Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Topic: Examining the Prohibition of Autonomous Lethal Weapons as a Peremptory Norm of International Law

Student Officer: Nikoleta Stoltidou

Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nikoleta Stoltidou and it is with great pleasure to welcome you to the 9th Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki Model United Nations. I am currently attending the 11th grade of the German School of Thessaloniki and I have the great honour of serving as one of the Co-Chairs of this years' Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1).

Initially, I would like to congratulate you all for taking part in this conference. DSTMUN is a wonderful opportunity for both MUN beginners and more experienced delegates to exchange innovative ideas during lobbying and contribute to fruitful debates. That being said, I am confident each and every one of you will have gained something valuable by the end of this experience; whether that is strengthened public speaking skills, confidence or knowledge on the world's most significant issues.

Moreover, during this year's conference, the Disarmament and International Security Committee is expected to put in its greatest effort to tackle two critical matters that affect the global community. This study guide will provide you with both useful as well as reliable information on the committee's first topic which is "Examining the Prohibition of Autonomous Lethal Weapons as a Peremptory Norm of International Law". Nonetheless, you are highly encouraged to extend your research, so that you will eventually be able to come up with innovative solutions upon this topic according to your assigned countries' policies.

Should any questions regarding the study guide or the topic come up, do not hesitate to contact me at; nicolestoltidou@gmail.com.

Looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Best regards,

Nikoleta Stoltidou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

As we traverse through a time period where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being increasingly implemented in many core aspects of our lives, its role in military operations does not come as a surprise. With practicality, speed and accuracy being of at most importance, Autonomous Lethal Weapon Systems (LAWs) have become a very useful military tool [AUP][1]. This rapid increase in autonomous warfare poses significant international security concerns, especially regarding the unpredictability military operations have gained due to constant modifications in the LAWS used. The uncertainty regarding the capabilities of such weapons is ultimately one of the core reasons for questioning whether LAWs should even be allowed under international law [ICRC][2].

LAWS play a significant role worldwide, with more economically developed countries (MEDCs) constantly expanding their research on AI-led warfare and less economically developed countries (LEDCs) either acquiring such mechanisms or applying similar more affordable weapons. Multiple states, such as Israel, the Russian Federation and South Korea [ADR][3] prefer operating with LAWs instead of more traditional warfare systems, as they come with several military advantages. These include speed, adaptation to more challenging surroundings and previously inaccessible regions, and overall higher quality for often lower costs. [Stanford. Edu][4] [SJMS][5] Apart from these, the automation of military operations allows employing fewer warfighters and thereby reduces casualties in riskier missions [AUP][6] and overall contributes to lower political costs.

The ongoing expanding research on LAWS and the lower costs of them compared to conventional warfare mean this kind of technology is accessible to many states across the globe. Due to this, attacks become more and more frequent, causing distress and escalating situations very rapidly, while leaving major harm behind them. Furthermore, the application of LAWS has changed the way military operations are carried out, allowing faster decision

---

[1] „Pros and Cons of Autonomous Weapons Systems“. *Military Review*, Army University Press, Juni 2017, https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2017/Pros-and-Cons-of-Autonomous-Weapons-Systems/ . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

[2] Davison, Neil. „A Legal Perspective: Autonomous Weapon Systems Under International Humanitarian Law“. 2018.https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document/file_list/autonomous_weapon_systems_under_international_humanitarian_law.pdf . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

[3] „State Positions“. *Automated Decision Research*, Juni 2026, https://automatedresearch.org/state-positions/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

[4] „Lethal Autonomous Weapons: The Next Frontier in International Security And“. *Stanford.Edu*, 2025, https://fsi.stanford.edu/sipr/content/lethal-autonomous-weapons-next-frontier-international-security-and-arms-control . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

[5] Biletskyi, Viacheslav, u. a. „Autonomous Systems and the Speed of Battle: Legal Risks and Strategic Adaptation in AI-Enabled Warfare“. *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies*, Bd. 9, Nr. 1, 2026, S. 210–224, 10.31374/sjms.441., https://sjms.nu/articles/10.31374/sjms.441 . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

[6] Etzioni, Amitai, and Oren Etzioni. “Pros and Cons of Autonomous Weapons Systems.” *Military Review*, Army University Press, June 2017, www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2017/Pros-and-Cons-of-Autonomous-Weapons-Systems/ . Accessed 28 June 2026.

making on crucial matters. While speed in such situations is of the essence, it is an additional factor, as operations led by such systems have proven them to be highly unreliable, with miscalculation and automation bias [Atlasinstitute][7] being constantly repeated.

Acknowledging the aforementioned risks and other important variables of the equation, many global actors have opposed LAWs and expressed their concerns. Several reports have been made regarding the lack of compliance of AI-based warfare with the international human rights system and multiple resolutions have been proposed by various member states, such as Austria and Panama. However, the complexity of this issue and the importance of LAWS for many member states has not allowed any of these attempts to solve the issue completely confront it. Alongside these member states, non governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken part in discussions on the topic and the UN strongly supports the prohibition of LAWs with the current Secretary General Antonio Guterres referring to them as “politically unacceptable” and “morally repugnant” [UNODA][8].

All in All, the continuing advancement of warfare technology, its frequent implementation, and the geopolitical complexity and dynamic-shift a prohibition of LAWs entails, ultimately lead to the conclusion that this very urgent topic requires careful consideration and true determination to be faced appropriately.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Technology that enables computers and machines to stimulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy. [IBM][9] Such systems are fed with information, which they later on process and gradually develop independently.

Automation Bias

Completely relying on autonomous systems -automated decision-making systems without questioning their accountability or actual competence of successfully handling a situation. It also refers to situations, where one might trust the judgement of an AI-led system despite existing contradictory information.

