

## UNGA First Committee Statement

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is a coalition of 185 NGOs in over 65 countries with shared vision, values and ambition to achieve a new international legal framework on autonomous weapon systems.

We are working for a world in which we respect each other's inherent dignity, in which technology is developed and used to promote peace, justice, human rights, and equality. We recognize how our choices regarding technology change the relationships between us and believe that developments in artificial intelligence should be used to build better societies and overcome inequalities and systems of oppression.

We seek to build and strengthen social norms that reject autonomous killing by machines and demand meaningful human control to ensure responsibility and accountability in the use of force. We aim to counter digital dehumanisation, to protect our rights and identities free from structures of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ability, sexuality, nationality or socio-economic status, and to pursue non-violent solutions to problems, through cooperation, negotiation, and collective activism.

The rapid evolution of technology in weapon systems is far outpacing the speed of discussions at the United Nations. For 8 years, states have discussed autonomy in weapon systems at the Convention on Conventional Weapons, without achieving consensus on the legal framework that is needed. Meanwhile, militarized states have continued to invest heavily in autonomous warfare and evidence is now emerging of the use of autonomous weapon systems on the battlefield. If left unchecked, this will result in the further dehumanisation of warfare, and in diminished trust in the many promising beneficial civilian applications of emerging technologies.

It is urgent that states work together to solve this problem before the use of autonomous weapon systems proliferates, and before the threat that these weapons pose to the safety and security of the world becomes irreversible.

This year, dozens of states from all continents, both within and outside the Convention on Conventional Weapons, have converged around a shared proposal for a legally binding framework that includes both prohibitions on certain types of autonomous weapon systems - including those that would target humans- and regulations to ensure meaningful human control over all weapon systems incorporating autonomy. There is clear momentum towards achieving this framework, and political leaders, the UN Secretary General, scientists and civil society from around the world are calling for this to happen.

This December, states will convene for the 6th Review Conference at the Convention on Conventional Weapons. This conference represents an opportunity for states to adopt a mandate to negotiate a legally binding instrument. We urge states to unite now, in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity, to agree to begin such negotiations. A legally binding framework is an ethical imperative and a legal necessity, and is achievable due to our shared desire for a more peaceful world and more secure future for us and the generations to come.