UNODA · INFORMAL EXCHANGES ON AI IN THE MILITARY DOMAIN · SESSION 7

AI and Other Technologies

Convergence, risk, and what existing regimes can teach us

Anne-Marie Buzatu
Executive Director, ICT4Peace Foundation

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AI is not one more item on the list.

It is a **general-purpose accelerant.**

It acts on every other technology the Secretary-General's report maps — ICT, biology, chemistry, the nuclear domain — compressing the distance between knowledge and capability, and between the laboratory and the actor who can misuse it.

THE OPPORTUNITY

AI as a non-proliferation tool

The same property that worries us can strengthen our regimes. AI can enhance verification, detection and monitoring at a scale no human team can match:

- Processing safeguards & inspection data
- Flagging anomalies
- Analysing open-source signals

ALREADY IN PRACTICE

IAEA
AI/ML in safeguards — imagery, surveillance review, anomaly detection

OPCW
SAB report on AI & the Chemical Weapons Convention (Mar 2026)

The question: do we invest in AI for verification as deliberately as we fear AI for misuse?

THE CHALLENGE

The risk has moved upstream

REGIMES WERE BUILT TO CONTROL

Agents · precursors · fissile material · listed equipment

tangible things

BUT CAPABILITY NOW LIVES IN

Design · knowledge · software

diffuse, hard to attribute, civilian-held

You cannot put a model's weights on a schedule the way you schedule a chemical.

LESSONS FROM THE BWC & CWC

Two practices that travel well to AI

The general-purpose criterion

Both conventions govern by purpose and intent, not only by listed items — exactly suited to dual-use AI, where one model serves benign and harmful ends.

A living science–policy link

Standing channels to science — like the CWC's Scientific Advisory Board — are what keep governance current as the technology moves.

A caution: *the BWC has no verification mechanism — it leans on norms, transparency and confidence-building. That may be close to where AI starts.*

What to carry into the military-AI discussion

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1

Don’t govern through the weapons frame alone

The risk sits in the civilian dual-use ecosystem — engage industry, researchers and civil society, not only States.

2

Build for adaptation

Make approaches intent-based and anchored in science, not fixed lists.

3

Pair norms with tools

Combine norms and confidence-building with the verification capability AI itself can provide.