



**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

CHANGE THE WORLD

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# EMIRATES 2025

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**GA – DISEC**

CHANGE  
THE  
WORLD  
ACADEMY

POWERED  
BY



**Diplomatici**

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Change the World Model United Nations (Change The World).

As your committee Dais, we are looking forward to meet you and to hear your ideas about how to solve international problems.

The United Nations (UN) depends on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 Member States. Because each State has unique interests and concerns, it is challenging to write, negotiate and pass resolutions. Every stage of the process demands creativity and diplomacy.

You will be discussing this topic:

**Global Security Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Military Applications.**

While we may all lead different lives and face different struggles, we have to bear in mind that we all share the same world and the same resources. Whether it is environmental problems or political unrest, what is happening in the world concerns all of us. Only through mutual understanding, unity, and collaboration we can lay the foundations of a worthier world.

As your committee Dais, we will work to keep the committees running smoothly. We will do our best to help you understand the procedures and to ensure that the perspectives of all delegates are heard and respected.

Sincerely,

The Change The World



### *What should you do now?*

The Change the World Model United Nations is a role-playing game. Your task is to impersonate a diplomat of the assigned Country and present the perspective of this Country's current government.

### *What should you do now?*

Before the Simulation, you should write down and bring with you:

- Handbook, a collection of relevant UN resolutions, reports, academic studies, and news from reliable media.
- Write the Position Paper, describing the position of your country on the topic you have been assigned to.
- Some topics for Moderated Caucus debates, i.e. for short formal debates which should cover narrow aspects of each topic. For example, within the topic "Violence against women"; delegates can hold a caucus with the subtopic "Ways of preventing genital mutilation".
- Ideas for the Resolution, id est, at least two or three paragraphs that your State would like to include in the preamble and/or in the main body of the Resolution.
- You should also learn the Rules of procedure.

## *What will you do during the Simulation?*

In the Moderated Caucus you will hold short formal debates on details of each topic. Delegates will present the policy and solutions of the represented States in very short (usually one minute) speeches. In the Unmoderated Caucus, you will informally engage with other Delegates to agree on your policies and solutions and to write draft resolutions together as a Coalition. Working Papers will be checked and possibly edited by Chair and Director to conform to all formal requirements and be described as Draft Resolutions. Eventually, Coalitions will present their Draft Resolutions to the whole Committee. Other Delegates will debate and then vote for or against. The scope for the Committee as a whole is to produce one or more Resolutions.

## *What is a Resolution?*

A Resolution is a very specific document, built of Preambulatory and Operative clauses, expressing the will of a particular UN Committee agreed upon by its Member States. Resolutions are central to the UN and thus Change The World gives all participants the opportunity to understand the process of creating them. Please seize this opportunity and prepare in advance at least one or two paragraphs per each topic! Sample resolution: [Resolution 2349 \(2017\)](#)<sup>1</sup>

## *Tips (!)*

Learn about your Country from the [CIA World Factbook](#)<sup>2</sup>, from the official website of your State's permanent mission to the United Nations, and from other government websites (for example the website and social media profiles of the Royal Family or President, Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs...). Make sure to know as much as possible about the foreign relations of your Country! Consider that at the United Nations, Countries generally lean towards their own geopolitical blocks: Western, Former Soviet, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, Latin American... Consider also organisations such as the European Union (EU), African Union, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), The Union of South American Nations (USAN)...

<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, 2017 ([https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349(2017)))

<sup>2</sup> CIA, 2022 (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>)

## ***REMEMBER!***

Your task is to present the official position of your assigned Country. Misrepresenting this position and/or representing your private views is against the rules, even if you do not agree with your Country's position. In any case, you must not hyperbolize nor satirise the position of your Country. Humour, and especially sarcasm, is generally not typical for formal writing nor formal debates. Although MUN welcomes wit and smart puns, please always be extremely considerate when using humour.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## 1. *Establishment of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY:*

The General Assembly was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations<sup>3</sup> and it occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of all 193 Member States of the United Nations, and it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion on the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly regularly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part), as required, including to take up outstanding reports from the Fourth and Fifth Committees. During the resumed part of the session, the Assembly also considers current issues in high-level thematic debates organised by the President of the General Assembly. During that period, the Assembly traditionally also conducts informal consultations on a wide range of substantive topics towards the adoption of new resolutions<sup>4</sup>.