---

[7] “ContentKeeper Content Filtering.” *Atlasinstitute.org*, 2026, atlasinstitute.org/ai-arms-race-how-autonomous-systems-are-reshaping-deterrence-and-escalation-dynamics/ . Accessed 28 June 2026.

[8] “Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems | United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.” *Unoda.org*, 2025, disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/emerging-challenges/lethal-autonomous-weapon-systems . Accessed 28 June 2026.

[9] Stryker, Cole, and Eda Kavlakoglu. “What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?” IBM, 9 Aug. 2024, www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence . Accessed 27 June 2026.

Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWs)

A class of military systems that, once activated, can conduct military operations without any human intervention. These Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven systems can independently detect targets, navigate and adjust in combat environments, and make significant battlefield decisions; they are also often lethal. [BCSIA][10]

Peremptory Norm of International Law

A norm of general international law from which no derogation is permitted. It is the highest form of law in the international legal order [UN][11], reflecting and protecting fundamental values of the international community [UN][12].

Threshold Lowering

A lower price or reduction in the price of something allowing more consumption and making the product - service more affordable. [DOI][13] For example, cheaper military operation methods resulting in excessive use, more frequent and less manageable conflict.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Development of LAWs

Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWs) have been developing since the 1970s-1980s, when they were first introduced in the US Navy. Considering the rapid development and growth in technology and such mechanisms in the past year, the large variety in LAWs available nowadays should not come as a surprise. These are primarily divided based on the degree of automatization they offer: semi-autonomous, supervised-autonomous and fully-autonomous.

[10] Lee, Ethan. "What Are Autonomous Weapon Systems?" The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 3 Feb. 2025, www.belfercenter.org/what-are-autonomous-weapon-systems . Accessed 24 June 2026.
[11] United Nations. "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties." Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, vol. 1155, no. Article 53, 23 May 1969, legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf , https://doi.org/10.2307/2199522 . Accessed 24 June 2026.
[12] United Nations. Chapter v Peremptory Norms of General International Law (Jus Cogens). 2019.
[13] Edland-Gryt, Marit, and Astrid Helene Skatvedt. "Thresholds in a Low-Threshold Setting: An Empirical Study of Barriers in a Centre for People with Drug Problems and Mental Health Disorders." International Journal of Drug Policy, vol. 24, no. 3, May 2013, pp. 257–264, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo .2012.08.002.

Discussion about the automation of warfare began as soon as 1495, when Leonardo Davinci first came up with the concept of a knight controlled by a system of pulleys and cranks with no specific estimation of how that would actually function. [EBSCO][14]

Moreover, lethal autonomous or at least semi-autonomous weapon systems were introduced in battlefields during the First World War, mainly by Germany with the FL-7 motorboat and the US "Kettering Bug" bomb. Updated variants of such weapons played a significant role in the Second World War, such as the allegedly first radio-controlled drone -FX-1400- by Germany, which was used to destroy Italy's battleship called the Roma. [EBSCO][15]

WWII raised a lot of insecurity worldwide concerning global security and defensive mechanisms between states. That general feeling and the strong rivalry between the Soviet Union and the USA resulted in industrious studies on LAWs in both countries, with the Soviet Union introducing radio-controlled bombs and missiles in the 1950s. As a response, in June 1963, the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) allocated $2,2 million US Dollars to computer science and artificial intelligence studies, also known as the MAC program (Machine-Aided Cognition) [Wikipedia][16], at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which could then further enhance the LAWs the USA had access to. Lastly, further technological advancements in the 1970s-90s , such as the GPS and the Predator, allowed for more widespread applications of LAWs and are still being used today, though more updated and thus more accurate.

Latest Advancements

During the 1970s-1990s, some of the most noteworthy technological advancements in the field were made, such as the introduction of the global positioning system (GPS) and the Predator, variations of which are still essential to this day. Both the GPS and autonomous systems like the Predator highlight how navigation technologies are used in daily life as well as in military operations, fulfilling any navigation and orientation requirements. Ever since, LAWs have continued progressing; they were first brought up as an important international-safety related issue in 2013 by Christof Heyns, a UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2013

[14] Winfrey, Sarah. "Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs) | EBSCO." EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | Www.Ebsco.Com, 2023, https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/social-sciences-and-humanities/lethal-autonomous-weapons-LAWs . Accessed 10 July 2026.

[15] Winfrey, Sarah. "Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs) | EBSCO." *EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | Www.Ebsco.Com*, 2023, https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/social-sciences-and-humanities/lethal-autonomous-weapons-LAWs . Accessed 10 July 2026.

[16] "MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence ." *Wikipedia* , https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_Computer_Science_and_Artificial_Intelligence_Laboratory . Accessed 10 July 2026.

[Refworld][17]. The report stresses the questionable compliance of LAWS with the international human rights laws and demonstrates the lack of an adequate system for legal accountability for the use of AI-led warfare. Lastly, it calls for the establishment of a high-level panel with the purpose of a complete policy on the issue, addressing all safety concerns.

Understandably, throughout the years, LAWs have become much stronger than they used to be due to continuous research and technological advancements. Thus, AI-powered warfare drastically impacts the current warfield, leading to one of the main concerns regarding LAWs under the international law: how can authority and responsibility be delegated to an "intelligent machine"? Some argue that the systems, having been programmed by humans, do not pose a threat to international security and are as accurate as any other warfare system if not more. [US Congress][18] While that is partially the case, it is found unacceptable to hand over such critical decisions to AI-driven machines, when actual reflection on critical issues is required.

