
 - a. The forum can be managed by a new organization that is created among Member States that can be under United Nations surveillance;
 - b. The funding that will be donated will go to preventing the use of LAWS through assisting in passing legislation that prevents the spread, use, and creation of LAWS as much as possible;
 - c. A percentage of all the money donated will be allocated to a budget to assist Member States with LAWS attacks when they submit a report and after confirmation, the budget can be allocated to the civilian victims based on the severity of the attack;

10. *Encourages* Member States to convert their dismantled LAWS into pro-peace art displays in the spirit of sustainable development, using them to help achieve SDG 11, (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 12, (responsible consumption and production), as well as raise awareness of the dangers and encourage the non-proliferation of LAWS and fund programs for the tracking of LAWS;
11. *Endorses* the UNODC CCP to foster a stricter addendum to be accepted by the nations of the Wassenaar Arrangement, an international agreement to monitor the exports of dual-use technology, to include clear language of the restriction and monitoring of the exportation of LAWS to further limit their development and exploiting, and their proliferation into NSAGs, and other parties, and have all Member States agreed to the updated arrangement;
12. *Supports* the incorporation of a database system into the already-existing International Tracing Instrument by the UNODC (UNIDIR 2005) specifically tracking:
 - a. The sale of goods defined as LAWS, or dedicated components for their creation;
 - b. Acquisitions of LAWS by NSAGs especially through reports of missing weapons;
13. *Strongly encourages* the Security Council to consider sanctions on Member States who facilitate the acquisition of LAWS by NSAGs;
14. *Further invites* NGOs to contribute research and aid for Member States such as LDCs and those immediately affected by conflict zones involving LAWS in the short term, Members States are encouraged to develop infrastructure through collaborations and voluntary contributions with NGOs, and IGOs to ensure:
 - a. Increased presence and support of NGOs dedicated to international humanitarian aid to support areas affected by LAWS, such as Offre Joie, Amnesty International, ICRC, and L'Œuvre d'Orient;
 - b. Incorporation of NGOs focused on psychiatric and psychological aid to the civilians affected by LAWS through organizations such as CARE International and more;
 - c. Supports new joint research initiatives by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch aiming to document and analyze the humanitarian impact of LAWS in current conflict zones, with findings to be integrated into the database system outlined in Clause 12 to enhance global tracking and accountability measures;
15. *Encourages* the development of an international standard for transparency and accountability in the development and deployment of LAWS, including the establishment of regular reporting mechanisms for Member States on the status and advancements of their LAWS technologies.



Code: GA1/1/3

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Reaffirming Article I of the United Nations Charter in the United Nations' intention and aim of preserving international peace through respect of state sovereignty and collective measures through diplomacy,

Recognizing the importance of a state's sovereignty as stated in Article II of the United Nations Charter and the unique threat offensive Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) pose to a nation's right to sovereignty,

Realizing the international development of new-age technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the necessity of not stifling domestic advancement as recognized by the United Nations' AI Advisory Body in General Assembly resolution 78/241 (2023),

Recognizing the inevitable utilization of LAWS and the development of relevant technology such as AI on domestic levels alongside the subsequent requirement to regulate their offensive usage as discussed in General Assembly resolution 78/241 (2023), which pushed for the discussion of LAWS as a pressing security topic for the international community to explore,

Acknowledging the global and regional disparities of defensive LAWS and its unique capability in safeguarding civilian populations as a legitimate defensive system to defend the sovereignty of the state as discussed in General Assembly resolution 79/88 (2024),

Reminding nations of their statements given in *Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems Report of the Secretary-General* pursuant to resolution 78/241 (2023), and the united opinion to take action,

Having considered the increasing discussions regarding regulations on LAWS over complete bans such as the *Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*,

Recalling the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* from General Assembly resolution 66/288 (2015), namely Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals),

Affirming the stance of the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* and the work done by the Group of Governmental Experts,

Drawing attention to General Assembly resolution 78/241 and its discussion of and raising Member States' concerns regarding the development of LAWS and similar military equipment and weaponry,

Bearing in mind the role of developers in shaping how artificial intelligence functions through the use of chosen data sets and security standards, as noted in the United Nations article "Irrefutable' need for Global Regulation of AI: United Nations experts",

Taking into consideration the danger of LAWS in the hands of Non-State Actor Groups, such as terrorist organizations or armed militias as priorly stressed in Security Council resolution 2016/1013, through the easy access to open-source AI, posing considerable hazards to civilians,

Acknowledging each Member States' right to state sovereignty and the organization of their own armed forces and military equipment, as identified by Article 51 in the *United Nations Charter*,

Welcoming innovative measures to establish new defensive programs for underdeveloped needed countries as officially stated by the President of the Security-Council in S/PRST/2021/17, "The Security Council recognizes that technology has the potential to act as a force multiplier by enhancing performance, saving resources, simplifying work processes, and allowing peacekeeping missions to have a deeper understanding of the environments they operate in, through improved collection, analysis and dissemination of data",

Affirming the precedents set by *The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)*, *Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management*, and the Arms Trade Treaty regarding the dangers of LAWS and similar weapons to civilian populations with the necessity for regulation to be established,

Reaffirming the Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation and Maintenance (REAM) 2023 summit and the endorsements of this program which provides a basis for exchanging best practices and building states' capacities, which will allow endorsing States to share experiences and ideas in reference to the latest developments in the realm of technological developments, specifically with Artificial Intelligence,