As hinted before, the UN GA has six Standing Committees, that all discuss on specific topics:

- I. Disarmament and Security
- II. Economic and Financial
- III. Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
- IV. Special Political and Decolonization
- V. Administrative and Budgetary
- VI. Legal

Moreover, the GA can create new ad hoc committees to discuss on important matters in the geopolitical scenario

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<sup>3</sup> [UN Charter | United Nations](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Functions and powers of the General Assembly](#)

In addition to its regular sessions, the Assembly may meet in special and emergency special sessions<sup>5</sup>. To date, the Assembly has convened 32 special sessions and 11 emergency special sessions.

Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues – such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions – require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by a simple majority. That said, following informal consultations among Member States during which proposals are negotiated, the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote (i.e., by consensus).

## ***2. Functions and objectives of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY:***

The Assembly makes recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also taken actions across all pillars of the United Nations, including concerning political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal matters. In September 2015, the Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 70/1 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”). In 2022, the Assembly held a series of meetings to discuss the recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”<sup>6</sup>, an agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements – particularly the 2030 Agenda – and make a tangible difference in people’s lives<sup>7</sup>.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States.
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament

<sup>5</sup> [UN General Assembly - Special Sessions](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Our Common Agenda | United Nations](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Letter from the President of the General Assembly – Final OCA Summary | General Assembly of the United Nations](#)

- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs

The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.

In such instances, according to its “Uniting for Peace” resolution of 3rd November 1950<sup>8</sup>, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.

### **3. Important actions or projects in the past:**

The General Assembly has been passing several resolutions since its foundation in 1946. To pass, GA resolutions need to be voted by a simple majority (e.g. 50 percent of all votes plus one). Some of the most remarkable are:

- Resolution 1 (1946): Established the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission (UNAEC)<sup>9</sup> "to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy" and tasked to "make specific proposals... for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction", among other issues regarding nuclear technology<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> [NR005975.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Atomic Energy | United Nations](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Resolution 1 \(1946\) / \(un.org\)](#)

- Resolution 96 (1946): issuing the crime of Genocide<sup>11</sup>
- Resolution 100 (1946): establishing the Headquarters of the UN
- Resolution 177 (1947): The International Law Commission was directed to "formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal". This resulted in the creation of the Nuremberg Principles<sup>12</sup>.
- Resolution 181 (1947): 'Partition resolution' regarding the British Mandate of Palestine<sup>13</sup>.
- Resolution 194 (1947): issuing the "Right of return" of Palestinian refugees<sup>14</sup>.
- Resolution 217 (1947): Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>15</sup>.
- Resolution 498 (1951): calling on the People's Republic of China to cease all hostilities on the Korean peninsula... its armed forces continue their invasion of Korea and their large-scale attacks upon United Nations forces there...has itself engaged in aggression in Korea<sup>16</sup>.
- Resolution 1761 (1962): Recommended sanctions against South Africa in response to the government's policy of apartheid<sup>17</sup>.
- Resolution 1962 (1963): One of the earliest resolutions governing Outer space<sup>18</sup>.
- Resolution 3010 (1972): Adopted to make the year 1975 International Women's Year<sup>19</sup>.
- Resolution 34/37 (1979): Deplored Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara and urged to terminate it<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> [The Crime of Genocide. \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Affirmation of the Principles of International Law recognized by the Charter of the Nürnberg Tribunal General Assembly resolution 95 \(I\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> [NR003888.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Resolution 194 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>15</sup> [A/RES/3/217 A - Universal Declaration of Human Rights - UN Documents: Gathering a body of global agreements \(un-documents.net\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Uniting for Peace General Assembly resolution 377 \(V\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [The policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> [RES 1962 \(XVIII\) \(unoosa.org\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [A/RES/27/3010 - International Women's Year - UN Documents: Gathering a body of global agreements \(un-documents.net\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> [A/RES/34/37 : UN Documents : Security Council Report](#)

