

## Open informal consultations on lethal autonomous weapons systems

held in accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/62](#)

12-13 May 2025

### Programme (updated 2 May 2025)

#### 12 May

10:00 to 10:30

#### **High-level opening**

- Welcome by Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- Video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Video message from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Statement by H.E. Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica), Chair of the First Committee
- Statement by H.E. Musa Timothy Kabba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone
- Statements by other high-level attendees<sup>1</sup>

10:30 to 12:00

#### **Briefing by the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, established under 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 (“GGE LAWS”)**

- Introductory remarks by H.E. Robert in den Bosch (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Chair of the GGE LAWS
- Questions and comments from the floor

12:00 to 13:00

#### **Introduction to the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/88](#))**

- Introductory briefings
  - Mr. René Holbach, Office for Disarmament Affairs (substantive portion and annex I)
  - Ms. Nicole van Rooijen, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots (annex II)
- Questions and comments from the floor

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<sup>1</sup> Representatives of States intending to participate in the informal consultations at the ministerial level are invited to contact Mr. René Holbach ([holbach@un.org](mailto:holbach@un.org)).

15:00 to 16:30

**Legal considerations (A/79/88, Sect. IV)**

- Expert briefings
  - Mr. Alex Moorehead, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
  - Ms. Laura Bruun, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- Questions and comments from the floor

*Guiding questions*

- What are the concerns regarding the impact of LAWS on compliance with international human rights law, especially the right to life?
- How does the development and use of LAWS impact the ability to hold individuals accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity under international criminal law?
- What are the implications of LAWS for holding States responsible for internationally wrongful acts under the law of State responsibility?

16:30 to 18:00

**Humanitarian considerations (A/79/88, Sect. IV)**

- Expert briefings
  - Ms. Nathalie Weizmann, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
  - Mr. Brady Mabe, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Questions and comments from the floor

*Guiding questions*

- What are the possible humanitarian impacts of the use of LAWS in armed conflict, especially on civilians and civilian infrastructure?
- How would the use of LAWS in armed conflict affect the provision of humanitarian assistance?
- What would LAWS mean for the humanitarian treatment of wounded or surrendering combatants?
- What environmental impact can LAWS be expected to have at the various stages of their lifecycle?

## **13 May**

10:00 to 11:30

### **Security considerations (A/79/88, Sect. IV)**

- Expert briefings
  - Ms. Ioana Puscas, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
  - Ms. Delphine Schantz, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Questions and comments from the floor

#### *Guiding questions*

- In which ways could LAWS be a destabilizing factor, inter alia related to the threshold for the use of force, arms racing or escalation?
- What concerns arise from the potential use of LAWS as a means of delivery for weapons of mass destruction?
- How can the risk of the proliferation of LAWS to non-State actors including terrorist and criminal groups be mitigated?

11:30 to 13:00

### **Technological considerations (A/79/88, Sect. IV)**

- Expert briefings
  - Ms. Nayat Sánchez Pi, French National Institute of Digital Sciences and Technologies (INRIA and INRIA Chile)
  - Ms. Shimona Mohan, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- Questions and comments from the floor

#### *Guiding questions*

- How could artificial intelligence be incorporated into LAWS, and what impact would this have?
- Are there other technological risks to which LAWS are susceptible, for example malicious cyberactivity or hardware/software anomalies?
- What impacts would algorithmic bias, including gender bias, have on LAWS?
- What mechanisms exist for identifying and mitigating technological risks?

15:00 to 16:30

**Ethical considerations (A/79/88, Sect. IV)**

- Expert briefings
  - Mr. Thompson Chengeta, Liverpool John Moores University
  - Mr. Yi Zeng, Chinese Academy of Science
- Questions and comments from the floor

*Guiding questions*

- What is the role of human, ethical and moral judgement in warfare today, including in the context of the use of LAWS?
- How does the use of LAWS impact the inherent dignity of humans?
- How are machines with the ability to take human life addressed in existing ethical and moral frameworks?

16:30 to 17:30

**Regional and global conferences and other initiatives related to LAWS**

- Briefings by representatives of States that have hosted conferences or led initiatives related to LAWS.<sup>2</sup>
- Questions and comments from the floor

17:30 to 18:00

**Closing**

- Any other business
- Closing remarks by the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

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<sup>2</sup> Representatives of States interested in briefing on LAWS-related conferences or other initiatives are invited to contact Mr. René Holbach ([holbach@un.org](mailto:holbach@un.org)).