Understanding global cooperation between member-states is essential to the successful regulation of LAWS as discussed in General Assembly Report 79/88,

1. *Encourages* Member States to consider the distinction of LAWS applied to offensive capabilities and those used in defensive capabilities as a defining characteristic when regulating Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems so that states can define LAWS to recognize its danger in offensive use while recognizing its potential defensive capabilities and necessity whilst considering the importance of requiring a human operator behind these systems;
2. *Recommends* Member States to prevent the use of autonomous weapons by combatants through:
 - a. Establishing regulations to prevent unauthorized access to LAWS by non-state actors and militant groups;
 - b. Promoting international collaboration between Member States to prevent the spread of LAWS to unwanted non-state actors;
 - c. Increasing cooperation in and between regional groups to prevent the spread of LAWS;
 - d. Encouraging the establishment of state-led regional or continental multilateral groups with the intention of using international cooperation to limit access to LAWS by non-state actors and paramilitary organizations;
3. *Recommends* Member States implement the creation of comprehensive Lethal Autonomous Weapons Regulations which will aim to create rigorous testing of LAWS and to ensure they are in full compliance with international and humanitarian law by:
 - a. Developing and monitoring a rigorous framework;
 - b. Advocating for the establishment of an accountability system where LAWS are deployed;

- c. Encouraging training and education for military personnel who are responsible for the deployment of these LAWS;
 - d. Setting clear parameters of deployment, scope, scale, and duration;
 - e. Incorporating more human intervention to minimize accidental casualties;
 - f. Providing a user-friendly interface that provides clear instructions on objective termination and reassignment;
 - g. Created by a United Nations body that oversees regulation;
4. *Endorsing* the creation and implementation of a political declaration on the responsible use of AI technologies and Autonomy that reaffirms the commitment of countries who supported REAIM 2023:
 - a. Managed by the United Nations;
 - b. Holding the summit more often to discuss the new technology emerging;
5. *Imploring* the international discussion with all Member States around the issue of defensive LAWS' capabilities as an alternative for nuclear arsenal:
 - a. Securing regions and trade routes that require international overlap;
 - b. Defending the interest of the overall international community from non-state actors;
6. *Imploring* the establishment of the Defensive Capability Equity Committee (DCE) within the UNGA with an objective of aiding underdeveloped countries to regulate and establish defensive capabilities by:
 - a. Capacity building and assisting in the development of domestic defensive LAWS;
 - b. Tracking the manufacturing, sale, and use of LAWS;
 - c. Sharing intelligence relating to the movement and purchase to LAWS, especially by non-state actors;
 - d. Training law enforcement on effective responses to LAWS;
 - e. Referring and facilitating the exchange of domestic and international experts from the public and private sectors to assist underdeveloped countries in efficient and productive development;
 - f. Encourages Member States with underdeveloped defensive capabilities to work collaboratively with the private sector in the establishment and development of LAWS;
7. *Encourages* the development of an international conference for Member States to discuss the issues in AI development for the use of LAWS that specifically:
 - a. Focuses on mitigating biases created within the AI during the development phase brought forth by the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies In the Area of LAWS and their inability to correctly identify marginalized individuals through facial recognition;

- b. Promotes the education of AI as it pertains to LAWS and their effect on war and international conflict;
- c. Encourages the cooperation of technology developers in guiding the development and capacity of Artificial Intelligence within LAWS against bias and nefarious purposes;
- d. To be funded by the United Nations regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States;
- e. Suggests that a board be created for developing countries at this conference as a way of ensuring inclusion and adequate representation among larger Member States in hopes that the board will act as a space to provide a dedicated platform for the particular issues of developing countries.



Code: GA1/1/4

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Affirming Article 2 of the United Nations Charter by respecting “Member States' sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of other states” to develop domestic frameworks regarding the development and deployment of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS),

Supporting the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS,

Keeping in mind the obligations to international humanitarian law via the Geneva Conventions (1949) to protect civilians from the detrimental effects of armed conflict and violence through the usage of LAWS, and acknowledging the importance of upholding principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution to prevent excessive harm to the civilian population,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), particularly Goal SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), seeking to significantly reduce violence and work towards accountability regarding the proliferation of LAWS,

Conscious of the United Nations commitment to promoting technological advancements that align with the principles of international law, as noted in Secretary-General Report 75/81 (2020),

Emphasizing Action 7: Reduce The Human Cost of Weapons of A New Agenda for Peace, which states if LAWS are deployed by international law, human suffering may be reduced,

Encouraging states to enhance multi-national collaboration across national, subregional, and regional levels to tackle shared challenges effectively,

Mindful of the need for additional experts and knowledge surrounding LAWS development, production, and trade, and subsequent deficiencies in development and regulation,

Expressing the need to invest in human capital training skill development programs adjacent to the principles of GGE by partnering with other Member States,

Taking into consideration the rapid and uncertain development of LAWS, there is a need for Member States to be transparently educated before placing regulations,

Mindful of the fact that while there is no commonly agreed-upon definition, LAWS has been thought of as mainly defensive systems that require no human operation,

Further recognizing that LAWS currently consists of antivehicle and antipersonnel mines, missile defense systems, and land and sea vehicles with autonomous abilities that possess offensive capabilities as defined by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA),

Referring to the humanitarian implications of autonomous weaponry, such as the risk of malfunction and lack of human intervention, especially in regions with limited resources to defend against these technologies,