- Resolution 47/121 (1993): condemned ethnic cleansing of the Bosnian Muslims by the Bosnian Serbs as genocide, (fourteen years later the International Court of Justice ruled in the Bosnian Genocide Case of 2007, that ethnic cleansing was not enough in itself to be genocide, but that there must also be intent to kill a substantial part of the targeted group by the perpetrators)<sup>21</sup>.
- Resolution 60/7 (2005): designated the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- Resolution 62/149 (2007): called for a universal moratorium on capital punishment to total abolition, and in the meantime, respect for the rights of those on death row. Calls on states which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it.
- Resolution 67/19 (2012): recognizing the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State.
- Resolution 68/262 (2014): territorial integrity of Ukraine
- Resolution ES-11/1 (2022): Aggression against Ukraine<sup>22</sup>.
- Resolution ES-11/2 (2022): Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine<sup>23</sup>.
- Resolution ES-11/3 (2022): Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council<sup>24</sup>.
- Resolution ES-11/4 (2022): Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations<sup>25</sup>.

#### **4. Challenges and important future projects:**

There has been a sustained effort to make the work of the General Assembly more focused and relevant. This was first identified as a priority during the 58th session, and efforts continued at subsequent sessions to streamline the agenda, improve the practices and working methods of the Main Committees, enhance the role of the General Committee, strengthen the role and authority of the President and examine the Assembly's role in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.

<sup>21</sup> [The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina : \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> [N2229336.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [A/RES/ES-11/2 : UN Documents : Security Council Report](#)

<sup>24</sup> [N2231247.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> [N2263066.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

During recent sessions, the Assembly adopted landmark resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/70/305<sup>26</sup>, A/RES/71/323, A/RES/72/313<sup>27</sup>, A/RES/73/341<sup>28</sup>, A/RES/74/303<sup>29</sup>) and A/RES/75/325<sup>30</sup>), which, amongst other, established an oath of office and a code of ethics for the Presidents of the General Assembly and provided for informal interactive dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly.

The practice of convening high-level thematic debates is also a direct outcome of the revitalization process<sup>31</sup>. It has become an established practice for the Secretary-General to brief Member States periodically, in informal meetings of the General Assembly, on his recent activities and travels. These briefings have provided a well-received opportunity for exchange between the Secretary-General and Member States.

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<sup>26</sup> [ts \(F\) \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> [N1828962.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> [N1927990.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> [N2023117.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>30</sup> [N2125062.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Revitalization of the General Assembly of the United Nations](#)

## First Committee

### *(Disarmament and International Security - DISEC)*

#### 1. Establishment of the First Committee

The General Assembly's work on disarmament is conducted through one of its main committees, the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)<sup>32</sup>. Also referred to as the General Assembly First Committee (C1), it was established in 1945 when the Charter of the United Nations was signed.

DISEC is tasked with addressing disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that impact the international community<sup>33</sup>. DISEC provides a platform for states to articulate their positions on disarmament-related matters, work collaboratively to find compromises, and propose language or tools to better address these challenges.

The committee promotes consensus-building among nations, fostering common understandings, principles, and norms of behavior that shift the focus from achieving security through arsenals to cooperative security arrangements. This approach encourages reducing arms production, trade, and stockpiles, minimizing military expenditures, and bolstering global security. Importantly, the consensus achieved within DISEC often serves as a foundation for negotiations in other disarmament fora, such as the Conference on Disarmament, where formal treaties are crafted and finalized. Through its critical work, DISEC contributes to the broader goals of maintaining international peace and security.

