

**DASMUN XVI**



**March. 8-9, 2024**



# **DISEC**

# **CHAIR REPORT**

*Topic 1: Threats of Technology on Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament*

*Topic 2: Examining the Ethics of Autonomous Weapons and Their  
Implications for Global Security*



## Table of Contents

Message from Chairs	3
Committee Introduction	4
<b>Topic 1</b>	5
Definition of Key Terms	5
Background Information	6
Major Parties and Organizations Involved	7
History and Timeline of Events	10
Relevant UN Treaties and Documents	12
Possible Bloc Solutions	13
Previous Attempts to Solve this Issue	14
Possible Solutions	15
Questions to Consider	16
Bibliography	17
<b>Topic 2</b>	19
Definition of Key Terms	19
Background Information	21
Major Parties and Organizations Involved	22
History and Timeline of Events	24
Relevant UN Treaties and Documents	26
Possible Bloc Solutions	27
Previous Attempts to Solve this Issue	28



Possible Solutions	29
Questions to Consider	30
Bibliography	31

## Message from Chairs

*Dear Delegates,*

*We, Moneera Al Roumi and Deema Al Dabal, cordially welcome you to the United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee at Dhahran Ahliyya Schools' 16th Annual Model United Nations 2024! As the chairs of DISEC, we are ecstatic to work with all of you to develop our chairing as well as your debating skills. Our previous participation in various conferences as both delegates and chairs has helped broaden our experience and develop our critical thinking, research and communication skills. Moreover, we believe a vital part of MUN is socializing, and we hope that DISEC at DASMUN XVI is the perfect environment for you to make the friendships of a lifetime. We are so eager to work with you all and we hope you are too!*

*- Sincerely, Your Chairs.*

### Committee Introduction

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) stands as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations General Assembly, embodying the global community's



collective pursuit of disarmament and the maintenance of international security. Since its inception in 1945, DISEC has been pivotal in addressing pressing issues related to arms control, non-proliferation, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence among nations.

DISEC operates within the framework of the UN Charter, upholding the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity among member states while fostering multilateral dialogue and cooperation. Comprising all UN member states, DISEC provides a platform for comprehensive deliberation on a wide spectrum of security concerns, ranging from conventional weapons to emerging threats in the realm of cyber warfare and nuclear proliferation.

Central to its mandate is the advancement of disarmament initiatives aimed at curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and conventional arms, thereby reducing the risk of armed conflict and promoting international stability. Through substantive debates, resolutions, and policy recommendations, DISEC endeavors to formulate effective strategies for arms control, disarmament, and confidence-building measures, fostering a safer and more secure world for all.

As an integral component of the Model United Nations (MUN) simulation, DISEC offers delegates a unique opportunity to engage in diplomacy, negotiation, and consensus-building, mirroring the real-world challenges faced by policymakers and diplomats. By assuming the roles of representatives from diverse nations, delegates collaborate to address complex security dilemmas, explore innovative solutions, and uphold the principles of peaceful coexistence and collective security.

## **Topic 1:** *Threats of Technology on Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament.*

### **Definition of Key Terms:**

- **Nuclear Proliferation:** The spread of nuclear weapons to more countries or groups.
- **Disarmament:** The reduction or elimination of military weapons, especially nuclear weapons.
- **Advanced Weapons Development:** The creation of more sophisticated and powerful nuclear weapons.



- **Miniaturization:** Making nuclear weapons smaller in size while maintaining their effectiveness.
- **Cybersecurity Risks:** Threats and vulnerabilities related to the digital systems controlling nuclear weapons.
- **Dual-Use Technologies:** Technologies that can be used for both peaceful and military purposes.
- **Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology:** Advances in biological sciences that can be applied to create new and potentially more dangerous weapons.
- **Global Information Flows:** The rapid exchange of information, particularly through the internet, that can contribute to the spread of knowledge about nuclear weapons.
- **Nuclear Arms Races:** Competitions among nations to develop and acquire the latest and most advanced nuclear weapons technology.