These two world-plays truly paint a somewhat whole picture, as they not only focus on how these systems function but also how they are perceived based on the outcome of their actions. Nonetheless, they aim at explaining the purpose of LAWs and the origins of the growing interest in LAWs in an understandable manner. The first wordplay, dull, dirty, dangerous refers to the long duration many AI-led operations have, which if undertaken with conventional weapons, would cause human fatigue and loss of focus. "Dirty" refers to the environment of such tasks, which can for instance be contaminated by chemical or radiological hazards or simply hardly reachable. As for the last word, mainly "dangerous", it describes both the risk of miscalculation of the mechanism and the overall damage the warfare can cause. As for the second wordplay, it focuses on the actual mechanism and how it processes the information given to it. Simply put, traditional guided missiles use autonomous tracking after launch. They do not require any pre-identified targets, instead they independently navigate the given area, collect data and act accordingly using onboard sensors. Overall, it is a very mechanical procedure and since fully automated can successfully be described by fire, forget and find.

[17] Heyns, Christof . „Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Christof Heyns". *Refworld.Org*, 9 Apr. 2013, https://www.refworld.org/reference/themreport/unhrc/2013/96228 . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026. 23rd session of the Human Rights Council

[18] Sayler, Kelley. „Defense Primer: U.S. Policy on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems". *Congress.Gov*, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11150 . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

Libyan Civil War

As the Second Libyan Civil War was reaching its conclusion in 2020, one of the first uses of lethal autonomous weapon systems was reported, mainly that of an attack drone under the name "Kargu 2"[IHL] [19]. The "Kargu 2" is a Turkish-developed drone that can be operated both manually and autonomously. The AI-led system was used by the Government of National Accord in an operation against forces loyal to General Khalifa Haftar (HAF-Haftar Affiliated Forces) According to the official UN description of the incident, the weapon was "programmed to attack targets without requiring data connectivity between the operator and the munition: in effect a true "fire, forget and find" capability [Casebook.Icrc.Org][20] Simply said, the machine uses data already implemented in its memory and acts based on this data, without reevaluation. So much global attention was drawn to this particular incident as it marked the beginning of a whole new type of challenge in conflict zones. Moreover, as Zachari Kallenborn commented in the "Bulletin of Scientists" : "if anyone was killed in an autonomous attack, it would likely represent a historic first known case of artificial-based autonomous weapons being used to kill." [BAS][21]

Ukrainian-Russian War

The ongoing military conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation that was initiated in late February 2014 [The Intercept][22]is currently one of the most characteristic examples of LAWs, since a minimum of three different autonomous weapon systems have reportedly been used by both parties since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, among these are the Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drone, the KUB-BLA drone and missiles such as the Switchblades 300 and 600. [ADR][23] The wide variety of such weapon systems and their constant application highlight the issue of threshold lowering and the real-life consequences of the phenomenon. While the tests both parties carried out, exploring new technology and its application in the battlefield brought out the capabilities of autonomous weapons, the

---

[19] „Libya, the Use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems | How Does Law Protect in War? - Online Casebook". *Casebook.Icrc.Org*, https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/libya-use-lethal-autonomous-weapon-systems . Accessed 13 Juli 2026.

[20] "Libya, the Use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems | How Does Law Protect in War? - Online Casebook." Casebook.Icrc.Org, https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/libya-use-lethal-autonomous-weapon-systems . Accessed 13 July 2026.

[21] Kallenborn, Zachary. "Was a Flying Killer Robot Used in Libya? Quite Possibly." Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 20 May 2021, https://thebulletin.org/2021/05/was-a-flying-killer-robot-used-in-libya-quite-possibly/ . Accessed 13 July 2026.

[22] Gordon, Rebecca. „It's Time to Rein in Lethal AI Drones". *The Intercept*, 26 Aug. 2026, https://theintercept.com/2026/08/26/ai-drone-warfare-russia-ukraine-openai-anthropic/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

[23] Connolly, Catherine. "Weapons Systems with Autonomous Functions Used in Ukraine." Automated Decision Research, 28 June 2022, https://automatedresearch.org/news/weapons-systems-with-autonomous-functions-used-in-ukraine/ . Accessed 13 July 2026.

aftermath of these AI-driven operations is something truly worrying, especially after the death of Russian soldiers on the battlefield by autonomous drones two years ago. [AT][24]

Defensive Application

Alongside their offensive application, LAWS also serve as a very successful defense mechanism. Moreover, there is a plethora of ways in which LAWs come in helpful in defending and protecting countries such as but not limited to monitoring borders, blocking missile attacks, destroying improvised explosives. This way they enable many states to achieve success in attack. Statistically speaking, LAWs are 80-90% of the time used as a defense mechanism, however in many cases, “the best defense is the attack” [CEEEP][25] When it comes to the application of LAWS, loitering munitions often hunt for enemy radars, tanks or troops and navigate through the area before being attacked for better orientation and achieving a military advantage.

One of the most common military AI-led activities is monitoring borders, as it is time consuming and surveilling, detecting and tracking tasks can be very effectively accomplished with a variety of different system options. These include AI-powered surveillance towers, autonomous sentries, such as computer vision, and mobile detection units, for instance vehicles equipped with high-tech software and hardware.

The aforementioned systems are just a few examples of the wide variety of options, each designed for a specific situation, providing wide-area surveillance, rapid response capabilities and enhanced situational awareness in different environments. That having been said, the global major concern regarding LAWs, meaning their moral aspect, has yet to be fulfilled adequately.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Austria

Austria holds a strong position on the issue, aiming at strictly prohibiting algorithms deciding over life and death. Besides being an active member of the CCW, Austria has throughout the years taken great initiatives. These include organizing the "Conference to Maintain Human Control in Autonomous Weapon Systems" in 2011. Furthermore, in 2022 a

[24] Hsu, Jeremy. “Ukraine’s One-Time Test Used Fully Autonomous Drones to Kill Russian Soldiers.” Ars Technica, 12 June 2026, https://arstechnica.com/ai/2026/06/ukraines-one-time-test-used-fully-autonomous-drones-to-kill-russian-soldiers/ . Accessed 13 July 2026.

