

Legal and Humanitarian Implications of Bias in Military AI

Side event, UNGA First Committee

Date: 27 October 2025

Time: 13.15-14.30

Location: Conference Room 9 (next to Conference Room 1)

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Permanent Mission of Germany are pleased to invite state parties, international organisations and civil society to the side event ‘Legal and Humanitarian Implications of Bias in Military AI’.

Concerns around bias are well-recognised in policy debates on military AI. Albeit unintentionally, AI systems reflect and reproduce existing biases around, for example, gender, race, age, culture or (dis)abilities. These biases can have serious humanitarian implications when AI systems inform, or even execute, targeting decisions. However, while concerns around bias are increasingly acknowledged by states, the topic remains largely underexplored. To ensure that military AI is deployed and used responsibly and lawfully, there is an urgent need to understand – and address – concerns related to bias. To this end, important questions remain:

- How does bias in military AI manifest as harm?
- What implications does bias in military AI have for compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL)?
- What can concretely be done to respond to the challenges posed by bias in military AI?

This side event aims to address some of these key questions. It will provide an opportunity for representatives of states, international organisations and civil society to discuss in greater depth the concrete ways bias in military AI, specifically AI systems used for combat functions, may impact compliance with IHL and how a deeper understanding of bias can support regulatory efforts.

Programme

- **Welcome**, *Dustin Lewis, Associate Senior Researcher, SIPRI*
- **Opening remarks**, *Amb. Göbel, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva*
- **Key findings and recommendations**, *Laura Bruun, Researcher, SIPRI and Marta Bo, Associate Senior Researcher, SIPRI*
- **Reflections**, *Noa Schreuer (the ICRC), Steven Murphy (Ireland), and Ray Acheson (Reaching Critical Will)*
- **Q&A** with the audience