### **Background Information:**

The connection between technology, nuclear weapons, and disarmament is a crucial part of keeping our world safe. Nuclear proliferation, or the spread of nuclear weapons, is a big worry, and disarmament efforts try to reduce or get rid of these weapons. In the past, there were agreements like the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START) that made progress. However, new challenges arise with the advancement of technology. We now worry about cyber attacks on the computer systems that control nuclear weapons and the tricky issue of some technologies being used for both peaceful and military purposes. There's also concern about biotechnology creating new and unconventional threats. Despite these challenges, the international community is trying to address them through agreements like the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and encourage disarmament. It's a tough job, but it's crucial for our safety.



## Major Parties and Organizations Involved:

- **United States:** The United States is one of the world's leading nuclear powers and plays a significant role in shaping global nuclear policies. The U.S. Department of State is responsible for formulating and implementing U.S. nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament policies. It engages in diplomatic negotiations, treaty commitments, and bilateral agreements to promote nuclear security, arms control, and disarmament. The United States also participates in international initiatives, such as the Nuclear Security Summits, to enhance the protection of nuclear materials and facilities globally. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ensures the safety and security of civilian nuclear activities, regulates nuclear facilities, and safeguards nuclear materials within the United States.
- **Russia:** Russia, as a successor state to the Soviet Union, possesses a significant nuclear arsenal and continues to play a key role in global nuclear affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation is responsible for formulating and implementing Russia's nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament policies. Russia actively engages in arms control negotiations, including the New START Treaty with the United States, aimed at reducing nuclear arsenals and ensuring strategic stability. The Federal Agency for Atomic Energy (Rosatom) oversees Russia's civilian nuclear program, including nuclear power generation, research, and nuclear technology export.
- **China:** China is one of the recognized nuclear-weapon states and has been expanding its nuclear capabilities in recent years. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China is involved in shaping China's nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament policies. China has maintained a policy of minimum deterrence and no-first-use of nuclear weapons. It advocates for multilateralism, peaceful coexistence, and global disarmament. China actively participates in international arms control discussions and calls for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The China Atomic Energy Authority oversees China's civilian nuclear energy program, including nuclear power generation, research, and development.
- **North Korea:** North Korea has been a significant player in the realm of nuclear proliferation and disarmament, often attracting international attention and concern. The



country's nuclear program has been a subject of contention and has led to tensions with the international community. North Korea conducted several nuclear tests and claimed to possess nuclear weapons, leading to increased scrutiny and condemnation from the United Nations and other countries. The DPRK's actions have raised concerns about regional stability, non-proliferation efforts, and the potential for escalation. Diplomatic efforts, including negotiations and sanctions, have been undertaken to address North Korea's nuclear program and encourage its participation in non-proliferation and disarmament discussions. However, progress has been challenging, and the situation remains a complex and ongoing issue in global nuclear affairs.

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The International Atomic Energy Agency is an independent international organization responsible for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and verifying compliance with nuclear safeguards. The IAEA plays a central role in verifying the commitments made under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and provides technical assistance to states in strengthening their nuclear security and safety measures. It conducts inspections, safeguards assessments, and promotes the dissemination of best practices and standards for nuclear activities. The IAEA also assists in the development of nuclear energy infrastructure in countries seeking to develop peaceful nuclear programs.
- **P5 Group (Permanent Five Members of the UN Security Council):** The P5 group consists of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. As the most powerful states with nuclear capabilities, the P5 members play a significant role in global nuclear affairs, including nuclear disarmament discussions and negotiations. The P5 countries have a special responsibility under the NPT to pursue good faith negotiations on disarmament. While they often have differing positions and priorities, the P5 engages in diplomatic efforts, bilateral agreements, and multilateral initiatives to address nuclear challenges and maintain international security.

### History and Timeline of Events:

Dates	Events
1945	The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to the end of World War II.
1946	The United Nations is established to promote international cooperation and prevent



	conflicts, including those related to nuclear weapons.
<b>1968</b>	The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is opened for signature, aiming to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.
<b>1972</b>	The United States and the Soviet Union signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I) Treaty, limiting the number of strategic ballistic missiles.
<b>1987</b>	The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is signed between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, eliminating certain types of nuclear and conventional missiles.
<b>1991</b>	The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) is signed, marking significant reductions in the U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals.
<b>2000</b>	The NPT Review Conference outlines the importance of the Treaty's three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
<b>2002</b>	The United States withdraws from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, raising concerns about the future of arms control agreements.
<b>2010</b>	The New START Treaty is signed between the U.S. and Russia, further reducing deployed strategic nuclear weapons.
<b>2015</b>	The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is reached with Iran, aiming to limit its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.
<b>2018</b>	The United States withdraws from the JCPOA, leading to increased tensions over Iran's nuclear activities.
<b>2021</b>	The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) enters into force, representing a historic step toward a nuclear-free world, although major nuclear-armed states have not joined.





