

FIRST COMMITTEE – 80TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Statement by Pakistan

Thematic Debate: Other Disarmament Measures and International Security

New York, 27 October 2024

Chair,

1. The use of AI in military applications is transforming the nature of warfare.
2. Driven by the allure of speed, precision, and dominance, some States emphasize the operational advantages of AI on the battlefield. Yet the grave risks of its unregulated use demand our urgent attention.
3. AI-enabled weapon systems — particularly when operating without meaningful human control — heighten nuclear risks, increase the chances of miscalculation or accidents, and lower the threshold for the use of force.
4. By taking warfare to machine speeds, AI compresses decision-making time and eliminates the space for crisis management and diplomacy — especially in regions marked by volatility and unresolved disputes.
5. We have already seen autonomous loitering munitions and high-speed dual-capable missiles used by one nuclear-armed state against another — a sobering milestone in the evolution of warfare.
6. The dangers of delegating decisions of life and death to machines. How would an AI-driven command system react to the detection of a high-speed missile? And when warfare occurs at machine speed, what space remains for human judgment — or diplomacy?

Chair,

7. The governance of military AI must be anchored firmly within the UN. While Pakistan recognizes the value of initiatives outside the UN, such efforts cannot substitute the legitimacy, inclusivity, and universality of the UN system. Fragmented or exclusive arrangements risk deepening global divides. Only the UN's universal membership can ensure that the governance of military AI reflects the interests of all states — developed and developing alike.
8. The General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and other disarmament instruments each have vital roles to play in developing norms and rules.
9. A structured, multi-forum strategy is therefore essential — one that draws on the complementary strengths of the UN's disarmament machinery. Pakistan has submitted

its views on the possible role of different fora on this topic, as contained in document CD/2450.

Chair,

10. The weaponization of ICTs and cyberspace poses formidable threats to peace, security, and stability. The capacity for anonymous action, unconfined by traditional geographical limitations, coupled with the cost-effective mass production of cyber weapons, renders them immensely perilous. Global cyberspace continues to evolve as an arena of conflict. This requires continued dialogue and cooperation. We joined consensus on the final report of the OEWG this July to allow meaningful multilateral cooperation, and we wish to continue these discussions in the Global Mechanism.

I thank you