#### 2. Functions and objectives of the First Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee's mandate covers all matters related to disarmament and international security under the scope of Article 11 of the UN Charter, which authorizes the General Assembly to consider "the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments," and empowers it to make recommendations based on these principles to member states and the Security Council.

The Committee's work is organized into seven thematic clusters:

<sup>32</sup> *First Committee of the UN General Assembly.* <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga>

<sup>33</sup> United Nations. *UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament and International Security.* <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

1. Nuclear weapons
2. Other weapons of mass destruction
3. Outer space (disarmament aspects)
4. Conventional weapons
5. Regional disarmament and security
6. Other disarmament measures and international security
7. Disarmament machinery<sup>34</sup>

The Committee convenes annually in October for a 4–5-week session following the General Assembly's General Debate, with participation open to all 193 member states.

The Committee's sessions are structured into three distinct stages: general debate, thematic discussions, and action on drafts. This systematic approach allows for a comprehensive examination of issues, ensuring that diverse perspectives are heard and resolutions are carefully crafted.

Each year, the Committee adopts between 50–70 resolutions and a few decisions, addressing critical issues such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms control treaties, and measures for conflict prevention. Approximately half of these resolutions are reached through consensus, reflecting the Committee's emphasis on collaborative approaches<sup>35</sup>.

The Committee works in close cooperation with specialized UN bodies like the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament to ensure coordinated efforts in achieving disarmament goals.

Beyond its General Assembly role, DISEC is closely tied to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which was formally named in January 1998 following the Secretary-General's second special session on disarmament in 1982. UNODA provides substantive norm-setting support to DISEC's disarmament

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<sup>34</sup> *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*. (2nd ed.). New York: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. [https://unitar.org/sites/default/files/media/publication/doc/un\\_pga\\_new\\_handbook\\_0.pdf](https://unitar.org/sites/default/files/media/publication/doc/un_pga_new_handbook_0.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> *The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*. (2nd ed.). New York: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. [https://unitar.org/sites/default/files/media/publication/doc/un\\_pga\\_new\\_handbook\\_0.pdf](https://unitar.org/sites/default/files/media/publication/doc/un_pga_new_handbook_0.pdf)

initiatives and addresses disarmament across various levels, including nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and conventional arms<sup>36</sup>.

### 3. Important actions or projects in the past:

The global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda has been significantly shaped by three key initiatives: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

First, DISEC has played a central role in promoting the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), emphasizing the importance of compliance through regular resolutions. The NPT, which entered into force in 1970, is widely regarded as the cornerstone of global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Its 191 state parties make it one of the most universally adhered-to disarmament agreements, structured around three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear technology<sup>37</sup>.

Secondly, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2001, focuses on combating the illicit trade in small arms, which fuels conflicts, terrorism, and organized crime, particularly in fragile states. The Programme of Action (PoA) emphasizes strengthening national laws, international cooperation, and disarmament efforts in post-conflict zones. Notable achievements include enhanced transparency in arms transfers through the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the establishment of national focal points to track SALW proliferation<sup>38</sup>. DISEC conducts regular reviews of the PoA, urging its full implementation and supporting complementary frameworks such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)<sup>39</sup>.

Lastly, DISEC continues to advocate for universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), supporting capacity-building measures and fostering dialogue among non-signatory states to overcome political deadlocks. Introduced in 1996, CTBT represents a critical measure to prevent nuclear arms races by banning all nuclear explosions. Its objectives include halting nuclear weapons testing, limiting weapons modernization, and reinforcing non-proliferation. Key features like the International Monitoring System (IMS)—a global network of seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound, and radionuclide sensors—

<sup>36</sup> *Disarmament in the General Assembly*. UNODA. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/general-assembly/>

<sup>37</sup> *Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT)*. NTI. <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/>

<sup>38</sup> *Small Arms and Light Weapons*. UNODA. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/>

<sup>39</sup> *The Arms Trade Treaty (A/RES/72/44)*. (2017). United Nations General Assembly. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/417/85/pdf/n1741785.pdf>

bolster verification mechanisms, alongside provisions for on-site inspections to investigate suspicious activities<sup>40</sup>.

