The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale No. ODA-2024-00019/LAWS dated 1 February 2024, has the honor to transmit, enclosed herewith, the input of the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the resolution 78/241, “Lethal autonomous weapons systems”.

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 5 June 2024

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
New York
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Resolution 78-241

Lethal autonomous weapons systems represent a complex topic that causes deep concern from different perspectives:

Humanitarian perspective: The question is how accurate these systems can be in selecting targets and how much they can reduce civilian casualties. The concern is that autonomous systems could increase the risk of uncontrolled conflict escalation and unintended consequences for the civilian population.

Legal perspective: The challenge is how to apply existing international laws of war and weapons to autonomous systems. There is also the issue of liability for damage that can be caused by autonomous systems, especially in cases of errors or unintended consequences.

Security perspective: The question of the security of autonomous systems against hacking and abuse is raised. Scenarios are possible where autonomous systems become the target of hacker attacks or are used against one's own country.

Technology perspective: The development of autonomous systems technology, including their reliability, accuracy and ability to distinguish between military and civilian targets, needs to be considered. There is also the issue of technical limitations in distinguishing between friend and foe on the battlefield.

Ethical perspective: A major ethical issue is the moral responsibility for the use of autonomous systems that have the ability to make life and death decisions. It raises the question of autonomy in decision-making and how much we can trust algorithms in situations that require moral judgment.

Addressing these concerns requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes the participation of experts from the fields of law, technology, ethics, security, and humanitarian organizations. Also, international cooperation is needed to establish clear standards and regulations for the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems.