



Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

We speak as young people from around the world who will live with the consequences of today's decisions on artificial intelligence in the military domain. We urge states to approach this issue with urgency, restraint, and a clear commitment to justice, international peace and security.

AI systems might offer operational advantages, but they also introduce serious issues: faster escalation, lowered thresholds for the use of force, opaque decision-making, bias, and the delegation of life-and-death decisions to machines. These risks are already shaping military doctrine, procurement, and political expectations, while the impacts of these ungoverned technologies are laid bare in current conflicts, with particularly egregious impacts on civilians, leading to their digital dehumanisation. For instance, the deployment of AI-enabled decision support systems has been linked to massive civilian casualties in Gaza. Even where human oversight is nominally present, automation bias and time pressure undermine the conditions for accountable decision-making and human agency.

For the Stop Killer Robots Youth Network, a network of over 200 young people from over 50 countries, the core of this discussion is a fundamental principle: that meaningful human control must remain a non-negotiable standard. The use of force must always remain under human judgment, responsibility, and accountability. We believe that States must draw clear red lines - no system should be allowed to select or engage targets without meaningful human involvement. Without this, we risk creating an accountability gap, where responsibility for harm becomes diffused or obscured, which raises serious concerns under international law.

We also urge states to move beyond abstract principles and toward concrete governance, including transparency, testing, auditability, and clear limits on deployment of AI technologies in the military domain. This must include the meaningful participation of affected communities, civil society, and youth. Young people are not only future stakeholders; we are present political actors in shaping global governance.

We encourage states to strengthen existing proposals and work toward legal limits that address the most dangerous applications of AI in the military domain. Voluntary guidance alone will not be enough to protect us from the immense harms these technologies pose. We also call on states to advance negotiations toward a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems that will comprehensively respond to the ethical and legal issues related to these

systems, prohibiting systems that operate without meaningful human control and systems that target humans.

The choices made in this room will shape the presence and futures of conflict, security, and human dignity. Young people are asking for more than promises. We are asking for prevention, accountability, and action. The question is not whether AI systems in the military domain are possible, but whether they are acceptable.

Thank you.

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