Israel's input following UNGA resolution 79/239 - "Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security"

Israel notes the adoption of UNGA resolution 79/239 entitled "Artificial Intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security" of 24 December 2024, and, in accordance with operative paragraph 7 of the resolution, has the honor to submit its national contribution to the report of the UN Secretary General at its eightieth session for further discussion by member states.

Israel holds the opinion that the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently subject to a range of possible interpretations, that may be refined over time.

It is clear that the use of AI in the military domain is becoming more common and frequent than ever before. Israel has voted in favor of the aforementioned UNGA resolution, and encourages a discussion among states and all stakeholders while maintaining a professional and non-politicized nature, that takes into account the legitimate considerations of all states, including security, humanitarian, economic and developmental considerations.

In order to conduct a serious and responsible discussion on AI in the military domain, that may also ultimately have a meaningful effect, we believe a pragmatic, balanced and incremental approach must be adopted.

As technology brings a wide variety of opportunities to almost every field, including in the military domain, we welcome exploration of the benefits that these developments can bring and ways to materialize them, as well as potential risks and ways to mitigate them. It is Israel's view that emerging technologies, such as AI technologies, may also serve to advance adherence to existing IHL. These potential opportunities mandate that such technologies should not be negatively stigmatized.

Israel remains a constructive voice in the global discourse on AI for military use. It has recently endorsed the International Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, led by the US. We look forward to joining future meetings of this initiative and continue promoting the responsible military use of AI and autonomy.

As part of this declaration as well as in other contexts, in recent years states have contemplated guidance to the development and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain, either domestically or internationally. Some of the more basic and commonly shared principles within such guidance, that may also be relevant to discussion in the context of UN GA 79\239, seem to be that:

- The military use of AI must be in compliance with applicable international law.
- It should be responsible, and enhance international security.
- States shall ensure accountability with regard to the use of AI capabilities in accordance with applicable international law, including by operating them within a responsible chain of human command and control.

Among the practical measures States should take to effectuate these principles, are that:

- States should take appropriate steps, such as legal reviews, to ensure that their military AI capabilities will be used consistent with their respective obligations under international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

- States should take appropriate measures to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and use of military AI capabilities. These measures should be implemented at relevant stages throughout the life cycle of military AI capabilities.

- Relevant personnel should exercise appropriate care in the development, deployment, and use of military AI capabilities, including weapon systems incorporating such capabilities.

- Senior officials should effectively and appropriately oversee the development and deployment of military AI capabilities with high-consequence applications, including, but not limited to, weapon systems involving such capabilities.

- States should support appropriate efforts to ensure that military AI capabilities are used responsibly and lawfully, and pursue continued discussions with other states on how military AI capabilities are deployed and used as such.

Israel sees value in inclusive multilateral discussions on AI in the military domain and its implications on international security, that would strike the right balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations.