Australia's views of Member States and Observer States exchanges during the *Informal Exchanges on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and its Implications for International Peace and Security*, 15 to 17 June 2026.

RESPONSE TO ODA-2026-00045, 24 June 2026

1. Australia appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to be included in a compilation of views of Member States and Observer States on the Informal Exchanges on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Military Domain, prepared and published by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs prior to the eighty-first session of the General Assembly.
2. Australia has supported both UNGA resolutions on AI in the military domain (A/RES/79/239, December 2024 and A/RES/80/58, December 2025) and made a submission to the UN Secretary Generals' report mandated by the first resolution (Response to ODA/2025-00029 - A/RES/79/239 | 7 August 2025). We note our support for the three REAIM Summit Outcome documents from 2023 (The Netherlands), 2024 (Korea) and 2026 (Spain). We also note Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong delivered a statement to the UN Security Council meeting convened by the Republic of Korea in September 2025 (see Statement to the UN Security Council Open Debate | Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs) highlighting the UN's important role and discussions on AI in the military domain.
3. As states continue to explore the development and use of AI technologies, it is increasingly clear that inclusive, state-led initiatives —grounded in the application of international law, confidence-building measures, and capacity-building – are essential to the responsible use of AI in the military domain.
4. As noted during the informal exchanges, Australia places a high priority on ensuring that the development and use of AI in the military domain is compliant with international law.
5. All military capabilities, including those enabled by AI must comply with international law throughout their lifecycle, including international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law.
6. As AI technologies and applications continue to evolve and be adopted, States must strike a balance between fostering technological innovation, and ensuring robust governance and oversight, tailored to the military context. Getting this balance right is a key priority for Australia.
7. For Australia, AI - when applied appropriately with human judgement - has the capacity to enhance protection for civilians and civilian objects, support defence capabilities and increase the effectiveness of military operations.

8. AI has the potential to enhance States' compliance with IHL - for example, by enhancing precision or improving situational awareness. And it can reduce the risk to both civilians and defence personnel – including through improved information management, decision-making, logistical, medical and maintenance support, and coordination.
9. Responsible use of AI requires concerted practical and policy efforts. Australia is strengthening its governance frameworks, control measures, and procedures accordingly. The Australian Department of Defence has publicly released its Policy Settings for Responsible use of AI in Defence to outline how it will responsibly use AI, aligned with Australia's international legal obligations and multilateral commitments, and relevant domestic law.
10. Australia will continue to apply a rigorous approach to the development, acquisition and deployment of AI, taking into account its risks and opportunities.
11. States are at different stages of AI policy development, and it is important that we continue to engage to share lessons learned and best practices, and collaborate on shared norms. We recommend cooperation between States to share lessons learnt and best practices on mechanisms to manage the risks of AI while harnessing the benefits and opportunities. This includes sharing national strategies, legislation and policies and providing transparency on military modernisation where appropriate.
12. Australia recommends continued engagement with existing multilateral and multi-stakeholder initiatives such as ReAIM. With its regional consultation process and openness to state and non-state views, ReAIM has improved information dissemination and increased regional engagement. We welcome the announcement that Kenya will host the next ReAIM summit in April 2027.
13. Engagement in these fora enables States to benefit from the expertise of all sectors present. These usefully discuss norms and standards, set future directions and share lessons learnt. Australia's preference is that discussions on AI in the military domain do not expand in a way which makes them inaccessible and diffuse.