Considering rapid advancements in military technology, including the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the increasing autonomy of LAWS concerning United Nations General Assembly resolution A/75/400,

Aware of the 2021 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence which suggests limitations such as lack of culpability for human rights violations, insufficient human oversight, inappropriate risk assessment, and racial & gender prejudice for LAWS,

Draws Member States' attention to the acquisition of LAWS by non-state actors and terrorist organizations who seek to cause harm to civilian populations and requests that Member States regulate the exchange of LAWS- amid non-state actors,

Acknowledging a need to regulate raw materials used to produce LAWS by encouraging member countries to have full transparency within the world of LAWS; voluntarily exchange information on their export and import activities,

Further considering implementing campaigns to encourage Member States to prefer the human control of these weapons as opposed to AI autonomy by referring to pre-existing campaigns such as the British Aerospace (BAe) to restrict the effects of LAWS,

Noting the need for education regarding the use and purpose of LAWS to inform Member States' populations through the use of state-sponsored programs and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),

Expressing concern at the use of LAWS by Member States, including suicide drones and sentry guns, to commit violations of international law,

1. *Requests* the establishment of comprehensive training programs in collaboration with UNESCO guidelines alongside regional bodies, including but not limited to the European Union (EU), Alliance of Sahel States (AES), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the African Union (AU) to focus on capacity-building programs that provide specialized training sessions tailored to the specific needs of law enforcement and military personnel with an emphasis on:
 - a. Operational protocols for the deployment of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems, such as ensuring human intervention and limiting the scope of operations;
 - b. Ethical considerations and international legal frameworks necessary to prevent misuse and to safeguard civilian lives;
 - c. Considerations for the abilities of Member States with limited or no access to LAWS, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to receive special consideration in these training programs that are adapted to fit these Member State's situation and needs with a focus on trade and inclusion in the international arms market;
2. *Supports* the creation of a regional oversight mechanism under the sixth committee to monitor and coordinate compliance efforts within the framework, where each region will:
 - a. Appoint a regional authority responsible for tracking and reporting on the use of LAWS within Member States;
 - b. Hold periodic meetings to share best practices, address regional concerns, and enhance coordination;
 - c. Submit voluntary annual reports to the United Nations detailing regional compliance, challenges, and progress toward alignment with the framework;

3. *Recognizes* that having a formal definition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems allows for more equitable knowledge sharing and international cooperation by:
 - a. Urging the groups of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems to work on a universal definition of LAWS that can be considered by the General Assembly, each tailoring to a country's resources;
 - b. Promoting a specific set of guidelines on the definition to determine what categorizes LAWS;
4. *Requests* that Member States implement voluntary annual informational reporting on the development and deployment of LAWS, establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for the ethical extraction and production of materials necessary for LAWS, and support lawful, regulated resource development to ensure responsible sourcing and adherence to international safety standards, avoiding overexploitation that could adversely affect the livelihood of communities and the environment;
5. *Strongly encourages* the regulation of technological components responsible for creating LAWS;
6. *Calls for* Member States to implement domestic regulations regarding materials, software developers, distributors, destinations, and all active parties involved in the existence of LAWS while respecting the sovereignty and partner countries;
7. *Encourages* Member States to submit voluntary annual status reports to the General Assembly First Committee for Disarmament and International Security for public access, to their advancements with their domestic LAWS to ensure continued relevance for international regulations for LAWS by recommending nations to track the deployment of LAWS to further support accountability of Member States in the deployment of LAWS;
8. *Further encourages* Member States to implement a national regulatory framework for the development and deployment of LAWS that would insist upon LAWS only being deployed or operated under human supervision, furthering accountability by each state with a set duration, scope, and sufficient testing in line with international law;
9. *Welcomes* the further development of the 2021 UNESCO Recommendations on Ethics of AI as an optional protocol with binding guidelines to regulate the ethical deployment of AI-based LAWS;
10. *Invites* Member States to recognize the value of the GGE's viewpoints when about ethical standards, legal intervention, and military efforts through:
 - a. The use of the GGE to have constructive and proactive discussions about an agreeable way to handle LAWS that will adhere to standards set by involved Member States;
 - b. The use of the GGE to address challenges relating to humanitarian, security, legal, ethical, and technological perspectives that are used to address the use, implementation, and development of LAWS;
 - c. Promoting the efforts of national governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide localized resources to inform the civilian populations of Member States of the effects and uses of LAWS within their country and internationally.



Code: GA1/1/5

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Remembering the intention of the establishment of the United Nations and the General Assembly to uphold international peace as stated in Article 1 of the Charter of The United Nations and limit aggression as cited in Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,

Declaring the General Assembly's commitment to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights Law in limiting the effects of armed conflict consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) to uphold peace and justice, and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals),

Acknowledging the development of technology in all fields, including military innovations, which pertains to appropriate responsibilities on the actors as noted in the 2023 session of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) regarding Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS),

Recognizing the urgency of the ethical concern brought before the international community by LAWS as described by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Taking into consideration the efforts in the General Assembly Report 79/88 (2024) by Member States in forming a multilateral consensus on the need for a legally binding instrument on LAWS,

Highlighting the international security risks and threats posed to IHL as shown by General Assembly First committee resolution 78/241 (2023),

