



INVITATION TO ATTEND A SIDE EVENT ON

Risks associated with the integration of AI into autonomous weapons systems

The Chairperson of the 2023 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), H.E. Mr. Federico VILLEGAS of Argentina, with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit, cordially invite you to attend an online panel discussion on the risks associated with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into autonomous weapons system.

Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023

Time: 13.15-14:45 hrs.

Online via Microsoft Teams

Please register for this event using this [registration link](#).

Overview

Discussions over the past seven years at the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) have helped raise awareness of the risks posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, including as regards civilian casualties, unintended engagements, risk of loss of control of the system, risk of proliferation, risk of acquisition by terrorist groups, among others.

One issue that has been gaining visibility relates to the possible risks of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into autonomous weapons systems. As noted by the United Nations Secretary-General in his New Agenda for Peace, “[th]e increasing ubiquity of artificial intelligence, combined with its rapid scalability, lack of transparency and pace of innovation, poses potential risks to international peace and security and presents governance challenges.”

At present, several technical challenges exist around the reliability, explainability and predictability of AI technologies. Among other things, it has not yet been demonstrated that AI can reliably make the human-like decisions and judgments required to comply with international law. If such AI is integrated into weapons-related functions, such as for targeting and attack, this can pose serious risks in the absence of human control and oversight. Despite these risks, States have yet to develop the necessary frameworks to prevent and manage them effectively, particularly in relation to LAWS.

In this event, a panel of experts will discuss the risks associated with the integration of AI technologies into autonomous weapons systems.

Panellists

Liz O'Sullivan is an expert in AI and an inaugural member of the National AI Advisory Committee, providing guidance on the national AI strategy of the United States to the White House. She was previously the first staff member and Technology Director for the non-profit, Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (STOP), and cofounder and VP of Responsible AI at AI Explainability and model monitoring company, Arthur. Liz also cofounded the AI validation company, Vera, in 2021. She will focus her presentation on **social and commercial incentives in creating and buying AI systems**.

Laura Nolan is a professional software engineer with over 20 years of industry experience. She holds degrees in Computer Science and Advanced Software Engineering, as well as in both Ethics and Strategic Studies. Laura's professional focus for the past several years has been on reliability of large-scale complex distributed software systems. Laura is a member of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC). Her presentation will focus on **complex systems risks heightened by autonomy and AI**.

Anja Dahlmann is the Head of Berlin Office of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. She has been a researcher at the research and transfer project Arms Control and Emerging Technologies since October 2021. Previously, Anja worked at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and led the project the International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons. In that capacity, she advised the German Parliament, Government and other actors on humanitarian arms control and autonomous weapons systems. Anja will discuss **risks for international security through increased speed and the potential for escalation**.

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Federico VILLEGAS, CCW Chairperson