



LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE
OF **SOcial AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF
AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS.**

La Ribera, Belén, Costa Rica
February 23 & 24 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS

- a. Emerging technologies pose concrete challenges to international peace and security, and raise new questions about the role of humans in warfare. A holistic understanding of the effects of autonomy in weapons systems and its impact on meaningful human control is required to fully assess the ethical, legal, humanitarian, and security implications.
- b. As new weapons technologies continue to be developed and used in armed conflicts, new prohibitions and regulations guided by International Law, including International Humanitarian Law and its principles, grounded in the principles of humanity and dictates of public conscience, and ethical perspectives, are urgently needed.
- c. According to International Law, including the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, the international community is called to respond to these threats by developing and strengthening the international legal framework, so as to prevent the effects of displacement, injury and death of civilians and destruction of civilian objects.
- d. It is paramount to maintain meaningful human control to prevent further dehumanization of warfare, as well as to ensure individual accountability and state responsibility.
- e. Latin American and Caribbean States have actively participated in discussions in the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS), within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. A group of States presented elements for a future normative framework and a draft for a Protocol VI under the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Some States of the region have also joined the Statement by seventy States at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2022 on autonomous weapons.

- f. Furthermore, the Buenos Aires Declaration at CELAC's VII Summit on January 24, 2023 highlighted the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed at the II Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana in January 2014.
- g. The United Nations Secretary General, the UN Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial summary or arbitrary executions, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), civil society, the scientific community, and academia have expressed concerns about autonomy in weapons systems and have made repeated calls on States to negotiate a legally binding instrument in that regard.
- h. The delegates of the region recognized the risks and challenges posed by autonomy in weapons systems as well as the necessity for an international legally binding instrument that establishes prohibitions and regulations to guarantee meaningful human control.

The delegates of Latin American and Caribbean states acknowledge the need for further actions to:

1. Collaborate to promote the urgent negotiation of an international legally binding instrument, with prohibitions and regulations with regard to autonomy in weapons systems, in order to ensure compliance with International Law, including International Humanitarian Law, and ethical perspectives, as well as the prevention of the social and humanitarian impact that autonomy in weapons systems entail;
2. Commit to actively engage in order to advance common positions to further such negotiations;
3. Continue and strengthen cooperation and partnership with international and civil society organizations, academia, and other relevant stakeholders, to draw upon their relevant expertise and support, and,
4. To continue discussions among Latin American and Caribbean States, with a view to elaborate possible recommendations that could be promoted in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and other multilateral fora.

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