Informal Exchanges on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and its Implications for International Peace and Security

Statement for Session 11: Existing and Emerging Normative Proposals, 17 June

Thank you, Chair.

As we highlighted in a previous statement, Stop Killer Robots sees the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems as a key first step towards addressing the risks and harm posed by AI and automation in the use of force.

States have a critical opportunity this year to move forward to negotiations - the path is clear, the basis is there. All that remains is to take the next step and enshrine in law the rules that can provide a cornerstone to international efforts to reject digital dehumanisation and the automation of killing, and to keep meaningful human control over the use of force. Negotiations must be fully inclusive of civil society, and not permit veto by those who wish to prevent progress.

However, this will not be enough on its own: with the use of military AI more broadly on the rise, and reports emerging of its link to civilian harm, the international community must act now with further concrete measures.

Until rules, standards and guarantees are put in place to address the grave concerns raised by military AI, Stop Killer Robots would like to reiterate our demand for:

- An immediate moratorium on using any AI system, including generative AI, as the basis for targeting decisions. Conflict parties have been using AI to inform who lives and dies and what targets should be struck without meaningful deliberation on the outputs produced by systems. This dehumanising and reckless automation of violence is unacceptable and must stop now. We also demand:
- Immediate transparency from states on the role of AI in the use of military force, and on its impacts. With reports emerging of grave humanitarian consequences, it is up to states to demonstrate the safety, legality, and acceptability of their tools and practices

To prevent humanitarian consequences, ensure accountability, and meet the range of legal and ethical challenges raised by AI and automation in military systems, the international community must then take all necessary steps to:

- Prevent, in systems that contribute to the use of force, the use of data gathered in ways that infringe on human rights and other bodies of international law, as well as the use of unreliable or otherwise inappropriate data

- Ensure that all systems that are used in military operations are operated with meaningful human control - which includes ensuring that tasks are within the cognitive capacities of users
- Prevent the de facto automation of life- and- death decisions, and ensure that there is always deliberative and informed decision-making in the use of force
- Require predictability, reliability, explainability, and traceability in all systems, as well as transparency about their uses and impacts

Work to advance norms and rules must move forward now.

Thank you, Chair.