## Relevant UN Treaties and Documents:

1. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): Established in 1968, it aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful nuclear energy, and achieve disarmament.
2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): Opened for signature in 1996, it seeks to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, though it has not entered into force.
3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): Adopted in 2017 and in force since 2021, it prohibits the development, testing, production, and use of nuclear weapons.
4. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT): Encompassing SALT I (1972) and SALT II (not ratified), these agreements aimed to limit strategic nuclear weapons during the Cold War.
5. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START): Includes START I (1991), START II (not ratified), and New START (2010), focusing on reducing and limiting deployed strategic nuclear weapons.
6. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty: Signed in 1987 and terminated in 2019, it eliminated ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with intermediate ranges.
7. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA): Signed in 2015, it aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, although the U.S. withdrew in 2018.
8. Resolution 1540 (2004): Calls upon states to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-state actors.
9. UNSC Resolution 1887 (2009): Addresses nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful use of nuclear energy, emphasizing international cooperation and security.



### **Possible Bloc positions:**

- Countries that are not willing to make an effort towards solving this issue, and are engaging in the misuse of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons technology.
- Countries that are making an effort and are willing to work together in order to develop and promote technology safeguards and verification mechanisms to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear energy.



## Previous Attempts to Solve this Issue:

- **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** The NPT is an international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and promoting disarmament. It was opened for signature in 1968 and has been ratified by most countries. The treaty establishes a framework for cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy while placing restrictions on the acquisition and development of nuclear weapons.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IAEA is an international organization responsible for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and verifying compliance with nuclear non-proliferation agreements. It plays a crucial role in monitoring and safeguarding nuclear facilities worldwide to ensure that they are not used for military purposes.
- **Export Controls:** Many countries have implemented export control regimes to regulate the transfer of sensitive nuclear technology, materials, and equipment. These controls aim to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons by restricting access to technologies that can be used for their development.
- **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR):** The MTCR is an informal multilateral export control regime aimed at curbing the proliferation of missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. It seeks to limit the transfer of missile technologies and related equipment through voluntary guidelines and information sharing among participating countries.
- **Cybersecurity Measures:** With the increasing reliance on computer systems and digital networks in nuclear facilities, cybersecurity has become a critical concern. Efforts have been made to enhance cybersecurity measures and protect nuclear infrastructure from cyber threats that could potentially lead to unauthorized access or sabotage.
- **Arms Control Treaties:** Various arms control treaties have been negotiated between nuclear-armed states to limit the number of deployed nuclear weapons and reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorized use. These treaties, such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), have contributed to the disarmament process and promoted stability among nuclear powers.



- Cooperative Threat Reduction Programs: Initiatives like the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, also known as the Nunn-Lugar program, have aimed to secure and dismantle weapons of mass destruction in former Soviet states. These programs provide financial and technical assistance to facilitate the safe storage, transportation, and destruction of nuclear weapons and related materials.



## **Possible Solutions:**

1. Governments should focus on strengthening and enforcing export control measures to prevent the unauthorized transfer of technologies that can be used for military purposes. Regular updates to these controls should take into account advancements in technology and potential loopholes.
2. Nuclear facilities need to prioritize cybersecurity to protect against cyber threats. This includes conducting regular vulnerability assessments, implementing strong access controls, using encryption protocols, and providing training to personnel on best practices for cybersecurity.
3. Develop and implement effective verification mechanisms to ensure compliance with disarmament agreements. This may involve utilizing advanced technologies such as remote monitoring, data analytics, and artificial intelligence to enhance verification capabilities.
4. Strengthening existing arms control treaties and negotiating new ones is crucial. These agreements should take into account emerging technologies and address issues such as tactical nuclear weapons, missile defense systems, and space-based weapons.
5. Encouraging the development and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes can help reduce the incentives for countries to pursue nuclear weapons. International cooperation in sharing nuclear energy technology, expertise, and resources can play a significant role in this regard.
6. Raising awareness and providing education on the risks and consequences of nuclear proliferation, as well as the impact of technology, can foster a culture of responsible behavior among nations and individuals. Knowledge dissemination can promote informed decision-making and responsible actions.
7. Developing and maintaining effective early warning systems for detecting and responding to potential nuclear threats is crucial. These systems should integrate technological advancements and intelligence sharing to enable timely and informed decision-making.



### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How has technology facilitated nuclear proliferation?
2. What specific technologies or advancements have made it easier for countries to acquire or develop nuclear weapons?
3. How has the use of digital systems and networks in nuclear facilities increased the risk of cyber threats and unauthorized access to sensitive information? What are the potential consequences of such threats?
4. Are there any emerging technologies that could further complicate efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation or enhance disarmament? How can the international community stay ahead of these technological advancements?
5. What are the challenges associated with verifying and monitoring new technologies related to nuclear weapons, such as miniaturized warheads or advanced delivery systems?
6. How can international cooperation be utilized to address the threats posed by technology on nuclear proliferation and disarmament? Are there any specific initiatives or agreements that could be pursued?



## **Bibliography: (APA)**

- 1- *Disarmament | United Nations*. (n.d.). United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>
- 2- Munro, A. (2024, January 1). *Nuclear proliferation | Military, Arms Control & International Security*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nuclear-proliferation>
- 3- *Existence of Nuclear Weapons Creates Temptation, Risk of Use, First Committee Hears as It Unpacks Assumptions about Complex Path to Peace | UN Press*. (2023, October 17). <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gadis3720.doc.htm>
- 4- *Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Export Control | EEAS*. (n.d.). [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/disarmament-non-proliferation-and-arms-export-control-0\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/disarmament-non-proliferation-and-arms-export-control-0_en)
- 5- *Milestones: 1945–1952 - Office of the Historian*. (n.d.). <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/atomic>
- 6- *The History of Nuclear Proliferation*. (n.d.). World101 From the Council on Foreign Relations. <https://world101.cfr.org/global-era-issues/nuclear-proliferation/history-nuclear-proliferation>
- 7- *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA*. (n.d.). <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
- 8- N. (2023, December 2). *Disruptive Technologies and Nuclear Weapons*. Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. <https://vcdnp.org/disruptive-technologies-and-nuclear-weapons/>
- 9- *IAEA Safeguards Overview*. (n.d.). IAEA. <https://www.iaea.org/publications/factsheets/iaea-safeguards-overview>
- 10- <https://www.world-nuclear.org/getmedia/cc6d54da-ee87-4642-ae3-99e0231016d9/Export-Controls-Report.pdf.aspx>
- 11- *Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Frequently Asked Questions - United States Department of State*. (2023, August 30). United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-and-releases-bureau-of-international-security-and-nonproliferation/missile-technology-control-regime-mtcr-frequently-asked-questions/>



12- *Treaties & Agreements* / Arms Control Association. (n.d.).

<https://www.armscontrol.org/treaties>

13- *The United States Reaffirms Commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* - United States Department of State. (2023, July 31). United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-reaffirms-commitment-to-the-treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/>

14- [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/international\\_safety/1862142/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/international_safety/1862142/)

15- *China and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime* on JSTOR. (n.d.). www.jstor.org.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25798507>

16- *Nuclear Disarmament North Korea*. (2023, September 14). The Nuclear Threat Initiative.

<https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/north-korea-nuclear-disarmament/>





## **Topic 2:** *Examining the Ethics of Autonomous Weapons and Their Implications for Global Security*

### **Definition of Key Terms:**

- **Autonomous Weapons:** Systems that can identify and engage targets without direct human intervention. These systems rely on artificial intelligence, sensors, and other technologies to make decisions and carry out actions autonomously.
- **Global Security:** The measures and strategies implemented to protect the safety and well-being of nations and individuals on an international scale. It encompasses efforts to prevent and manage threats that could disrupt world peace and stability.
- **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS):** A subset of autonomous weapons designed to independently select and engage targets with lethal force. These systems have the capability to make decisions about the use of lethal force without direct human control.
- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** A set of rules and principles that regulate the conduct of armed conflicts. IHL aims to protect individuals who are not participating in hostilities and limit the means and methods of warfare (also known as the laws of war).
- **Arms Control:** International efforts and agreements aimed at regulating the development, production, deployment, and use of weapons. The goal is often to prevent the escalation of arms races and enhance global security.
- **Ethical AI:** The development and use of artificial intelligence systems in a manner that aligns with moral principles and values. It emphasizes responsible and accountable AI practices, considering the societal impact of AI technologies.
- **Militarization:** The process of increasing the presence and influence of the military in a society, region, or international context. It often involves the development and deployment of military forces and technologies.
- **Deterrence:** A strategy used by governments, aimed at preventing adversaries from taking certain actions by convincing them that the costs or consequences would outweigh any potential benefits. It is often associated with military strength and the threat of retaliation.
- **Non-proliferation:** Efforts and policies aimed at preventing the spread or proliferation of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction (such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons).
- **War Crimes:** Serious violations of the laws of war or international humanitarian law committed during armed conflicts. These crimes include actions that harm civilians, prisoners of war, or other individuals protected by international law.
- **Preemptive Strike:** A military action taken to prevent an anticipated attack or threat. It involves the use of force against a perceived governmental enemy before they have a



chance to initiate hostilities at war.

- **Command and Control:** The systems and procedures used by military organizations to direct and coordinate operations. It involves decision-making, communication, and the management of forces during military actions.
- **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):** An international treaty aimed at regulating the international trade in conventional arms, with the goal of preventing the illicit arms trade and reducing the risk of weapons being used to commit human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law.



## **Background Information:**

Examining the ethics of autonomous weapons and their implications for global security brings together technological advancements, international law, and ethical considerations in the context of disarmament and international security, the main concern of the DISEC committee. Armed with the capacity to autonomously locate and attack targets without human intervention, autonomous weapons present serious challenges to both established military doctrines and moral standards. As these technologies advance, concerns have grown about their potential impact on international stability, human rights, and armed conflict laws. The deployment of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) raises concerns about accountability, transparency, and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The responsible development and use of these systems is becoming increasingly connected to global security, which requires an extensive examination of their ethical implications to prevent unforeseen consequences and reduce the risks associated with their implementation. In light of this, the UN, specifically the DISEC committee, plays a crucial role in promoting international cooperation, communication, and the creation of frameworks that maintain a balance between technological advancement in militarization and morality with the goal of preserving world peace and security in a world that is plagued with unethical uses of autonomous weapons.



## Major Parties and Organizations Involved:

- **United Nations (UN):** The UN is a central international organization that plays a key role in addressing global issues, including the examination of the ethics of autonomous weapons. Within the UN, various bodies, such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and specialized committees like DISEC, facilitate discussions, negotiations, and the formulation of international guidelines.
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** As a humanitarian organization, the ICRC is actively involved in discussions related to the ethical implications of autonomous weapons. They provide expertise on international humanitarian law (IHL) and work to ensure that the development and use of such weapons comply with established legal and ethical standards.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** NATO, as a military alliance, plays a role in shaping the ethical considerations of autonomous weapons within its member states. It may contribute to discussions on the responsible use of these technologies in a manner consistent with international law and ethical norms.
- **European Union (EU):** The EU, as a political and economic union, plays a role in shaping regulations and ethical guidelines for the use of autonomous weapons among its member states. It contributes to the examination of the ethics of autonomous weapons through policy coordination, research funding, and discussions on international norms.
- **United States (US):** The United States is a major player in the development of autonomous weapons technologies. As a leading military power, its policies, ethical considerations, and advancements in this field have significant implications for global discussions. The U.S. Department of Defense, as well as various research institutions and companies, are actively involved in shaping the ethical discourse.
- **China:** China has been actively investing in AI and autonomous weapons research. Its technological advancements and military capabilities make it a key player in discussions on the ethical use of autonomous weapons. China's stance and policies on the ethical considerations of these technologies contribute to the global dialogue.
- **Russia:** Russia, with a significant military presence, is engaged in the development and deployment of autonomous weapons. Its policies and perspectives on the ethical implications of these technologies influence discussions on global security and arms control.
- **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR):** UNIDIR conducts research and provides analysis on disarmament issues. It contributes to discussions on the ethics of autonomous weapons by offering insights into the potential risks, challenges, and policy options related to the development and deployment of these technologies.