[25] “Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Means of Defense and Attack – Centro De Estudios Estratégicos Del Ejército Del Perú.” Ceeep.Mil.Pe, 27 Oct. 2022, https://ceeep.mil.pe/2022/10/27/lethal-autonomous-weapons-means-of-defense-and-attack/?lang=en . Accessed 13 July 2026.

resolution proposed by Austria and Panama on the issue was adopted by the Human Rights Council (HRC) [URG][26]. The resolution examines the human rights implications of new and emerging military technologies and calls for the refinement and evaluation of the international legal framework, for it to remain relevant and adequately ensure international safety.In December of the same year, Austria prepared and coordinated a cross-regional statement on autonomous weapon systems. Most recently, in 2023, Austria initiated the first-ever resolution on autonomous weapon systems, which got the support of 164 member states at the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1).

Belarus

As one of the High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) [ADR][27], Belarus has been extremely active in discussions on LAWs and has expressed its point of view on several occasions. For instance, in 2019, at a meeting of the CCW, it stated "we believe in the need to provide appropriate development in autonomous weapons in accordance with the principles and standards of international law", and "we are opposed to indiscriminate, disproportionate use of LAWs and use against the civilian population". However, Belarus voted against the Draft Resolution L.77 in October 2024 at the 79th UN GA and the UN GA Resolution 80/57 in December 2025 on confronting the challenges posed by LAWs. Both of these instances signal their disencouragement of negotiation on the subject. Moreover, Belarus' long shared history with Russia and multiple legal agreements between them codify a strategic partnership, because of which their policies on the issue align strongly.

China

So far, China's AI-driven weapon systems can be applied in the sea and sky, for instance with the automated anti-sabmarine warfare and long-ranged missiles. Additionally, China has set five very specific requirements, all of which must be fulfilled for an autonomous weapon to be seen as unacceptable, mainly: lethal, complete absence of human control, an impossibility of termination through the entire process, capability of indiscriminate killing and having the potential to autonomously evolve beyond human expectations. This means the chances of an automated weapon being seen as illegal are very limited, signaling China not being very interested in taking action against LAWS. Furthermore, China makes great efforts into developing new automated warfare and has invested in it, aiming at automated anti-submarine warfare, long range missiles and satellite

[26] „HRR Portal | Universal Rights Group". *Universal Rights Group*, 20 March 2020, https://www.universal-rights.org/human-rights/human-rights-resolutions-portal/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.
[27] *Automated Decision Research*, 16 May 2022, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/belarus/ . Accessed 24 Aug. 2026.

based radars. [TD][28] This further underlines China's reasons for being generally in favour of AI-based warfare.

Israel

Israel has been experimenting with LAWs and the development of new, more powerful warfare since the 1980s with anti-radiation loitering munitions, such as the Israeli Harpy and many more variations of these that followed. Lately, Israel serves as one of the most characteristic examples of extreme application of LAWs in armed conflicts, seeing that new algorithm-driven warfare is constantly being used in Gaza, including the "Lavender" and "Hasbora", often resulting in large catastrophes and many deaths. [INSS][29]

Mexico

Mexico is a very strong advocate for the prohibition of LAWs, having actively participated in discussions and resolutions regarding LAWs, openly sharing its concerns: "very worrying, from an ethical point of view that autonomous weapon systems, based on algorithms, can decide on people's lives."[ADR][30] (UN General Assembly, First Committee in October 2024) Moreover, at the 79th UN GA1 Committee in October 2024, Mexico co-sponsored and voted in favour of Draft Resolution L.77on LAWS. This essentially focuses on the impact of unconventional weapons on regional and international stability and the lack of accountability in AI-led military operations. Lastly, Mexico also argues that all automated force application without human oversight violates core human rights principles and these weapons should therefore be referred to using a slightly broader term, meaning as Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS).

New Zealand

New Zealand raises serious concerns on autonomous weapon systems due to the absence of a moral component and the rightful doubts circulating regarding the compliance of such weapons with the International Humanitarian Law. As an active member of the CCW [NZMFAT][31] and the "STOP KILLER ROBOTS Campaign" [Converge][32], New Zealand has

---

[28] Loftus, Michael C. „Machines in the Alleyways: China's Bet on Autonomous Urban Warfare". *Thediplomat.Com*, The Diplomat, 3 Feb. 2026, https://thediplomat.com/2026/02/machines-in-the-alleyways-chinas-bet-on-autonomous-urban-warfare/ . Accessed 13 July 2026.

[29] "Loitering Munitions (Explosive UAVs)." INSS, 25 June 2025, https://www.inss.org.il/publication/explosive-drones/. Accessed 1 Sept. 2026.

[30] „Mexico | Automated Decision Research". *Automated Decision Research*, 12 Nov. 2024, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/mexico/ . Accessed 12 July 2026.

[31] „Autonomous Weapon Systems". *New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, MFAT, 2022, https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/disarmament/autonomous-weapons-systems . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

[32] „NZ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots". *Converge.Org.Nz*, 2025, https://www.converge.org.nz/pma/robots.htm . Accessed 20 Juli 2026.

committed to several anti-LAWs actions, such as co-sponsoring a UN GA resolution in 2023 and adopting a US-led political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy. In addition to that survey on Autonomous Weapon Systems organized by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the vast majority, 72%, of the citizens asked oppose the use of LAWS, while more than half of it supports advocating for controls on the technology's development.

Russia

The Russian Federation, as one of the strongest military forces worldwide, prioritizes autonomy and therefore strongly opposes a ban of LAWs, as that would tremendously reduce their military abilities and would restrain their military developments. Moreover, Russia has been a pioneer in studies involving cyberwarfare, tracing back to the radio-controlled bombs and missiles developed by the Soviet Union. Additionally during the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, both parties have applied AI-led warfare, such as drones [Chosun][33] in military missions and the Russian Federation continues relevant research. Currently, Russia's military heavily relies on algorithm-driven warfare, explaining why Russia consistently votes against any ban or limitation regarding LAWs.