Recalling further the 1980 *Convention of Conventional Weapons* (CCW) in the GGE of 2021 in their distinctions, and characterization of limitations, drawn between semi-autonomous, autonomous, and automated weapons systems, and the background paper of 2024 "Measures needed to ensure compliance with IHL and the identification of potential additional measures",

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/152 adopted by the General Assembly titled *Incendiary and Other Specific Conventional Weapons which may be the Subject of Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use for Humanitarian Reasons* (1977) and Human Rights resolution 51/22 of 2022 on human rights implications of new emerging technologies in the military domain,

Considering resolution 78/6 (2023) regarding the authority of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exercise jurisdiction over all four crimes under the Rome Statute, the crime of aggregation, genocide, war crimes, and humanitarian crimes,

Deeply concerned by the increasing threat of accessibility of LAWS by non-state actors in any capacity, and the increase in investments by many countries in these new technologies as reported by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law in August 2024,

Expressing the inherent tools communication and mediation serve for the de-escalation initiative of "Prevention and Mediation" by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs,

Believing that knowledge of these new technologies is the right of citizens to be educated by Project "Artificial Intelligence and Futures of Intelligence" by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Emphasizing the commitment to protections against indiscriminate harm and the framework allowing Member States to implement new prohibitions and protocols as established in the 1980 CCW,

Concurring with the importance of recognising the capability of arms that can cause mass destruction as highlighted by the “Weapons of Mass Destruction and the United Nations: Diverse threats and collective responses” report by the International Peace Institute,

Also bearing in mind the importance of human responsibility in the deployment and use of weapon systems per United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) report 78/268 on the potential impact on disarmament efforts,

Firmly convinced of the importance of addressing and preventing the acquisition and use of LAWS by NSAG (Non-State Armed Group) and the efforts of the Container Control Program (CCP),

Stressing the importance of risk management measures to decrease the potential human cost of LAWS usage,

Mindful of the adoption by consensus of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 51/22 on 7 October 2022, which acknowledged the need to examine human rights implications of emerging military technologies with stakeholder input within the United Nations framework,

1. *Proposes* the development of operational definitions for different types of LAWS using multiple criteria including but not limited to the domain of operation which will include air, land, naval, low earth orbit, deep sea, or any other operational domain that may emerge in the future, and the degree of mobility of the LAWS including static, short range, loitering, long-range, or any other appropriate category that may emerge, as well as the level of human control over the weapon during the operation of the weapon;
2. *Recommends* a definition for fully autonomous LAWS, wherein LAWS capable of choosing and engaging targets without human intervention after the system is deployed, or which can not be overridden after a target is chosen, or which can be triggered by or engage a target without discrimination;
3. *Suggests* a definition for semi-autonomous LAWS, wherein LAWS that require a human to choose, authorize, or oversee the operation of the LAWS after deployment, including human-in-the-loop, human-on-the-loop, or any future naming convention that falls within this category;
4. *Further suggests* a definition for Remotely Operated LAWS, wherein LAWS that a human actively controls after it is deployed such as a First Person View (FPV) drone;
5. *Advocates for* uniform standards of expectations and regulations of humanitarian law, implemented through the establishment of biannual conferences where all the countries find common ground concerning the aims and the limits for the next year regarding LAWS;
6. *Supporting fully* neighboring states to report to the Security Council any state that violates IHL or HRL using LAWS;
7. *Further encourages* Member-States to self-regulate in context to agreed upon inter-governmental standards with the internal development of fully autonomous weapons systems along with the incentive of infrastructure aid through the United Nations Economic and Social Council subcommittee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information and NGO partners on the condition that self-regulation is demonstrated through progress reports to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;

8. *Urges* Member States to consider international humanitarian law in the deployment and usage of LAWS and other military weapons to maintain accountability and human responsibility;
9. *Seeking* Member States to make every effort to mitigate the potential human cost of LAWS through risk management measures;
10. *Encourages* Member States to disclose the creation of parts, the manufacturing of LAWS, which encompasses both fully and partially autonomous systems, and the distribution, which includes both imports and exports in the form of a bi-annual report to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which can then be compiled into a public database;
11. *Expresses support* for a plenary vote to denounce and censure their specific use if member-states are found to be using LAWS that violate international humanitarian law and human rights law;
12. *Requests* the Security Council establish clear lines of accountability for all LAWS to explicitly identify the accountable party for any violation of international LAWS committed based on the level of human control over the system;
13. *Suggests* holding the manufacturer of fully autonomous systems accountable for violations of international law;
14. *Further suggests* holding the human operator or the appropriate individual in their chain of command accountable for violations of international law utilizing semi-autonomous and remotely controlled systems unless the violation is the direct result of faulty information provided by the LAWS, in which case the manufacturer could be held accountable;
15. *Recommends* the Security Council to take serious measures to restrict the creation and usage of LAWS with malign intent by non-state actors and to discuss further with other parties in regards to such allocations;
16. *Advises* adding dual-use items and precursor materials involved in the construction of LAWS to the UNODC-World Customs Organization CCP and encourages regular review of this list to ensure that newly emerging technologies used by LAWS are added as quickly as possible;
17. *Calls upon* Member States to consult with the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism to ensure accountability in the distribution of LAWS and or material that can be used to construct LAWS;
18. *Urges* regional collaboration expressed through discourse amongst regional stakeholders in forms of forums and conferences similar to the CCW to integrate LAWS into existing international frameworks.



