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Input by Switzerland pursuant to the Informal Exchanges on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and Its Implications for International Peace and Security, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 June 2026, in accordance with the invitation to submit written input contained in Note Verbale ODA-2026-00045

Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to submit its views following the Informal Exchanges on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (AIMD) and its Implications for International Peace and Security, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 June 2026.

Switzerland commends the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for the excellent organisation and conduct of these exchanges, and thanks the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their continued leadership in advancing international dialogue on this important topic. Switzerland is pleased to have been able to support UNODA with contributions towards the organisation of the exchanges.

Switzerland considers that the exchanges in Geneva provided substantial added value. The discussions were inclusive, technically rich and substantive. They demonstrated the strong interest of Member States and other stakeholders in addressing AIMD in all its complexity. They also underlined the need to continue and strengthen such exchanges under a United Nations mandate, in Geneva.

Switzerland sees State-led initiatives on AIMD as crucial to building common understanding, identifying good practices and supporting responsible governance. A number of common themes are already visible across existing initiatives: international law applies; human control, judgement and responsibility remain central; risks must be assessed across the entire lifecycle of an AI system; and transparency and confidence-building measures can help reduce risks to international peace and security.

Switzerland welcomes contributions to deliberations within and around the United Nations system, not only from Member States, but also from international organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNIDIR, academia, civil society, the scientific and technical community, and industry. Switzerland is pleased to have contributed, together with others, to the **launch of the Centre of Excellence on AI, Peace and Security at UNIDIR.** The Centre can support States by providing a permanent and inclusive platform for knowledge exchange across stakeholder communities, creating continuity between processes, and strengthening States' capacity to make progress in governing artificial intelligence with regard to peace and security.

Looking ahead, Switzerland would like to highlight **three considerations.**

First, Switzerland is convinced of the necessity and merit of taking forward the initial informal consultations on AIMD and believes future discussions should be more focused. While the broad agenda of the June 2026 informal exchanges was appropriate for an initial exchange, future discussions should concentrate on a set of priority questions where convergence is both necessary and achievable. One approach would be

to focus on applications that raise particular concerns, recognising that not all military applications of artificial intelligence carry the same implications for international peace and security or for compliance with international law. In Switzerland's view, particular attention should be given to applications directly connected to the use of force, including AI-based decision-support systems.

Second, Switzerland considers that the discussions should now move from general principles to operational guidance. Emerging common elements should be translated into practical expectations for design, testing, procurement, deployment, use and review, so that legal and ethical requirements are reflected in operational practice. Such guidance should be adaptable to technological developments, precise enough to guide behaviour, and focused on high-risk applications, including artificial intelligence connected to the use of force, strategic functions, early warning, targeting support and time-sensitive decision-making. It should also identify where more specific expectations, good practices or guardrails are needed, while avoiding unnecessary duplication with existing mandates and processes.

Third, international governance efforts must help ensure compliance with international law, in particular international humanitarian law, while reducing risks to international peace, security and stability. At the same time, international governance should not only mitigate risks but also enable the responsible use of AI, consistent with international law, where it can strengthen compliance, improve military decision-making, and contribute to safer, more effective, and more accountable operations. Humanitarian and ethical concerns, strategic stability, and the reduction of security risks must remain central. AI-enabled military systems may affect escalation dynamics, compress decision-making time, increase risks of misperception or unintended interaction between systems, contribute to strategic instability or arms-racing dynamics, and lower thresholds for the use of force. At the same time, States and other stakeholders must guard against overly permissive legal interpretations, such as broadening the definition of lawful targets or raising thresholds for acceptable incidental harm, becoming embedded in system design, training data or operational practice. If applied at scale, such interpretations could undermine the protective purpose of international humanitarian law and increase harm to civilians. Safeguarding the integrity of legal norms must therefore remain central to the governance, design and deployment of artificial intelligence in the military domain.

Overall, Switzerland supports the establishment of a UN open-ended working group on artificial intelligence in the military domain. Such a process should be clearly State-led, inclusive and transparent, and should be open to all Member States and allow for structured contributions from industry, civil society, academia, the scientific and technical community, international organisations and other relevant actors. An OEWG would provide the institutional framework needed to consolidate shared understandings, develop practical guidance and strengthen responsible governance in line with international law and in support of international peace and security. Geneva is particularly well placed to support this work, bringing together disarmament, arms control, humanitarian, legal, technical and policy communities. It is therefore an appropriate hub for dialogue on artificial intelligence, peace and security.

Switzerland stands ready to continue contributing to inclusive, technically grounded and legally sound AIMD discussions.