## History and Timeline of Events:

Dates	Events
1975	During the Vietnam war, the US military introduced laser-guided autonomous drones. They were used to gather geographical data from unprecedented areas to attack different Vietnamese regions, causing immense damage to different landmarks including the strategic Thanh Hoa Bridge in North Vietnam.
1990s	The 1990s saw significant advances in UAV technology, with the U.S. Predator drone becoming operational in the mid-1990s. These UAVs were remotely operated by human pilots, representing a huge step towards the development of autonomy in militarization.
2010s	Throughout the 2010s, various nations, including the U.S., China, and Russia, continued to develop and deploy increasingly sophisticated autonomous systems for military applications. The use of armed drones, semi-autonomous systems, and discussions about the ethical implications of these technologies became more prominent.
2015	In 2015, a group of artificial intelligence and robotics researchers issued an open letter warning about the potential risks of autonomous weapons and calling for a ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Russia has developed the Uran-9, an unmanned ground combat vehicle armed with machine guns, anti-tank missiles, and other weapons. While it can be operated remotely by a human operator, it has the capability to operate semi-autonomously, making decisions on target engagement.</li><li>● The United Nations held discussions on autonomous weapons, with the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) hosting meetings on lethal autonomous weapons systems. These discussions aimed to address concerns about the lack of human control in certain weapon systems.</li></ul>
2020s	The Kargu-2 is an autonomous loitering munition developed by Turkey in 2020. It is designed to autonomously identify and engage targets using artificial intelligence. It can operate both in swarm mode and as a single unit.



<b>Present</b>	Ongoing debates on local and international scales in various nations regarding the ethics of applying autonomous weapons in wars and conflicts with the rise of artificial intelligence.
----------------	--



## Relevant UN Treaties and Documents:

- 1. Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW):**
  - **Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV):** This protocol to the CCW focuses on restricting the use of blinding laser weapons, which fall under autonomous weapons. The CCW has been a platform for discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), and meetings have been held to explore the potential need for new international law.
- 2. International Humanitarian Law (IHL):**
  - Various treaties under IHL, such as the Geneva Conventions, provide a legal framework regulating the conduct of armed conflicts. These conventions emphasize principles of proportionality, distinction between combatants and civilians, and the prevention of unnecessary suffering, which are crucial in discussions related to the ethical use of autonomous weapons.
- 3. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Mine Ban Treaty):**
  - This treaty sets a precedent for international efforts to ban specific weapons deemed excessively harmful, including discussions on autonomous weapons.
- 4. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):**
  - The ATT aims to regulate the international trade in conventional arms, considering ethical concerns related to human rights and international humanitarian law. The principles of transparency and responsible arms transfers are relevant to discussions about autonomous weapons.
- 5. UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS:**
  - The UN GGE on LAWS is an ongoing process that examines the challenges posed by autonomous weapons and considers possible recommendations and guidelines. These discussions contribute to the broader international dialogue on the ethical implications of autonomous weapons.
- 6. UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda:**
  - The UN Secretary-General's disarmament agenda includes a focus on the responsible use of emerging technologies, including autonomous weapons. It emphasizes the need for preventive measures, and international cooperation.



### **Possible Bloc Positions:**

- Countries that are willing to make international cooperative efforts to combat the unethical present and future impacts of autonomous weapons to sustain global security.
- Countries that are unwilling to combat the threats of autonomous weapons on global security and are unconvinced with its relevance in today's world, or believe that they positively impact the globe.





