

In the Name of God
The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Subject: Views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Resolution 79/239 of the General Assembly titled “*Artificial Intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security*”

In response to the request made to the UN Secretary General under paragraph 7 of Resolution 79/239 of the General Assembly, which seeks the views of the Member States 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, the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby submits its views:

1. Artificial intelligence is becoming one of the major drivers of change in today’s world, leaving an indelible mark on how the military industry will evolve in the near future, thereby affecting international peace and security at its very core. State and non-state actors actively advance their contending AI agendas which cannot be left unregulated. Considering the leading role of non-state actors, and the need for striking a balance between *regulatory* and *innovative* procedures and trends, it is vital that the regulatory authority remain the sovereign prerogative of Member States.
2. From a substantial point of view, as has been the case for other technologies used in cyber space and outer space, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the exclusively peaceful application of AI, bearing in mind that under proper circumstances, the military entities can peacefully benefit from AI dividends, as well.
3. Given the varying levels of development across nations, it is of paramount importance to ensure that the Digital Divide does not evolve into an AI Divide. Inclusivity of all AI-related regulatory procedures may only be guaranteed within the UN consensus-based framework. This approach safeguards the sovereignty of Member States, fosters an environment of equitable AI development for all, and provides innovative flexibility for the AI industry to flourish. The centrality of UN in AI-related regulatory matters impedes the exclusivist national approaches to the matter. Inclusivity and a consensus-based approach to this vitally important matter must reign supreme.
4. Despite ongoing discussions on AI in various international forums, our grasp of the issue and its implications for international peace and security remains incomplete. It is premature to assert the full applicability of international law, humanitarian law, and international human rights law to AI. Facing the enormity of this new and fast evolving phenomenon, international legal framework might need adaptation and evolution of its own kind.

5. As regards international regulatory efforts, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the establishment of legally binding arrangements between Member States as its preferred course of action as opposed to norm setting or political instruments.

6. Within the framework of its principled position on disarmament, the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects any politically motivated discriminatory, conditional approach and double-standards. Thus, the terminology utilized by the General Assembly must reflect a sense of unity and consensus. In this vein, concepts such as '*responsible application*' are too abstract to regulated a field defined by concreteness and exactitude. Such abstract notion would lend itself to misinterpretation and open the door to a politicized approach. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its strong objection to the use of such subjective terminology, and supports and proposes '*responsible application*' to be replaced with '*peaceful application*' in any future instrument.