United States of America (USA)

The USA is one of the first countries that started developing lethal autonomous weapon systems and is still one of the most important actors in the field, with extremely advanced technology [US Congress][34]. Furthermore, the US Deputy Secretary of Defence Kathleen Hicks delivered in 2023 a speech with the title "The Urgency to Innovate" . In her speech she focused on LAWs and thoroughly explained the goals set by the US Defence : "to field attritable autonomous systems at scale of multiple thousands, in multiple domains, within the next 18 to 24 months." This strongly highlights the military ambitions of the USA regarding LAWs and the potential they see in them. Moreover, the USA is generally open to dialogue on the issue and certain regulation of LAWs, without prohibiting their use entirely.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The Human Rights Watch has been extremely active in regards to facing this issue, being a co-founder of the "Stop Killer Robots" Campaign and thereby assisting in many relevant actions, such as petitions and demonstrations. Additionally, it participates in the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), where LAWs are the central topic of discussion. Moreover, it handles the issue with an international-humanitarian-law-oriented

---

[33] Da-eun, Kang. „Russia Deploys NVIDIA-Powered Autonomous AI Drones in Ukraine“. *The Chosun Daily*, 조선일보, 25 Aug. 2026, https://www.chosun.com/english/industry-en/2026/08/25/VQ3WFPCQFRBUDOAIJSKLQVJLQA/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

[34] „Defense Primer: U.S. Policy on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems“. *Congress.Gov*, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11150 . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

approach, while showcasing and abiding by six main non-negotiable pillars: Right to Life; Right to Peaceful Assembly; Human Dignity; Non-discrimination; Right to Privacy; Right to Remedy. In spite of its efforts in acknowledging the current situation, no concrete measure has been applied by ensuring proper use of AI in the warfare infrastructure. [HRW][35]

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is a neutral and independent humanitarian aid organization based in Geneva, ensuring protection and assistance for people affected by armed conflicts and other violence. This saying arose from concerns regarding the challenges the application of LAWs entails: the questionable compliance with international (humanitarian) law; ethical concerns; risks of extreme harm. Therefore, the ICRC has set certain requirements aiming at the safest and most lawful use of LAWs. These include limitations on the types of targets, duration, geographical scope and scale of use. Lastly, the ICRC finds a human-machine interaction essential for the machine to not make crucial decisions fully autonomously. [RED CROSS][36]

UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (GGE)

The UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons was established in December 2016 under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons [MD][37] with the purpose of discussing the characterization of LAWs, regulation, accountability and human control. Additionally it explores and agrees on possible recommendations or options related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWs. The organization consists of members from various parts of the world, thus having an international overview of the situation.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc A

Countries such as the Russian Federation, the USA, India, Belarus, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran, that actively develop and use technology in armed conflicts are strictly against a prohibition of LAWs, as this would significantly restrict their activities and put limitations to their abilities in armed conflicts. These countries strongly experiment with the use of technology in warfare and other developments in the field, having multiple deployed scientists working towards a certain military goal. Moreover, many of these countries'

[35] Human Rights Watch. „Killer Robots“. *Human Rights Watch*, https://www.hrw.org/topic/arms/killer-robots . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.
[36] “The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross : Commentary | International Committee of the Red Cross.” *Www.Icrc.Org*, 11 July 2024, https://www.icrc.org/en/article/fundamental-principles-red-cross-commentary. Accessed 1 Sept. 2026.
[37] „GGE on LAWS“. *Model Diplomat*, 2026, https://modeldiplomat.com/learn/glossary/gge-laws . Accessed 24 Aug. 2026.

economies strongly depend on the production of warfare systems, meaning a prohibition of LAWs would have major economic consequences. [SDD][38]

Bloc B

The majority of the European and African states alongside others, for instance Austria, South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico and Chile strongly support a prohibition of LAWs and frequently express that by emphasizing the importance of human control and supervision while highlighting the fundamental human rights violations, including the right to live, occurring from the application of LAWs in armed conflicts. These countries hold a rather humanitarian perspective on the matter, as it does not intervene with any military operations they have planned or any relevant research. While not directly affected by the issue, they are very active in all relative discussions taking place, advocating for a humanitarian and law-oriented approach.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
2nd October, 1918	**Introduction of Kettering Bug** Application of the Kettering Bug, a bomb with wings guided by an internal gyroscope, by the USA. [EBSCO][39]
10th October, 1980	**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)** The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) was drafted in Geneva and came into force in 1983. [Treaties UN][40]

[38] Fleck, Anna. „Twelve Countries Say No to Banning Autonomous Weapons“. *Statista Daily Data*, Statista, 27 Jan. 2026, https://www.statista.com/chart/35745/state-positions-on-legally-binding-autonomous-weapons-systems-ban/?srsltid=afmboopd4gahsk-iokmayesya3auwmpdrb6lrukwuasei6xjr0h9psd1 . Accessed 22 July 2026.

[39] Winfrey, Sarah. „Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs) | EBSCO“. *EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | Www.Ebsco.Com*, 2023, https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/social-sciences-and-humanities/lethal-autonomous-weapons-laws . Accessed 10 July 2026.