## Previous Attempts to Solve this Issue:

- 1. United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW):** The CCW has been a primary forum for discussions on autonomous weapons. Within the CCW, there have been multiple meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). These meetings aim to facilitate dialogue among states on the ethical aspects of autonomous weapons.
- 2. Campaign to Stop Killer Robots:** The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) advocating for a preemptive ban on fully autonomous weapons. The campaign has engaged in global advocacy efforts, raising awareness, and pushing for international discussions on the ethical implications of autonomous weapons.
- 3. Open Letters and Statements by AI Researchers:** In 2015, an open letter signed by thousands of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics researchers expressed concerns about the development of autonomous weapons and called for a ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control. Similar statements and letters from the scientific and academic community have continued to emphasize the ethical considerations of autonomous weapons.
- 4. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions:** The UNGA has adopted resolutions that recognize the importance of addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies in the realm of lethal autonomous systems. While not legally binding, these resolutions indicate a growing consensus among member states on the need to address the ethical dimensions of autonomous weapons.
- 5. Conference on Disarmament (CD) Discussions:** The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral disarmament forum, has also hosted discussions on autonomous weapons. States participating in the CD have explored the potential need for new international legal frameworks to address the ethical challenges posed by these technologies.
- 6. National and Regional Initiatives:** Some nations and regional organizations have initiated their own efforts to address the ethics of autonomous weapons. This includes policy debates, public consultations, and academic research aimed at understanding the implications of these technologies.



### **Possible Solutions:**

- Proposing the development of an international treaty specifically addressing the ethical use of autonomous weapons, which could establish clear principles, guidelines, and limitations to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and use of autonomous weapon systems.
- Developing UN-endorsed guidelines that emphasize the importance of maintaining meaningful human control over decision-making in autonomous weapons systems, which could provide a framework for states to ensure human oversight, intervention, and accountability in the use of such technologies.
- Establishing an international oversight body under the UN to monitor and assess the development and use of autonomous weapons worldwide, which could serve as a forum for sharing information, conducting assessments, and promoting best practices to ensure ethical standards are upheld.
- Creating an international task force or working group within the UN framework to assess the ethical, legal, and security implications of autonomous weapons. The task force could be tasked with producing reports, recommendations, and policy guidelines for member states.
- Providing strict punishments for all nations that violate any conduct codes regarding the implementation of autonomous weapons to be faced at local and international forums, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.



### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How can the international community establish clear ethical guidelines for the development and use of autonomous weapons?
2. How can diplomatic efforts within the UN contribute to preventive diplomacy, anticipating and addressing conflicts related to autonomous weapons on a large scale?
3. What are the potential implications of widespread autonomous weapons use for global security, regional stability, and the balance of power amongst nations?
4. How can the international community assess and mitigate potential humanitarian consequences of autonomous weapons, especially in terms of civilian impact?
5. How can member states enhance transparency in the development and deployment of autonomous weapons? Should there be international mechanisms for information sharing?
6. How can the international community increase public awareness and engage civil society in shaping and solving the global dilemma on the ethical implications of autonomous weapons?



## Bibliography: (APA)

- 1- *What you need to know about autonomous weapons*. (2022, November 2). International Committee of the Red Cross. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/what-you-need-know-about-autonomous-weapons>
- 2- (2023, October 25). *Autonomous Weapons Systems*. <https://autonomousweapons.org>
- 3- *Lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) – UNODA*. (n.d.). UNODA – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/background-on-laws-in-the-ccw/>
- 4- *UN to address autonomous weapons systems*. (n.d.). Arms Control Association | The authoritative source on arms control since 1971. <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2023-12/news/un-address-autonomous-weapons-systems>
- 5- *International humanitarian law*. (n.d.). European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law_en)
- 6- *Conference on Disarmament (CD)*. (n.d.). The Nuclear Threat Initiative. <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/conference-on-disarmament/>
- 7- (n.d.). *The Arms Trade Treaty | Home Page*. <https://thearmstradetreaty.org>
- 8- NATO. (2023, November 23). *Summary of nato's autonomy implementation plan*. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_208376.htm#:~:text=Responsible%20development%20and%20use%20of%20autonomy&text=NATO%27s%20six%20PRUs%20for%20AI,to%20AI%2Denabled%20autonomous%20systems](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_208376.htm#:~:text=Responsible%20development%20and%20use%20of%20autonomy&text=NATO%27s%20six%20PRUs%20for%20AI,to%20AI%2Denabled%20autonomous%20systems)
- 9- *A brief history of drones*. (n.d.). Imperial War Museums. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-brief-history-of-drones>
- 10- *The convention on certain conventional weapons – UNODA*. (n.d.). UNODA – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <https://disarmament.unoda.org/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/>
- 11- (n.d.). *Stop Killer Robots*. <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org>