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**Joint EU Reply to UNGA Resolution 79/239,
adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024, on artificial intelligence (AI) in the
military domain and its implications for international peace and security.**

The European Union (EU) welcomes this occasion to submit its views on the challenges and opportunities posed by artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain to international peace and security in accordance with resolution 79/239, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024.

First and foremost, the EU would like recall its longstanding position that the use of AI in the military domain must be in accordance with international law, notably the Charter of the United Nations, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

Likewise, the EU wishes to recall another longstanding position, namely that human judgement and control over the use of force must always be retained. Humans must remain responsible and accountable, also when it comes to AI in the military domain so as to ensure that this technology is applied in a responsible manner

The EU recognizes that the application of AI to military systems AI entails opportunities as well as challenges. Development of AI is so fast that not all advantages or risks can be predicted at this point of time.

In this respect, the EU welcomes the ongoing UN focus on the matter as well as the discussions within relevant international fora. In this respect, the EU in particular appreciates the continuation of the “Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain” (REAIM) process, which began in the Netherlands in 2023 with the first REAIM23 Summit, followed by the REAIM24 Summit hosted by the Republic of Korea. The EU welcomes that the process continues with REAIM25 in Spain and extends its gratitude to Spain for organising the next REAIM Summit.

The EU notes that the 2023 REAIM “Call to Action on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain”, as well as the 2024 REAIM “Blueprint for Action”, have been endorsed by all EU Member States. The EU believes that the REAIM concept of multi stakeholder, inclusive processes on the issue of responsible military use of AI is a promising approach. In this respect, the EU recognises the value of other recent contributions, such as the international AI Summit and the conference on responsible military AI hosted by France on 10 February this year. The EU also acknowledges the work in the framework of the “Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy”, as a valuable contribution to the broader international debate on consequences of AI for international peace and security.

The EU believes that REAIM and the political Declaration, both of which all EU Member States are signatories to, are complementary and highly important for further developing global thinking, governance and practical solutions to the responsible military use of AI.

The EU recognizes that there are military advantages of applying AI in the military domain. This goes in particular for speed, scale and precision of military operations. AI can provide a tactical advantage from the management and pre-processing of vast data sets stemming from surveillance and weapons

systems, drones and satellite images, which can enable human operators to achieve speedier and better decisions. AI applications can reduce costs by improving logistics or the maintenance of equipment via predictive maintenance management. Likewise, AI can provide greater distance military operations and more precision of military operations in uncertain environments.

At the same time, the very advantages of speed and scale by AI applications in the military domain also pose challenges. AI accelerates the OODA loop (observe, orient, decide, act). The increase of speed and scale capabilities may give rise to misperceptions due to inconsistencies between military intentions and the analyses produced by AI-driven systems. AI could thus unintentionally contribute to escalation. Speed is also a challenge to the objective of retaining human judgement and control over the use of force..

Against this backdrop, the EU stresses the importance of international cooperation aimed at studying the impact of AI in the military domain and possible governance frameworks.