[40] „United Nations Treaty Collection“. *Treaties.Un.Org*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=26&clang=_en&mtdsg_no=XXVI-2&src=TREATY . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

December, 2016	**Establishment of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)** The UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWs is being established under the CCW. [Digital Observatory][41]
22nd December, 2023	**UNGA Resolution 78/241** UNGA Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems at the 78th session of the General Assembly (GA). [UN][42]
1st August, 2024	**European Union Artificial Intelligence Act** The European Union Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act [EU AI Act][43] enters into force.
1st December, 2025	**UNGA Resolution 80/57** UN Resolution 80/57 on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems at the 80th session of the General Assembly (GA). [UN][44]

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations General Assembly (GA) Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (78/241)

This UN GA resolution, proposed by Austria on December 22nd 2023, aimed at raising concerns on LAWs from different perspectives, such as humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical. Moreover, it urged the Secretary General himself to take action on

[41] *GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems | Digital Watch Observatory*. https://dig.watch/processes/gge-laws . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.
[42] „United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (78/241), December 22Nd, 2023“. *Un.Org*, 2025, https://docs.un.org/en/a/res/78/241 . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.
[43] European Union. „The EU Artificial Intelligence Act“. *The Artificial Intelligence Act*, 2025, https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.
[44] „Resolutions of the 80Th Session - UN General Assembly“. *Un.Org*, 2023, https://www.un.org/en/ga/80/resolutions.shtml . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026.

the matter at hand. The resolution went into voting procedure and was supported by 152 member states, meaning about 91% of all the member states present. [UNGA][45]

United Nations General Assembly Resolution (80/57)

The most recent resolution is the one handled on the 1st of December 2025, which stresses the urgent need for the CCW to address the challenges and concerns posed by autonomous weapon systems. Furthermore, it suggests completing the set of instruments being developed within the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) with a view to future negotiation. To sum up, the resolution at hand calls for immediate action by specialized departments under certain relevant frameworks. [UNGA][46]

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Stop Killer Robots Campaign

The "Stop Killer Robots" campaign was first initiated in 2012 and took in 2013 action with the goals of challenging inequality and oppression emerging from technology, taking collective responsibility and demanding meaningful human control. [SKR] [47]Over the past decade, they have gained immense importance in the global political scene regarding LAWs, being supported by many global actors and influencing the amount of attention brought to this issue. This is being achieved through various events, such as the "A hazard to human rights: autonomous weapon systems and digital decision-making", which took place in May 2025 at the UN in New York.

The European Union Artificial Intelligence Act 2021

The EU Act specializing on AI was part of the EU's digital strategy and made a drastic difference on confronting the risks posed by AI in several fields. For starters, on April 21st 2021 the first EU AI law was proposed, according to which any deployed AI system would have to respect fundamental rights while still fostering innovation. Later on, on February 2nd 2025 a ban of AI systems posing risks was enforced,also requiring obligatory registration of AI systems falling into specific areas such as, but not limited to: education, employment, law enforcement, migration, asylum, border control and application of the law. [TAIA][48] Despite the clear motive of this act to regulate the implementation of AI, it has faced certain issues, getting in the way of accomplishing its goals. These struggles include overlapping with already existing product safety and sector-specific laws, uneven oversight across the EU

[45] United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (78/241), December 22Nd, 2023". *Un.Org*, 2025, https://docs.un.org/en/a/res/78/241 . Accessed 25 Aug. 2026

[46]United Nations General Assembly. . 2025, United Nations, https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/80/57.

[47] "News – Stop Killer Robots." Stopkillerrobots.Org, 22 June 2026, https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/ . Accessed 11 July 2026.

[48] European Parliament. "EU AI Act: First Regulation on Artificial Intelligence." 19 Feb. 2025.

states and competitiveness concerns, as AI-related companies inside the EU have to comply with this act, while others outside of it don't. All in all, while the concept is very solid, the implementation of such a significant act on a constantly ongoing topic, has many implications that have to be addressed for it to succeed. [EU][49]

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Reviewing International Humanitarian Law

Acknowledging that one of the main concerns regarding the application of LAWs is the questionable morality of the decision-making process, reviewing the international humanitarian law is crucial. This would assist in setting some concrete boundaries on the responsibilities of AI-led systems and ensure more ethical decision-making in intense military situations. Though not as drastic as a complete prohibition of LAWs, this would be an important step in understanding the issue and how the situation keeps constantly developing, ensuring global safety. Multiple past reports and resolutions call for expanding the international human rights law according to the newly-developed military technologies, as it currently does not include them at all. Such a safety measure would require lots of consideration and very clear boundaries while ensuring the freedom to develop new technologies and not limiting it, as that would raise very serious opposition by the member states involved in the weapon-manufacturing market.

Establishment of an obligatory LAWs reporting mechanism

Similar to a part of the EU's digital strategy, an obligatory reporting mechanism for any weapons falling under the LAWs category is vital, as it would provide the UN with complete transparency on what kind of LAWs member states have at any given time. This way, it would be much easier for policies and legal frameworks surrounding LAWs and their implementation to keep up with the technological advancements in the military field. Other than that, constant monitoring the situation is the key to effectively facing the issue. Undeniably, the reporting mechanism would be hard to pass by all member states, as it can be seen as part-invasive, even though its goal is maintaining an oversight in order to update AI-relevant legislations accordingly. Finally, requiring certain criteria while reporting any AI-based military mechanism could ensure truthful information and create some boundaries, protecting the privacy of each member state.

[49] European Union. „The EU Artificial Intelligence Act". The Artificial Intelligence Act, 2025, https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/ . Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

Prohibiting the Use of Fully Autonomous Weapon Systems

By prohibiting the use of fully autonomous weapon systems and only allowing that of conventional or semi-autonomous weapon systems, member states would actually ensure accountability for any military operations they undertake. An international peremptory ban, ensuring all member states handle their military accordingly would be most effective under the jus cogens. This would mean that the use of fully autonomous weapons would under no circumstances be permitted, thereby strengthening the implementation of such a prohibition. Nonetheless, judging and determining whether certain AI-led military mechanisms are fully or only partially autonomous can be quite challenging. Last but not least, fully autonomous weapons would most likely be slightly modified to fit the part-autonomous weapons category, in case of such a prohibition, leaving the situation exactly as is.

