

**FORUM:** Disarmament

**QUESTION OF:** Limiting the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs) in times of conflict

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** South Africa

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** South Korea, United Kingdom, Sweden, Ethiopia

**SIGNATORIES:** Germany, Lebanon, Morocco, Croatia, Turkey, Niger, Russia, Brazil, France, Namibia, Yemen, Indonesia, Eritrea, Belarus, Ireland

*Alarmed* by the rapid advancements in the development of LAWs without a legal framework as well as the high possibility of civilian casualties when using such weapons,

*Acknowledging* the right of all countries to develop military technologies and improve their defense capabilities independently of each other within international law,

*Recognizing* the benefits of LAWs when supplanting humans in the battlefield, particularly protecting human life from combat trauma and psychological consequences such as PTSD,

*Emphasizing* the high risk of mistargeting civilians using machine learning to to the early nature of the technologies surrounding LAWs,

1. *Calls for* the creation of a United Nations subcommittee under DISC's authority on the regulation of LAWs and any other defense technology using AI, this subcommittee would:
  - a. Be assisted by a panel of experts on autonomous technology, military doctrine, and international humanitarian law based on the work of the GGE,
  - b. Be in charge of drafting an initial legal framework for the use and development of LAWs as well as addressing any new developments in the future;
2. *Requests* for all member states to commit to using LAWs within the framework of the international laws of war which include but are not limited to:
  - a. Never target civilians or non-combatants using LAWs,
  - b. Never commit indiscriminate strikes on targets that could contain civilians,
  - c. Never use LAWs in the vicinity of vital civilian infrastructure such as but not limited to:
    - i. Hospitals,
    - ii. Schools,
    - iii. Refugee camps;
3. *Recommends* the creation of national watchdog organizations in each member state with the purpose of regulating private development of LAW technology and linked technologies such as but not limited to:
  - a. Artificial intelligence,

- b. Machine learning,
  - c. Unmanned weapon systems;
4. *Urges* the establishment of a killswitch system in any and all LAW systems that would allow the deactivation of all LAWs by a human at all times, this system should be isolated from all exterior threats using measures such as but not limited to:
- a. Heavy encryption and cybersecurity measures,
  - b. The limiting of the number of individuals with access to the killswitch system,
  - c. Requiring a code to activate the system which changes over time;
5. *Strongly urges* all countries to only deploy LAWs when appropriate to limit the possibility of weapon malfunction and mass casualty events and only in circumstances such as:
- a. High intensity international conflict,
  - b. Areas with no civilian presence,
  - c. The protection of national borders;
6. *Recommends* against the use of LAWs in internal conflicts to avoid the mistargeting of civilians and non-combatants, this applies to events such as but not limited to:
- a. Riots/Civil unrest,
  - b. Civil wars,
  - c. Coups,
  - d. Policing operations;
7. *Strongly Recommends* that measures be taken to ensure liability when lethal strikes are ordered, these measures can be but are not limited to:
- a. Requiring human confirmation before a lethal strike is ordered on a selected target,
  - b. Ensuring LAWs are properly integrated as part of countries' national militaries with identifying matriculations and a command structure;
8. *Urges* that all countries ensure that LAWs are developed under the supervision of governmental bodies and not by lone actors such as unregulated private companies or criminal groups to ensure the technology is used within international legal frameworks.