Conference on Disarmament

Note Verbale dated 5 September 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva transmitting the statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the Conference on Disarmament panel discussion on comprehensive program of disarmament (Agenda item 6), ways for the responsible development and employment of Artificial Intelligence in the military domain, which was held on 3 August 2023

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to submit the Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the Conference on Disarmament panel discussion on comprehensive program of disarmament (Agenda item 6), ways for the responsible development and employment of Artificial Intelligence in the military domain, which was held on 3 August 2023.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) that this Statement be issued as an official document (and Working Paper) of the 2023 CD session and included in the Appendix to the Final Report of the CD, as well as uploaded on the Conference's website.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annex

Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine, Panel discussion: Comprehensive program of disarmament (Agenda item 6), Ways for the responsible development and employment of Artificial Intelligence in the military domain, Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 3 August 2023

Mr President,

As it is the first time that I am taking the floor under your Presidency, I would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on assumption of this important role. Let me assure you of the support of the Ukrainian delegation for your work and the work of your team.

(My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all new colleagues who have commenced their work on disarmament in Geneva.)

I would like to thank the panelists for comprehensive analysis of AI role in human civilization progress and insightful thoughts on mitigation of possible risks associated with the AI development, including regarding military applications.

The breakthrough technologies, such as artificial intelligence, offer powerful tool to improve the well-being of society and create opportunities for achieving national social and economic goals as well as international Sustainable Development Goals. We firmly stand for wider application of AI for these purposes.

Breakthrough technologies are also widely used today in national security sector. As for Ukraine the AI plays an important role as the defensive tool in countering the ongoing Russian armed aggression against Ukraine in violation of the United Nations Charter, helping to track online military operations of the aggressor state and identify war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, thus protecting and preserving the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

We are convinced that the use of artificial intelligence in security sphere can be done responsibly and in full compliance with international obligations of states, and in a manner that does not undermine global international security.

In this regard, we believe that our task is to define how to reduce the possible risks associated with the artificial intelligence usage in military domain including through coordinated actions and to elaborate the prospects for the development of the global system of regulation of those technologies in the context of establishment of a digital world order.

Mr President,

Actively participating in the international efforts to establish a possible regulatory framework for the use of artificial intelligence this delegation believes that some elements require particular attention at this stage:

- States should bear prime responsibility in ensuring that the development, production, deployment and use of AI technologies is done in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law;

- Behavior approach based on non-legally binding commitments supported by relevant monitoring capabilities seems to be a pragmatic way forward to address challenges associated with the use of AI. Confidence-building measures may play an important role for that purpose. In this regard, exchange of experience and monitoring innovations and new technologies are also essential for better understanding, assessment and mitigation of possible risks and challenges associated with AI;

- We support the idea of an international platform for developing the code of responsible use of artificial intelligence, which would promote cooperation and

research in this field, engaging actively into discussion the NGOs, academic and business stakeholders;

- Multilateralism with the involvement of the maximum number of states and other stakeholders, despite the difference in their technological capabilities and material resources, should remain the basic principle in elaborating a global monitoring mechanism for the development, production, deployment and use of AI.

Thank you.

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