Establishment of an UN-body Overviewing Ongoing LAWs Research

The establishment of non-partial, non-biased UN-body overviewing ongoing LAWs research would be highly effective to ensure everything is under control. Such an organ would consist of specialized AI and military scientists, capable of having a clear view of the situation while still providing member states with the liberty of experimentation and further military development. Moreover, to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the observatory organ and member states, the specialists deployed in the team would be strictly evaluated by UN officials. After all, an oversight mechanism like this is crucial to ensure the correct use of LAWs according to the jus cogens. However, it is important to mention the difficulty of overviewing such a classified international topic as most of the global research on LAWS is strictly confidential and many big actors would oppose reporting to such a body. Lastly, while possibly effective, establishing a UN organ capable of handling the issue of LAWS would require lots of time and a lot of organization, which could be allocated in other possible solutions for the topic.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Bibliography

"About Us." *Future of Life Institute*, futureoflife.org/about-us/ . Accessed 14 July 2026.

Adamson, Liisi. "No New Rules Needed: Russia's Minimalist Vision of Human Oversight for LAWS." *Lieber Institute West Point*, 13 Apr. 2026, lieber.westpoint.edu/no-new-rules-needed-russias-minimalist-vision-human-oversight-for-laws/. Accessed 12 July 2026.

Außenministerium der Republik Österreich. "Autonomous Weapons Systems." 2021.

"Belarus." *Automated Decision Research*, 16 May 2022, automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/belarus/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Cambridge Dictionary. "Lethal." *Cambridge Dictionary*, 9 Feb. 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lethal. Accessed 10 July 2026.

Codingest. "Regulating Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in a Fractured Multipolar Order." *Usanas Foundation*, 4 Jan. 2026, usanasfoundation.com/regulating-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-laws-in-a-fractured-multipolar-order . Accessed 12 July 2026.

Conn, Ariel. "European Parliament Passes Resolution Supporting a Ban on Killer Robots." *Future of Life Institute*, 14 Sept. 2018.

Connolly, Catherine. "Weapons Systems with Autonomous Functions Used in Ukraine." *Automated Decision Research*, 28 June 2022, automatedresearch.org/news/weapons-systems-with-autonomous-functions-used-in-ukraine/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

"ContentKeeper Content Filtering." *Atlas Institute*, 2026, atlasinstitute.org/ai-arms-race-how-autonomous-systems-are-reshaping-deterrence-and-escalation-dynamics/. Accessed 28 June 2026.

"Cooperation and Dependence in Belarus-Russia Relations." *RAND National Security Research Division*, Library of Congress, 2024, www.loc.gov/item/2024739319/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Docherty, Bonnie. "A Hazard to Human Rights: Autonomous Weapons Systems and Digital Decision-Making." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Apr. 2025, www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/28/a-hazard-to-human-rights/autonomous-weapons-systems-and-digital-decision-making. Accessed 12 July 2026.

Edland-Gryt, Marit, and Astrid Helene Skatvedt. "Thresholds in a Low-Threshold Setting: An Empirical Study of Barriers in a Centre for People with Drug Problems and Mental Health Disorders." *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 24, no. 3, May 2013, pp. 257–264, doi:10.1016/j.drugpo.2012.08.002.

Etzioni, Amitai, and Oren Etzioni. "Pros and Cons of Autonomous Weapons Systems." *Military Review*, Army University Press, June 2017, www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2017/Pros-and-Cons-of-Autonomous-Weapons-Systems/. Accessed 28 June 2026.

"EUR-Lex - 52018IP0341." European Parliament Resolution 2018/2752(RSP), *EUR-Lex*, 2019.

"European Defence Fund Regulation on Autonomous Weapons." *Article 36*, article36.org/assets/documents/publication_files/european-defence-fund-autonomous-weapons-1.pdf. Accessed 21 July 2026.

European Parliament. "EU AI Act: First Regulation on Artificial Intelligence." 19 Feb. 2025.

"Fire, Forget, and Find: Kamikaze Drones Are Already a Thing in Libya." *TAG24*, 3 June 2021, www.tag24.com/en/tech/fire-forget-and-find-kamikaze-drones-are-already-a-thing-in-libya-1988433. Accessed 14 July 2026.

Future of Life Institute. "Autonomous Weapons Open Letter: AI & Robotics Researchers." *Future of Life Institute*, 9 Feb. 2016, futureoflife.org/open-letter/open-letter-autonomous-weapons-ai-robotics/. Accessed 14 July 2026.

"Gaza as a Testing Ground: Israel's AI Warfare." *SETA*, 3 July 2025, www.setav.org/en/gaza-as-a-testing-ground-israels-ai-warfare. Accessed 11 July 2026.

Heyns, Christof. "Human Rights and the Use of Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS) During Domestic Law Enforcement." *Human Rights Quarterly*, vol. 38, no. 2, 2016, pp. 350–378. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/24738054. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Hiebert, Kyle. "The United States Quietly Kick-Starts the Autonomous Weapons Era." *Centre for International Governance Innovation*, 15 Jan. 2024, www.cigionline.org/articles/the-united-states-quietly-kick-starts-the-autonomous-weapons-era/. Accessed 10 July 2026.

Hsu, Jeremy. "Ukraine's One-Time Test Used Fully Autonomous Drones to Kill Russian Soldiers." *Ars Technica*, 12 June 2026, arstechnica.com/ai/2026/06/ukraines-one-time-test-used-fully-autonomous-drones-to-kill-russian-soldiers/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

"Infographic by Action on Armed Violence." *Stop Killer Robots*, 20 Jan. 2014, www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/infographicaoav/. Accessed 21 July 2026.