Code: GA1/1/6

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Taking into account the importance of developing a universal definition for lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the process of developing any framework or potential regulations,

Considering the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (CCW) (1980), which has restricted the usage of weapons considered to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

Emphasizing the concern over the destructive potential that LAWS held by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) pose to Less Developed Countries (LDCs), as per Security Council resolution 1540 on weapons of mass destruction,

Guided by the Human Rights Council's resolution 51/22 in their call to action to take relevant existing work and studies and use it to make projections and combat new advancements in the case of new weapons technologies,

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution 78/241, which confirmed that International Humanitarian Law (IHL) under the United Nations Charter applies to LAWS,

Having heard the call of the Secretary-General and the Red Cross in SG/2264, urging Member States to establish new prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems,

Fully aware that any weapon systems developed and deployed are previously established as a violation of regulations set by International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in response to the threat of LAWS,

Underlining the lack of a human operator raises questions on the ability of international law to be enforced effectively, raising the issue of accountability in the deployment of LAWS,

Taking into account the international community's concerns about an arms race, as well as the impact of LAWS on civilians,

Recognizing Stop Killer Robots, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that aims to provide accurate and up-to-date information on LAWS and their impact, along with identifying different types of LAWS,

Remembering the decades of work leading up to the *Ottawa Treaty* and the establishment of the Hazardous Area Life Support Organization (HALO) to build on future policies regarding LAWS,

Considering that a goal of resolution 70/1 *Transforming our World: Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030* is peace, justice, and strong institutions,

Recalling the recent United Nations Pact for the Future, in which Member States agreed to deliberate on the establishment of a framework to address rapidly advancing technologies such as LAWS,

Having studied the eleven principles on LAWS established in 2019 by the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS (GGE LAWS),

Reiterates support for GGE LAWS to examine the regulation and governance, discussing issues such as human control, ethical implications, and technological challenges,

1. *Requests* Member States to adopt the definition of LAWS as conventional weapons systems that can capture and process data, independently identify and acquire a target(s), and have the potential to use lethal force without any meaningful human interaction past initial setup;
2. *Is fully conscious* of the difference between LAWS and partially autonomous lethal weapons, which involve human input in identifying, acquiring, or engaging a target(s);
3. *Further requests* Member States to adopt the definition of non-autonomous weapons systems, to differentiate from LAWS, as systems that do not have the independent ability to capture and process data and require human intervention to select and engage with targets effectively;
4. *Recommends* the High Contracting Parties to the CCW form a sixth Additional Protocol on LAWS that is guided by the GGE LAWS' 2019 Eleven Guiding Principles on LAWS, detailed in Annex IV of CCW/GGE 1/2019/3, stressing the principle that IHL must be enforced in LAWS development and deployment, with the Additional Protocol to detail:
 - a. The various types of LAWS, and each type must be considered individually based on the level of autonomy and lethal impact;
 - b. The specific limitations on the amount of LAWS available to each Member State for use, with distinctions for offensive and defensive use;
 - c. That LAWS, which use large language models to make decisions, are vulnerable to discriminatory profiling based on gender, race, age, class, and other protected statuses under IHL;
5. *Urges* Member States to take responsibility for their LAWS arsenal, stressing Security Council resolution 1540 and its prohibition of the proliferation of destructive weapons amongst NSAGs that threaten regional and domestic security;
6. *Invites* Member States to keep in mind the current CCW Compliance Mechanism and how they may apply to a new Additional Protocol on LAWS and consider future developments of the Compliance Mechanisms, such as measures undertaken by High Contracting Parties to prevent violations of the CCW and its Protocols;
7. *Suggests* that the GGE LAWS aggregate data, through voluntary contributions from Member States internationally regarding the amount, types, and use of LAWS by NSAGs, with funding from the World Bank and research support from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute;
8. *Expresses* its hope that Member States will make further voluntary financial contributions to the work of HALO in removing anti-personnel landmines, which can target human life indiscriminately;
9. *Establishes* an Open-Ended Working Group exclusively focused on LAWS, with annual meetings beginning in 2025, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, to convene Member States to, at their discretion, exchange views on LAWS, study usage, proliferation, and development of LAWS, and provide potential solutions for the problems brought up by LAWS;
10. *Supports* the development of robust fail-safe mechanisms and self-destruction protocols from Member States regarding LAWS to minimize the risk of unintended engagements or loss of control, such as mechanisms that include protocols to allow operators to remotely initiate a "kill switch" that renders the weapon system disabled or neutralized in cases of malfunction or

hostile takeover as well as a recommendation to the Security Council to develop an oversight committee to enforce these regulations;

11. *Expresses its hope* that IHL will guide the enforcement of consequences that result from the improper use of LAWS to address the issue of accountability in LAWS, with potential for hearings with the International Criminal Court (ICC) resulting in repercussions of trade embargoes or military action depending on the severity of the crime;
12. *Recommends* Member States develop educational programs in collaboration with each other and NGOs, such as Stop Killer Robots, to:
 - a. Inform active military members, first responders, and additional actors who are involved in the use of LAWS of the processes involved in each step of the weapons system they are using and potential malfunctions that may occur and establish a line of accountability;
 - b. Inform merchants and civilians on the potential dangers of the purchase and sale of dual-use products, such as simple consumer-grade electronics that can have potential autonomous military capabilities;
13. *Requests* greater Member State involvement in expanding the non-binding Wassenaar Arrangement and its framework for controlling dual-use goods, focusing on avoiding non-state actors' acquisition of these products that may destabilize states, especially developing ones.



