REPUBLIC OF SERBIA: REPLY TO THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS CONTAINED IN ITS NOTE NO. ODA/2025-00029/AIMD REFERRED TO RESOLUTION 79/239 *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MILITARY DOMAIN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY*

The development and application of artificial intelligence is an important factor of change in the way military operations are conducted in today's world. It provides for new possibilities, bringing about, at the same time, new challenges for international stability, peace and security in the military domain. It is, therefore, necessary to initiate the creation of an appropriate international framework to regulate its application.

1. <u>Possibilities and Advantages of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain</u>

   The application of artificial intelligence in the non-lethal military context may improve many areas of military operations:

   - Raise the level of operational awareness;
   - Improve the process of decision-making with respect to quality and speed;
   - Upgrade the quality of intelligence data and reconnaissance by rapid data processing and provide for a quick detection of threats;
   - Support protection of civilians and non-combatants in military conflicts;
   - Support peace operations and missions by monitoring ceasefires and predicting conflict dynamics; and
   - Improve processes and procedures of predictive maintenance and logistics optimization by reducing costs and saving resources.

2. <u>Key Challenges and Threats from the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain</u>

   The development and integration of artificial intelligence in combat and non-combat systems poses a critical challenge to international peace and stability, as well as for international humanitarian law, primarily in the following areas:

   - Technical risks and function failures due to application errors in a dynamic environment, which can threaten human life, cause material damage and affect the implementation of international humanitarian law;
   - Legal and ethical risks regarding compliance with international law, particularly with respect to the implementation of its principles, such as discrimination, proportionality and resort to precautionary measures in targeting;
   - Lack of explicit rules to establish responsibility for acts and activities operated by artificial intelligence;
   - Algorithms imperfection may, presumably, lead to bias and mistakes in the process of decision- and discrimination-making since the application of non-representative data groups may lead to erroneous identification of civilians or a threat to ethnic/national groups;

- The application of the algorithms of artificial intelligence may create false impressions of reduced responsibility of individuals included in the process of conducting operations;
- Strategic risks in making decisions via artificial intelligence, based on faulty premises;
- Non-selective convergence and integration with new technologies, particularly in the areas of information and cyber operations or the application of nuclear, chemical and biological means;
- Lack of professional staff for the development, organization and a responsible application of artificial intelligence systems in conflicts; and
- Misusing artificial intelligence in information operations by creating and distributing disinformation, which can instigate conflicts and worsen tensions.

3. Creating a legal and ethical framework

Bearing in mind the assessed risks and challenges, it is necessary to create, within the international community, mandatory legal and ethical frameworks to:

- Promote and work on starting a dialogue within the United Nations with the aim of increasing the compliance with the norms of international humanitarian law, including the establishment of international legal norms, rules and principles that would ensure that the development and application of artificial intelligence systems be in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law (discrimination, proportionality and resort to precautionary measures to protect individuals who do not participate in armed conflicts);
- Initiate a legality assessment process in the application of systems and weapons vis-à-vis the approved applicability of artificial intelligence;
- Ensure the protection of the life and freedom of individuals during armed conflicts and their privacy in peace time, in particular in the context of monitoring;
- Strengthen United Nations mechanisms by introducing a mandatory consideration of the risk of the application of artificial intelligence for military purposes, upgrading the Conference on Disarmament, harmonizing the work of Disarmament Commissions, establishing new specialized bodies of the United Nations and expanding the existing United Nations initiatives for a responsible use of artificial intelligence;
- Start a United Nations dialogue to define a responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military domain and establish security protocols for its application (testing, evaluation, validation and verification);
- Develop measures for harmonizing the private sector enlistment with the principles of international humanitarian law during the development, establishment and application of the systems and services of artificial intelligence for military domains; and
- Expand the existing United Nations institutes and documents on recommendations regarding the ethic of development and application of artificial intelligence to include specific guidelines for conducting conflicts.

The application of the artificial intelligence systems in the context of international armed conflicts, calls for wide multilateral action by the international community with the aim of promoting responsibility for its use. The United Nations should have the leading role in instigating a dialogue, norms and international community capacity-building in order to prevent the fragmentation and bring about proper management.