#### 4. *Challenges and important future projects:*

The United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) faces several significant challenges in its mission to maintain global peace and security.

One major issue is regulating emerging technologies such as lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), artificial intelligence (AI) in warfare, and cyber capabilities. These technologies present unprecedented risks by lowering conflict thresholds, enabling autonomous decision-making in life-or-death situations, and increasing the chances of unintended escalation<sup>41</sup>. The absence of global frameworks exposes these technologies to misuse, threatening the security of all states. To address this, DISEC proposes establishing international treaties to regulate LAWS, creating norms for ethical AI use in military applications, and enhancing the effectiveness of existing international assistance frameworks<sup>42</sup>. However, achieving consensus among states with differing interests and managing the dual-use nature of these technologies pose significant challenges.

Another critical issue is combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which fuel conflict, terrorism, and organized crime. The illicit trade in SALW continues to destabilize regions, particularly in developing areas<sup>43</sup>. DISEC-proposed actions include strengthening the Programme of Action on SALW, improving stockpile management, enforcing the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and supporting regional disarmament efforts<sup>44</sup>. Challenges such as weak enforcement mechanisms and the involvement of non-state actors in black-market networks hinder effective regulation. A reduction in SALW proliferation could significantly reduce conflict-related deaths and enhance regional stability.

Finally, the militarization of outer space poses a growing threat to global security, with the development of anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) and other space-based

<sup>40</sup> Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). (1949). *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)*(CTBT/MSS/RES/1). [https://www.ctbto.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/2022\\_treaty\\_booklet\\_E.pdf](https://www.ctbto.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/2022_treaty_booklet_E.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS). UNODA. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/background-on-laws-in-the-ccw/>

<sup>42</sup> *General and complete disarmament*. Report of the First Committee - United Nations (2023). <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/347/86/pdf/n2334786.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>43</sup> *Small arms and light weapons (SALW) and mine action (MA)*. NATO. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_52142.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52142.htm)

<sup>44</sup> *Small Arms and Light Weapons*. UNODA. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/>

weapons increasing the risk of an arms race. DISEC aims to revive and strengthen the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) initiative, create a binding treaty to ban space weapons, and promote international transparency<sup>45</sup>. The challenges here include competing interests among space-faring nations and difficulties in defining "weaponization" in space, but preventing an arms race in space could preserve the peaceful use of outer space and protect critical global infrastructure<sup>46</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup>United Nations General Assembly. (2023). Open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours (A/AC.294/2023/WP.13). <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g23/018/98/pdf/g2301898.pdf>

<sup>46</sup>Czajkowski, M. (2024). *Anti-Satellite weapons – current status*. *Roczniki Nauk Społecznych*, 52(4), 183–201. <https://doi.org/10.18290/rns2024.0043>

# Global Security Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Military Applications

## 1. Introduction on the topic: The hidden weapons that threaten international stability

The convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and military strategy has revolutionized warfare, ushering in a new era of autonomous weapons systems (AWS) capable of selecting and engaging targets without human oversight. These technologies promise increased precision, operational efficiency, and reduced risks for military personnel, representing a significant transformation in how wars are conducted. According to Smith (2018), AWS mark a paradigm shift in global security, with implications ranging from tactical battlefield changes to strategic deterrence and international power dynamics<sup>47</sup>.