Code: GA1/1/7

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Recognizing the multifaceted potential hazards and complexities associated with the deployment, development, and proliferation of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), which pose significant risks to international peace and security, human rights considerations, and the framework of International Humanitarian Law (IHL),

Recalling the fundamental tenets enshrined within the Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols, with particular emphasis on the imperative to preserve human oversight over weapon systems and to guarantee adherence with the statutes of IHL,

Expressing concern regarding the accelerating advancements of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, in conjunction with the lack of data, regulations, and a clear common definition of LAWS that restricts the effectiveness of Member States,

Acknowledging the profound ethical dilemmas presented by the utilization of fully autonomous weapon systems tasked with executing life-or-death decisions devoid of human oversight, as articulated by multiple United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society,

Further recognizing the need to adopt a comprehensive framework for all nations that will ensure LAWS encourages clear and ethical compliance with IHL,

Recalling also the principles of IHL, including distinction, proportionality, and precaution in armed conflict,

Reaffirming the ethical, legal, and security implications of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) and the potential impacts of such technologies on cultural, ethical, and moral values intrinsic to various religious beliefs,

Realizing that addressing the issues of LAWS use should include the participation from Member States, civil society, and experts to band or regulate the use of LAWS because of its significant impact,

Noting with approval the General Assembly First Committee resolution (A/C.1/78/L.56), urging for less involvement of unmonitored/fully autonomous computer algorithms,

Noting further that the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework which highlights a set of guidelines for organizations and governmental entities to use to ensure proper digital hygiene is followed to protect supply chains,

Mindful of the use of these technologies in defensive strategies while taking into account their misuse, risks of unintended engagement, and the spectrum of LAWS including reconnaissance, lethal, defense, etc,

Further recalling, according to Fortune Business Insights, the global unmanned aerial vehicle market will be valued at more than \$91.23 billion by 2030, nearly tripling from its current value,

Fully believing the need to regulate lethal and autonomous weapon systems as it poses a threat to humanitarian law, such as Article 3 of the Geneva Convention & Article 2(4) of the United Nations

Charter, when used without human control or oversight, according to the Secretary-General António Guterres in his 2023 New Agenda for Peace,

Observing that according to the United Nations report, many Member States, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are involved in or support the campaign to *Stop Killer Robots*, a global effort to ban fully autonomous weapons (LAWS), according to which 47 Member States support some form of regulation or prohibition of LAWS,

Reiterating the numerous multilateral and regional agreements that have boosted and promoted international security and stability,

Taking into account that the disparity in technological capabilities between developed and developing nations poses significant risks, particularly in the context of LAWS and their potential misuse in armed conflict, which can intensify existing vulnerabilities and undermine global stability,

Stressing that according to the World Economic Forum, only 52% of the population in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have access to electricity, compared to 90% globally, increasing the disparity between access to technology in LDCs,

Bearing in mind that the mass production of LAWS increasing to further Member States' technological development is incompatible with mitigating damages to humanitarian safety,

Keeping in mind that the mortality rate will rise at the use of LAWS in harming innocent non-combatant civilians,

Noting with deep concern that LAWS pose accountability and security challenges such as cybercrime and data vulnerability for the international community,

Cognizant of the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS in 2016, where Eleven Guiding Principles on LAWS were established in 2019,

1. *Recommends* the adoption of a universal definition of LAWS as a weapons system designed to select and engage targets without the need for human intervention after activation, with the capacity for potential lethal force, wherein the definition:
 - a. Draws upon the Human Rights Watch's (HRW) three-part HITL model for classifying degrees of human control;
 - b. Distinguishes the differing implications of the above models, particularly concerning Human out of the loop (HOOTL) systems;
 - c. Is used without prejudice to the preference of States regarding their use, following the terminology of General Assembly resolution 78/241 (2023);
2. *Also recommends* defining meaningful human control concerning legitimate uses of LAWS as the involvement of a human operator with sufficient:
 - a. Information including contextual information on the target area of action, purposes of why a specific object has been suggested as a target for action, stated mission objectives as well as immediate and longer-term consequences that may arise from an action in that context;
 - b. Causal connection, such as initiating the action through a positive action by a human operator;

- c. Accountability, ensuring those responsible for assessing the information and executing the action need to be accountable for the outcomes of the operation;
3. *Asserts* that for any decision to use LAWS to apply potential lethal force to be legitimate under international law, it must remain under continuous and meaningful human control, ensuring compliance with International Human Rights Law (IHRL) requirements;
4. *Further requests* the establishment of a committee within the GGE to advise on the division of accountability between manufacturers, operators, and common-level personnel in cases of misuse of LAWS amounting to an IHRL violation, particularly adjudicating ambiguities with respect to:
 - a. Individual responsibility;
 - b. State responsibility;
 - c. Potential company liability;
5. *Recommends* Member States implement rigorous bookkeeping of LAWS systems within their domestic private and public sectors to maintain records of development, implementation, and distribution to promote transparency and accountability;
6. *Reminds* Member States developing and deploying LAWS that they ought to do so in line with *jus ad bellum* principles, in particular, those of distinction, proportionality, and necessity;
7. *Additionally recommends* that technological advancements must be in line with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to prevent the development of destructive technologies;
8. *Further recommends* the development of an international legal framework for the regulation of LAWS, which should:
 - a. Establish clear guidelines for the development, testing, and deployment of autonomous weapon systems;
 - b. Ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights standards;
 - c. Address issues of accountability and liability in case of unintended consequences or violations of international law;
 - d. Underscore clear rules and prohibitions while also emphasizing preserving significant human control over force, and efficient implementation, oversight, and accountability procedures are all necessary components of a legally enforceable agreement on autonomous weapons;
9. *Invites* further collaboration from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), international and regional corporations, the scientific community, as well as the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to share their views regarding ethical and environmental concerns and the possibility of expanding data collection through a conference that:
 - a. Is supported and organized by organizations such as the *Civil Society*, the *Global Tech Panel*, and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs);
 - b. Will bring attention to the environmental impacts of LAWS, most notably to developing communities while also discussing further development of LAWS and predicting future ethical concerns and human rights violations;

