

Diplomatic meeting on killer robots to open at the United Nations on Monday Delayed by pandemic and stiff opposition from Russia

Media Advisory - 18 September 2020: The ninth Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems will be held at the United Nations in Geneva on 21-25 September. This will be the first diplomatic meeting on killer robots since August 2019. Meetings scheduled earlier in 2020 were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Russia has steadfastly opposed multiple proposals to meet virtually, as other disarmament treaties have started to do, and is expected to raise procedural concerns again next week.
- The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots urges states to engage on substance by focusing deliberations on measures aimed at responding with urgency to mounting concerns over removing human control from the use of force.
- More than 30 countries have provided <u>detailed papers</u> to the 2020 CCW chair on lethal autonomous weapons systems, in addition to the <u>Campaign</u>.
- States must achieve measurable progress by the CCW's Sixth Review Conference in December 2021 and launch negotiations to ban fully autonomous weapons and retain meaningful human control over the use of force.
- The CCW meeting on killer robots will be held in-person in Room XIX using strict physical distancing measures that limit each delegation to a single representative. It will be the first CCW meeting to be broadcast live on UN WebTV and to allow virtual participation.

For more information, see:

https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/2020/09/maintaining-momentum-during-the-pandemic/

The <u>Campaign to Stop Killer Robots</u> is a coalition of 165 nongovernmental organizations in 65 countries that is working to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons and require meaningful human control over the use of force. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots will be available for comment and/or interview throughout the CCW, please contact:

Clare Conboy, Media & Communications Manager	Mary Wareham, Campaign Coordinator
Geneva, Switzerland.	Washington D.C.
Tel./WhatsApp. +41 (76) 434-4483	Tel./WhatsApp. +1 (646) 203-8292
<u>clare@stopkillerrobots.org</u> media@stopkillerrobots.org	wareham@hrw.org

Website: <u>www.stopkillerrobots.org</u> Facebook: <u>@stopkillerrobots</u> Twitter: <u>@BanKillerRobots</u> Instagram: <u>@stopkillerrobots</u>