However, this transformation also introduces serious global concerns. The integration of AI into defense systems is not only reshaping battlefield tactics but also disrupting long-established principles of international humanitarian law (IHL), which governs conduct during conflict<sup>48</sup>. As states race to develop and deploy increasingly sophisticated military AI systems, concerns about accountability, transparency, and control are mounting. AWS introduce complex ethical and legal dilemmas, such as whether machines should be allowed to make life-and-death decisions, and how responsibility should be assigned when mistakes occur<sup>49</sup>. Furthermore, the risk of AI proliferation to non-state actors, the potential for arms races, and the lowered threshold for initiating armed conflict all underscore the urgent need for multilateral dialogue and regulation<sup>50</sup>. Without clear international frameworks and safeguards, AI in military applications could destabilize global

<sup>47</sup> Smith, J. (2018). *Autonomous weapons and international security*. Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/autonomous-weapons-and-international-security/21C3FA9A2C7C4B199AC91EFB4456C27A>

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). (2020). *The security implications of AI*. <https://unidir.org/publication/security-implications-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>49</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2019). *Ethical and legal considerations on autonomous weapons*. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/autonomous-weapons-systems-ethical-and-legal-concerns>

<sup>50</sup> Boulanin, V., & Verbruggen, M. (2017). *Mapping the development of autonomy in weapon systems*. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2017/other-publications/mapping-development-autonomy-weapon-systems>

peace and security and challenge the very foundations of modern warfare governance<sup>51</sup>.

## 2. Subtopic #1 : Ethical and Legal Concerns of AWS

One of the most contentious aspects of AWS is the ethical dilemma of delegating lethal decisions to machines. AWS, unlike humans, lack the capacity for moral reasoning, empathy, and nuanced judgment. This challenges the principles of IHL — specifically, the rules of distinction, proportionality, and necessity: the principle of distinction requires parties to a conflict to differentiate at all times between combatants and non-combatants, and between military objectives and civilian objects. The goal is to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure from being targeted. The application requires an attack must only be directed at legitimate military targets. Civilians and their property must not be intentionally targeted unless and only when they take a direct part in hostilities<sup>52</sup>. The principle of proportionality prohibits attacks if the expected incidental civilian harm would be excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage. The goal is to balance military necessity with civilian protection. The application requires that even if a target is legitimate, commanders must weigh the expected harm to civilians and ensure it's not disproportionate to the gain<sup>53</sup>. The principle of necessity allows only the amount and kind of force required to achieve a legitimate military objective. The goal is To ensure that force is used only when absolutely required and not for unnecessary destruction. The application requires that attacks must be limited to actions that bring direct military advantage; destruction or suffering that serves no purpose in achieving the military goal is prohibited<sup>54</sup>. In volatile combat scenarios, these systems may fail to adequately distinguish between civilians and combatants<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, legal accountability becomes fragmented. When an AWS causes unintended harm, identifying responsibility among military commanders, software

<sup>51</sup> Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. (2013). *About the campaign*. <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/about/>

<sup>52</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2019). *Ethical and legal considerations on autonomous weapons*. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/autonomous-weapons-systems-ethical-and-legal-concerns>

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Henckaerts, J.-M., & Doswald-Beck, L. (2005). *Customary International Humanitarian Law (Vol. I)*. International Committee of the Red Cross / Cambridge University Press. <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/customary-international-humanitarian-law-i-icrc-eng.pdf>

developers, and manufacturers becomes difficult, complicating legal proceedings and undermining justice<sup>55 56</sup>.