10. *Encourages* the establishment of an International Monitoring Program on Lethal Autonomous Weapons under the framework of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research that could:
 - a. Ensure no Member State is unilaterally advancing weapons systems without international oversight and dialogue;
 - b. Engage in voluntary disclosures or transparency mechanisms regarding advancements in military technologies which fall under HRW's three modes of human control;
 - c. Collect and analyze data from willing Member States on the developments and usage of LAWS for the development of policy recommendations;
 - d. Regularly and rigorously test and provide a comprehensive systematic evaluation of protocols for LAWS in the form of a biannual report;
 - e. Develop provisional systems to be interrupted or deactivated if necessary;
11. *Further recommends* that willing Member States enter immediate efforts to mitigate the risks and impact of LAWS, including free-standing negotiation and voluntary agreements on the elimination of such weapons, with a view to the eventual elimination of LAWS in a similar fashion to the Ottawa Treaty, otherwise known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (1997);
12. *Advocates* for the establishment of Export Control Regimes for Components and Technological Frameworks about LAWS, drawing from the Wassenaar Agreement (1996), necessitating:
 - a. National and international cooperation to regulate the trade of critical and emerging technologies and components associated with the creation of LAWS such as dual-use materials;
 - b. The confirmation of import and export control lists among Member States for components related to the development of LAWS, encompassing artificial intelligence software, sensor technology, and conventional weapon systems;
 - c. Obligatory reporting of suspicious transactions, which may imply implicit transfer of LAWS technologies;
 - d. The establishment of a global database to track LAWS-related emerging technologies transfer;
13. *Strongly encourages* the creation of a dual-use security forum with governmental experts on LAWS to encourage dialogue and provide recommendations on how to prevent Non-State Armed Groups from accessing LAWS by inviting NGOs such as *Doctors Without Borders*, *Human Rights Watch*, and *Amnesty International*, to educate Member States on the potential catastrophic casualties that may occur due to the misuse and non-regulation of LAWS;
14. *Further invites* multilateral and bilateral collaboration with international NGOs, such as the ICRC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to contribute their expertise, training, and resources aimed at providing education on regulatory frameworks for LAWS in developing nations; ultimately addressing ethical and practical challenges posed by these technologies.



Code: GA1/1/8

Committee: General Assembly First Committee

Topic: Addressing Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

The General Assembly First Committee,

Reaffirming the United Nations Charter and its principles pertaining to the fundamental human right to life,

Understanding that the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS has the authority to explore and agree on possible recommendations on options relating to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS,

Desiring more explicit official definitions and regulatory guidelines regarding Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in order to provide Member States with a sufficient roadmap for domestic policymaking,

Emphasizing International Humanitarian Law, Martens Clause and how it seeks to limit the effects of armed conflicts and the ethical consideration of LAWS,

Concerned with the lack of framework and regulations fellow Member States have surrounding the topic of LAWS,

Believing that a panel set to promote education for developing countries and suggest regulatory guidelines to the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (CCW) (1980) would be beneficial in checking that AI incorporated LAWS development is controlled,

Underlining the importance of meaningful human influence of the implementation LAWS in the international community so that we maintain final say in their ethical development,

Recognizing the need for international multilateral cooperation and collaboration,

Acknowledging the lack of accountability for corporations that have taken part in developing LAWS to further work towards stricter and safer transportation methods when exporting and importing these systems,

Taking into account that developing countries should also have access to developing LAWS for their own defense particularly in the face of emerging security threats to ensure equitable access to advanced defense technologies and strengthen their security capabilities,

Cognizant of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 (Quality education) ensuring all learners can acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence due to the lack of education on LAWS among Members States and civil society,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) as an institution formed for conducting independent research on global challenges related to disarmament, arms control, and international security,

Noting that a definition for Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) is necessary for the cohesive and practical actioning of any international frameworks or regulations,

Recalling that under the International Humanitarian Law, prosecution is only possible when a human defendant or other such entities can be identified in order to assign accountability for the criminal

misuse of LAWS, which is complicated by the autonomous nature of these weapons due to the threshold of making decisions based on human intervention,

Reemphasizing Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention which sets forth an obligation to ensure that all civilian and military personnel who lay down their arms remain unharmed,

Bearing in mind the Human Rights Watch report (2012), which classified the three degrees of human control of autonomous weapons systems as “Human-in-the-loop” (HITL), meaning that a human must instigate the action of the weapon, “Human-on-the-loop” (HOTL) meaning that a human may abort an action, and “Human-out-of-the-loop” (HOOTL) meaning that no human action is involved,

