Humanitarian and rights concerns unaddressed: Key issues for future multilateral negotiations

Side event on the margins of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS)

Monday, 31 August
13:15 - 14:30

Room Concordia 1
Palais des Nations

Centering the impact of autonomous weapons systems on people, their rights and dignity, this event will bring together a distinguished panel of experts.

It will consider the key concerns and rules not currently addressed by the CCW GGE that states must return to during negotiations on an instrument on autonomous weapons systems. In particular, it will highlight the problem of anti-personnel autonomous weapons. Such systems not only raise challenges for compliance with International Humanitarian Law - the current focus at the GGE - but pose more fundamental threats to human dignity, rights, and ethical norms. The event will also take a broader view, connecting discussions on autonomous weapons systems in the context of armed conflict with concerns they raise in the civilian sphere, as well as examining the broader human rights and children's rights impacts of AI and digital technologies in the use of force, and current pathways for international prohibition and regulation.

The event will highlight that whilst multilateral discussions have made considerable progress when it comes to elements for the regulation of autonomous weapons in armed conflict, core issues relating to the impact on people and their rights still need to be addressed during the negotiation of an instrument if it is to represent a significant humanitarian step forward.

Panellists:

- Moderator: Nicole van Rooijen, Executive Director, Stop Killer Robots
- Laurent Gisel, Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit at the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Bonnie Docherty, Director of the Armed Conflict and Civilian Protection and a Lecturer on Law at the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School, and senior arms advisor in the Crisis, Conflict and Arms Division at Human Rights Watch
- Eric Mongelard, Human Rights Officer, Rule of Law and Democracy Section- Armed Conflict and Insecurity cluster, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Michele Messina, Chief, People-Centered Humanitarian Partnership Section, UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)

STOP KILLER ROBOTS

The event is open to Member States representatives, civil society and academics. No RSVP required. For more information, contact Charlotte Akin, charlotte@stopkillerrobots.org

A light lunch will be served.