**Submission of a reply to resolution 79/239 "Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024**

REFERENCE: ODA/2025-00029/AIMD

**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

Bulgaria welcomes the opportunity to submit its views for consideration by the United Nations Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution 79/239 "Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024, which requested the Secretary-General to seek views "on the opportunities and challenges posed to international peace and security by the application of artificial intelligence in the military domain, with specific focus on areas other than lethal autonomous weapons systems."

Bulgaria actively supports multiple joint initiatives related to the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomy in military domain such as the REAIM process and its two outcome documents "REAIM Call to Action" and "REAIM Blueprint for Action", the Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, the Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI enabled Weapon Systems as well as the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE LAWS) under the auspices of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

These multinational discussions have been exploring the security and legal dimensions of AI and have given strong foundations on examining opportunities and addressing challenges of application of AI in the military domain. Now UNGA resolution 79/239 on artificial intelligence in the military domain, co-sponsored by Bulgaria, allows widening the scope of and advancing the dialogue in a more inclusive manner, where every State can enroll.

## I.      Opportunities

Rapid advancement of new technologies, including AI, autonomy and data collection, makes them an important tool for the development and deployment of defense capabilities, which already have a significant impact on the military domain.

AI technology is cross-cutting and pervasive. The importance and application of AI in the military domain has been growing exponentially in areas that bring operational and direct tactical benefits during deployment such as command and control, decision-support

systems for optimizing decision-making processes and identifying potential targets, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, processing large amounts of data, forecasting, logistics, training, etc.

Utilizing responsible AI is essential for preserving military and technological edges against those who use AI for malign purposes, and serves as deterrence and defense. Therefore, investments in AI technologies and strengthening relations with industry should be prioritized within States that are committed to their responsible use.

### I. Challenges and addressing them

AI, as a technology, has extraordinary potential to transform every aspect of military affairs, however thus raising a number of challenges and concerns. We should harness the benefits and capabilities of AI while adequately addressing the risks it poses.

Foremost, human control and judgement in decision-making at every stage of the use of military AI capabilities with high-consequences applications must be in place, thus ensuring lack of accountability gap.

Other challenges to AI adoption that have safety and security implications entail unintended biases like automation and data biases, AI impact on conflict dynamics, potential escalations, driven by AI advancement.

Novel technologies demand more complex operational guidelines and instructions for use, including developing national frameworks, strategies and principles on responsible use of AI in the military domain as well as establishing policies and doctrines and elaborating more advanced working methods and procedures. The use military AI capabilities must be in full compliance with international legal obligations, including the Charter of the United Nations, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

In conclusion, Bulgaria stresses the importance of facilitating international cooperation among States in order to build better understanding on the responsible use of AI in the military domain and possible governance framework.