### 3. Subtopic #2: Strategic Destabilization and Proliferation Risks

The integration of artificial intelligence into military systems has the potential to significantly alter the strategic landscape, not only for powerful states but also for global security as a whole. One of the primary concerns is that AI reduces the human and political cost of war, thereby lowering the threshold for initiating armed conflict. When states can deploy autonomous weapons systems (AWS) that minimize their own casualties, they may be more inclined to use force, even in situations where diplomatic alternatives exist<sup>57</sup>. This shift could increase the frequency and speed of conflicts, normalizing the use of military power as a policy tool<sup>58</sup>. Additionally, the speed at which AI operates can escalate conflicts before human decision-makers have time to intervene. In high-stakes environments, automated systems might misinterpret signals or react to threats based on faulty data, leading to unintended wars or "flash conflicts"—a scenario where machines, not humans, initiate hostilities<sup>59</sup>. This is especially alarming when considering the integration of AI into nuclear command-and-control systems, where a miscalculation could lead to catastrophic consequences and undermine traditional deterrence models<sup>60</sup>. Moreover, the proliferation of AWS to non-state actors and rogue regimes represents a growing threat. As AI components become increasingly accessible and affordable, the likelihood that terrorist organizations or authoritarian states will develop or acquire lethal autonomous systems is rising<sup>61</sup>. These actors often lack accountability, transparency, and adherence to international law, making them

<sup>55</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). (2020). *The security implications of AI*. <https://unidir.org>

<sup>56</sup> Boulanin, V., & Verbruggen, M. (2017). *Mapping the development of autonomy in weapon systems*. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2017/other-publications/mapping-development-autonomy-weapon-systems>

<sup>57</sup> Scharre, P. (2018). *Army of none: Autonomous weapons and the future of war*. W.W. Norton & Company.

<sup>58</sup> Smith, J. (2018). *Autonomous weapons and international security*. Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/autonomous-weapons-and-international-security/21C3FA9A2C7C4B199AC91EFB4456C27A>

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). (2020). *The security implications of AI*. <https://unidir.org/publication/security-implications-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>60</sup> Russell, S., & Norvig, P. (2016). *Artificial intelligence: A modern approach* (3rd ed.). Pearson.

<sup>61</sup> Boulanin, V., & Verbruggen, M. (2017). *Mapping the development of autonomy in weapon systems*. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2017/other-publications/mapping-development-autonomy-weapon-systems>

particularly dangerous users of such technology. The 2020 UNIDIR report warned that AWS in the hands of non-state actors could exacerbate regional instability and create new forms of asymmetric warfare, where low-cost AI weapons are used to destabilize technologically superior opponents<sup>62</sup>. Another destabilizing factor is the ongoing AI arms race between global powers like the United States, China, and Russia. Each nation views AI supremacy as a strategic necessity, leading to rapid development behind closed doors, often without oversight or international dialogue<sup>63</sup>. Unlike nuclear weapons, AWS are not governed by any binding multilateral treaty, making this arms race both opaque and unregulated. The lack of norms or verification mechanisms significantly increases the risk of misunderstanding, escalation, and erosion of strategic trust<sup>64</sup>. In this context, the international community must recognize that the unchecked militarization of AI technologies not only fuels competition but also jeopardizes global stability. The combination of strategic ambiguity, automation, and proliferation demands urgent international regulatory frameworks to prevent a future in which decisions to go to war are made not by political leaders—but by algorithms.

#### 4. *Initiatives, projects and actions made by the GA (1st)*

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) has explored several initiatives to confront the militarization of AI.

First, it supports negotiations within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), although progress has been hindered by geopolitical interests<sup>65</sup>. The CCW, formally known as the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, is an international treaty adopted in 1980 under the auspices of the United Nations. Its purpose is to prohibit or restrict the use of specific types of conventional weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary

<sup>62</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). (2020). *The security implications of AI*.

<https://unidir.org/publication/security-implications-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>63</sup> National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI). (2021). *Final report*. U.S. Government.

<https://www.nsc.ai.gov>

<sup>64</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). (2020). *SIPRI yearbook 2020: Armaments, disarmament and international security*. Oxford University Press.

<https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2020>

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (2021). *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)*.

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/>

suffering or have indiscriminate effects, particularly in relation to civilians<sup>66</sup>. The CCW is structured with a main framework convention and five additional protocols, each targeting specific weapon types (e.g., landmines, incendiary weapons, blinding lasers). While AWS are not currently covered by a specific protocol, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) within the CCW has been the primary UN platform for discussions on autonomous weapons systems<sup>67</sup>. Despite many years of dialogue, progress on legally binding measures for AWS under the CCW has been slow, primarily due to disagreements among major powers. Some nations advocate for a ban on fully autonomous weapons, while others prefer non-binding guidelines or oppose regulation altogether<sup>68</sup>.