International Committee of the Red Cross. "About Us." *ICRC*, 17 Dec. 2023, www.icrc.org/en/about-international-committee-red-cross-icrc. Accessed 14 July 2026.

International Committee of the Red Cross. "ICRC Position on Autonomous Weapon Systems." *ICRC*, 12 May 2021, www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-position-autonomous-weapon-systems. Accessed 14 July 2026.

Kallenborn, Zachary. "Was a Flying Killer Robot Used in Libya? Quite Possibly." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 20 May 2021,

thebulletin.org/2021/05/was-a-flying-killer-robot-used-in-libya-quite-possibly/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

"Killer Robots: Urgent Need to Fast-Track Talks." 2 Aug. 2021.

Kossaify, Ephrem. "Guterres Calls for Ban on 'Killer Robots' as First Global AI Governance Dialogue Opens." *Arab News*, 6 July 2026, www.arabnews.com/node/2649838. Accessed 20 July 2026.

Lee, Ethan. "What Are Autonomous Weapon Systems?" *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, 3 Feb. 2025, www.belfercenter.org/what-are-autonomous-weapon-systems. Accessed 24 June 2026.

"Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems." *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*, 2025, disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/emerging-challenges/lethal-autonomous-weapon-systems. Accessed 28 June 2026.

"Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Means of Defense and Attack." *Centro de Estudios Estratégicos del Ejército del Perú*, 27 Oct. 2022, ceeep.mil.pe/2022/10/27/lethal-autonomous-weapons-means-of-defense-and-attack/?lang=en. Accessed 13 July 2026.

"Libya, the Use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems." *How Does Law Protect in War? Online Casebook*, ICRC, casebook.icrc.org/case-study/libya-use-lethal-autonomous-weapon-systems. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Loftus, Michael C. "Machines in the Alleyways: China's Bet on Autonomous Urban Warfare." *The Diplomat*, 3 Feb. 2026, thediplomat.com/2026/02/machines-in-the-alleyways-chinas-bet-on-autonomous-urban-warfare/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Marr, Bernard. "The 4 Ds of Robotisation: Dull, Dirty, Dangerous and Dear." *Bernard Marr*, 2 July 2021, bernardmarr.com/the-4-ds-of-robotisation-dull-dirty-dangerous-and-dear/. Accessed 14 July 2026.

"Mexico." *Automated Decision Research*, 12 Nov. 2024, automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/mexico/. Accessed 12 July 2026.

"MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory." *Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_Computer_Science_and_Artificial_Intelligence_Laboratory. Accessed 10 July 2026.

Morris, David Z. "Elon Musk Leads 116 Experts Calling for a Ban on Autonomous Weapons." *World Economic Forum*, 22 Aug. 2017, www.weforum.org/stories/emerging-technologies/elon-musk-leads-116-experts-calling-for-a-ban-on-autonomous-weapons/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. "Autonomous Weapon Systems." *MFAT*, 2022.

"News." *Stop Killer Robots*, 22 June 2026, www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/. Accessed 11 July 2026.

"NZ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots." *Converge.org.nz*, 2025, www.converge.org.nz/pma/robots.htm. Accessed 20 July 2026.

Open Medscience. "The Da Vinci Technology: Pioneering a New Era in Medical Imaging and Patient Care." 28 Apr. 2023.

"Overview of the Issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) at the United Nations." *WFUNA International Model United Nations New York*, 2023, wfuna.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GA1-LAWS-background-doc.pdf. Accessed 14 July 2026.

"Politically Unacceptable, Morally Repugnant: UN Chief Calls for Global Ban on 'Killer Robots.'" 14 May 2025.

"Russian Annexation of Belarus." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 3 June 2026, www.cfr.org/reports/russian-annexation-of-belarus. Accessed 12 July 2026.

"Russian Federation." *Automated Decision Research*, 24 Sept. 2024, automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/russia/. Accessed 12 July 2026.

Sparkes, Matthew. "Fully Autonomous Drones Have Killed Human Soldiers for the First Time." *New Scientist*, 10 June 2026, www.newscientist.com/article/2529849-fully-autonomous-drones-have-killed-human-soldiers-for-the-first-time/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

"Speech to AI Forum: Autonomous Weapons Systems." *The Beehive*, 21 June 2021, www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/speech-ai-forum-autonomous-weapons-systems. Accessed 20 July 2026.

"Stop Killer Robots." *Facebook*, 2026, www.facebook.com/stopkillerrobots/. Accessed 21 July 2026.

Stryker, Cole, and Eda Kavlakoglu. "What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?" *IBM*, 9 Aug. 2024, www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence. Accessed 27 June 2026.

Syrota, Dmyntri. "Plan d'un chevalier automate de la Renaissance dans le style de Da Vinci." *Dreamstime*, 28 Feb. 2025, fr.dreamstime.com/plan-d-chevalier-automate-renaissance-style-da-vinci-image364351455. Accessed 10 July 2026.

United Nations. *Chapter V: Peremptory Norms of General International Law (Jus Cogens)*. 2019.

United Nations, General Assembly. *Resolution A/RES/76/62: Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems*. 2 Dec. 2024, documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/391/35/pdf/n2439135.pdf. Accessed 10 July 2026.

"United Nations - Group of Governmental Experts (UN GGE)." *Cybil Portal*, Oct. 2019, cybilportal.org/actors/un-gge/. Accessed 14 July 2026.

United Nations. "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties." *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*, vol. 1155, 23 May 1969, legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf, doi:10.2307/2199522. Accessed 24 June 2026.

Wikipedia Contributors. "Automation Bias." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Nov. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automation_bias. Accessed 28 June 2026.

Winfrey, Sarah. "Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs)." *EBSCO*, EBSCO Information Services, Inc., 2023, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/social-sciences-and-humanities/lethal-autonomous-weapons-laws. Accessed 10 July 2026.