Recognizing the threat posed by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) that harm civilians with unethical and ignorant usage of LAWS to achieve their goals,

Alarmed and concerned by the ineffective export and import controls on dual-use products due to their potential for misuse from NSAGs utilizing LAWS against Member States and civilians,

Affirming the implications and relationship of LAWS with due regard to the cultural, ethical, and moral values that are intrinsic to various religious beliefs, respecting the religious frameworks particularly within the Middle East as well as the entire world, and recognizing the potential impacts of such technologies on diverse cultures,

Recognizing the disparities between military powers and economic development of numerous actors,

1. *Endorses* Member States to ultimately follow guidelines as established by Project B.R.A.T.S through:
 - a. Bolstering multilateral cooperation between fellow Member States regarding LAWS;
 - b. Regulating the use, creation, and deployment of LAWS;
 - c. Acknowledging that the use of AI in LAWS must be addressed;
 - d. Turning towards an educational program to bring awareness to LAWS especially in developing nations;
 - e. Suggesting Member States help hold corporations accountable for their role in developing LAWS;
2. *Suggests* the GGE for LAWS be responsible for the recommendations over international regulatory guidelines regarding LAWS, and further advance the research, development, and education pertaining to LAWS by:
 - a. Holding international panels in which researchers and expert authorities on AI, algorithm-based decision-making, and military technology, discuss the future of these topics and how to promote their humane, ethical development;
 - b. Creating promotional and educational materials on the nature of AI and LAWS in order to raise public awareness and common understanding;
3. *Recommends* that Member States—in adherence to guidelines set by the GGE—create regulations regarding the production and usage of LAWS, such as:
 - a. Monitoring and setting regulations on the material manufacturing of LAWS;
 - b. Establishing limitations on the quantity of LAWS produced;

- c. Limiting the scope of usage of LAWS, with policymaking focused on defensive LAWS usage, and the criminalization of offensive LAWS usage;
4. *Declares accordingly* that a definition for LAWS as fully autonomous should be avoided as it is unhelpful and restrictive when applied to accountability or regulatory frameworks;
5. *Recommends* the adoption of a universal definition of LAWS as a weapons system designed to select and engage targets without the need for human intervention after activation, with the capacity for potential lethal force, wherein the definition:
 - a. Drawing upon the Human Rights Watch's three-part HITL model for classifying varying degrees of human control;
 - b. Accordingly distinguishes the differing implications of the above models, particularly in respect to HOOTL systems;
 - c. Using without prejudice to the preference of States regarding their use, in accordance with the terminology of General Assembly resolution 78/241 (2023);
6. *Defining* meaningful human control as including but not limited to having a human operator by:
 - a. Including contextual information on the target area of an attack, information on why any specific object has been suggested as a target for attack, information on mission objectives, and information on the immediate and longer-term weapon effects that will be created from an attack in that context;
 - b. Initiating the attack should require a positive action by a human operator;
 - c. Accounting those responsible for assessing the information and executing the attack need to be accountable for the outcomes of the attack;
 - d. Legitimizing lethal decision process must also meet requirements that the human decision-maker involved in verifying legitimate targets, allowed sufficient time to deliberate, be suitably trained and well-informed, and be held accountable and responsible;
7. *Affirms* that for any decision to use LAWS to apply potentially lethal force to be legitimate it must remain under human control, ensuring compliance international human rights requirements;
8. *Invites* Member States to take part in holding corporations liable for their part in LAWS by:
 - a. Requesting the cooperation of the GGE on LAWS to take further strides in addressing corporations' roles in their creation and enforcing regulations upon them;
 - b. Seeking transparency policies for corporations about their involvement with LAWS;
 - c. Encouraging Member States purchasing LAWS to require contractors to address ethical concerns and to ensure the integrity of the supply chain to prevent NSAGs from obtaining LAWS;
9. *Further requests* UNIDIR to include a subdivision for Education of LAWS within the Disarmament Forum series to better understand the implication of LAWS through:
 - a. Describing how LAWS influence international sovereignty;

- b. Addressing how LAWS can be implemented within Member States safely and effectively;
 - c. Depicting what LAWS technical capabilities are, how algorithms are used to identify and target subjects;
 - d. Reporting what long-term effects LAWS generate across various regional and historical contexts;
10. *Suggests* the development of ethical AI frameworks to guide the development and deployment by ensuring the addition of fail-safe measures that automatically shut off LAWS in cases of physical or cyber security attacks;
11. *Asks* the Security Council to develop a legal framework on export and import controls for dual-use products around the world by:
- a. Encouraging Member States to monitor and regulate their exports and imports of dual-use products based on the legal framework created by the SC;
 - b. Implementing the framework at a national level, which can be adapted to the unique concerns and challenges of each Member State;
12. *Strongly encourages* the creation international transportation guidelines of LAWS which corporations must adhere to when transporting such products by transporting LAWS should be done by utilizing reinforced semi trucks;
13. *Encourages* the formation of a specialized, exclusive United Nations committee to offer investigative approaches into incidents involving the use of LAWS that may result in civilian casualties;
14. *Suggests* the development of ethical AI frameworks to guide the development and deployment by ensuring the addition of fail-safe measures that automatically shut off LAWS in cases of physical or cyber security attacks;
15. *Calls for* the development of international standards that ensure LAWS are designed and deployed in ways that respect religious, ethical, and cultural values, promoting peace and stability globally.