To move forward, proposals have been made for:

- A legally binding international treaty to prohibit or strictly regulate fully autonomous weapons. This would prohibit or strictly regulate the development and deployment of fully autonomous weapons systems (AWS). The goal is to prevent machines from making life-and-death decisions without human intervention and to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law<sup>69</sup>
- The creation of an International AI and Autonomous Weapons Registry Initiative to enhance transparency. This registry would require states to report military AI programs, increasing transparency and allowing the global community to monitor and verify developments<sup>70</sup>
- A Global Fund for AI Safety Research, focused on bias reduction, secure design, and target identification. This fund would support research to make military AI safer and more accountable by reducing algorithmic bias, improving target identification accuracy, and enhancing cybersecurity<sup>71</sup>

<sup>66</sup> United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (2021). *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)*.

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (2023). *Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*.

<sup>68</sup> The Intercept. (2021). *Leaked U.S. State Department cable on autonomous weapons*.

<sup>69</sup> Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. (2013). *About the campaign*.

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (2021). *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)*.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). (2020). *The security implications of AI*.

- An Ethical Guidelines for Military AI Initiative, involving multi-stakeholder input to create globally accepted norms. This initiative would convene experts from states, academia, and civil society to establish ethical standards and best practices for the design, use, and oversight of AI in warfare<sup>72</sup>
- A Permanent Forum on AI and International Security to facilitate inclusive dialogue beyond the scope of the CCW. This forum would offer a long-term, inclusive platform beyond the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), where governments, regional organizations, and non-state actors can continuously discuss and address AI-related security issues.<sup>73</sup>
- Regional cooperation and public awareness campaigns. The UN General Assembly has urged regional entities like the EU, AU, and ASEAN to develop local frameworks for military AI governance, while also promoting public education on the risks and ethics of AWS<sup>74</sup>

## 5. Future challenges and possible solutions

Rapid advancements in AI outpace current legal and regulatory frameworks, creating risks of misuse and unintended consequences. The global community faces several interrelated challenges: continued militarization, proliferation to non-state actors, AI bias, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and the erosion of human agency in warfare<sup>75</sup>. To address these issues, a series of coordinated solutions are needed, some of them could be:

- Global arms control treaties dedicated specifically to AWS.
- Stricter export regulations and international cybersecurity collaboration.
- Human-in-the-loop requirements to preserve ethical oversight.
- Investments in explainable and interpretable AI to ensure accountability.

<sup>72</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2019). *Ethical and legal considerations on autonomous weapons*.

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/autonomous-weapons-systems-ethical-and-legal-concerns>

<sup>73</sup> Boulanin, V., & Verbruggen, M. (2017). Mapping the development of autonomy in weapon systems. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2017/other-publications/mapping-development-autonomy-weapon-systems>

<sup>74</sup> European Parliament. (2018). *Resolution on autonomous weapon systems*.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0341\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0341_EN.html)

<sup>75</sup> Future of Life Institute. (2017). *Asilomar AI principles*.

<https://futureoflife.org/ai-principles/>

- Public education campaigns and inclusive dialogues to promote consensus on AWS norms.
- Clear legal frameworks to assign responsibility in the event of AI misuse or unintended harm.
- Only through sustained multilateral cooperation can the risks posed by AI in warfare be managed in line with global security and humanitarian values.

## Annotated Biography

Hereafter you can find some links that we think could be helpful to deepen your knowledge on both the committee and the topic you will be discussing.

- Smith, J. (2018). Autonomous weapons and international security. Cambridge University Press.  
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/autonomous-weapons-and-international-security/21C3FA9A2C7C4B199AC91EFB4456C27A>
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