DISEC

SAMUN XV

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Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure and an honor to extend a warm and cordial welcome to all of you on behalf of the entire SAMUN XV staff to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (**DISEC**).

I'm certainly pleased to welcome you to the XV edition of Samun. I'm grateful to be your President. First of all, I would like to emphasize the importance of critical and reflective thinking in these issues. I believe that all delegates have different ideas and opinions that,

when worked on effectively, can become solutions. Given my position, I will make sure that no opinion is silenced or downgraded. What I am looking for from your experience at Samun is that it is as pleasant as possible and that you can take advantage of all the benefits it brings. I remember when I first started my MUN journey, being president was a huge goal for me, and I am more than grateful for the adventure of getting here because, since then, I've learned a lot of things and had a lot of experiences that, in my point of view, any delegate should have. To say goodbye, I would like to make it clear that I am completely grateful to the SAMUN XV Staff and to you delegates for choosing this committee. No doubt you will enjoy it and learn a lot. Best regards

Letter from President Cuartas

Dear Delegates,

We also add our contact information @juan.lopez-messing@cbsm.edu.co & juan.cuartas-mazano@cbsm.edu.co. Feel free to contact us at any time with any concerns or questions you may have regarding the committee or SAMUN XV. It will be a pleasure for us to help you at all times inside and outside the model.

History of the Committee (Introduction to DISEC)

The UN established the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) as the first committee of its General Assembly (GAs) in 1945. This committee is responsible for

addressing and dealing with global challenges related to disarmament and weaponry on a global scale, and threats that may harm international peace. The DISEC committee also collaborates closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNODA) to correctly manage the actions the UN takes in this situation.

As the primary committee for debate on disarmament at the UN, DISEC tackles a wide range of issues, including the regulation of conventional weapons, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and measures to address emerging issues such as cyber warfare and autonomous weapons. The committee emphasizes fostering dialogue, consensus-building, and collaboration among nations to craft resolutions that reflect the collective will of the international community.

United Nations
General Assembly
1st Committee (DISEC)

Topic A: The Ethical / Legal Implications and Regulation of Emerging Technologies in Modern Warfare

Key Concepts

1. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Systems designed and trained with the ability to learn, solve problems, make predictions, take decisions and perform tasks that are considered to require a level of intelligence comparable to that of a human.
2. **R&D:** Refers to the investigative and innovative activities undertaken by corporations or governments to develop new products, services, or processes, or to improve existing ones.
3. **The OODA loop:** A four-step military decision-making model. Observe, Orient, Decide, Act was developed by U.S. Air Force Colonel John Boyd to help leaders make faster, better decisions in chaotic, rapidly changing environments. It focuses on cycling through these steps quicker than an opponent to disrupt their decision-making process.
4. **Loitering Munition:** Known as suicide, kamikaze or exploding drone) which contain a built-in warhead (munition) and wait (loiter) around a predefined area until a target is located by an operator on the ground or by automated sensors onboard, and then attack the target.
5. **The Martens Clause:** Is a foundational principle of international humanitarian law (IHL) first introduced in the 1899 Hague Convention II. It ensures that in cases not

explicitly covered by treaties, civilians and combatants remain protected by the principles of humanity, established custom, and public conscience.

Introduction

In the regard of the rapid advancement of emerging technologies, modern warfare has fundamentally transformed the nature of modern warfare. Innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous weapon systems, robotics, cyber warfare tools, and data-driven military decision-making systems have introduced unprecedented capabilities into armed conflict. While these technologies offer strategic advantages, such as increased precision, faster response times, and reduced risk to military personnel, they also raise profound ethical and legal concerns.

Current international legal frameworks, including International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Geneva Conventions, were developed in an era when human decision-making was central to the use of force. The integration of machine-assisted or machine-driven systems into warfare challenges core legal principles such as distinction, proportionality, accountability, and human responsibility. As states increasingly rely on automated and AI-enabled technologies, the international community faces an urgent need to reassess whether existing regulations are sufficient or whether new legal instruments are required to govern these emerging tools of war.

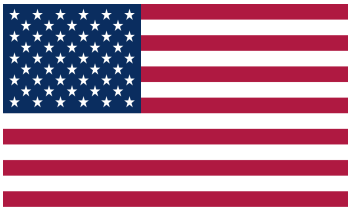
Current situation and approach

The use of emerging military technologies is no longer theoretical; it is already shaping contemporary conflicts and defense strategies worldwide. AI-assisted targeting systems, autonomous drones, cyber-operations, and algorithmic battlefield analysis are actively deployed by technologically advanced states. These systems can process vast amounts of data in real time, identify targets, and support or accelerate lethal decision-making processes.

However, the growing reliance on such technologies has exposed significant regulatory gaps. Many systems operate in a gray zone between human control and machine autonomy, complicating the attribution of responsibility when violations of IHL occur. Incidents involving AI-assisted strikes and autonomous drone deployments have intensified debates regarding civilian protection, escalation risks, and unintended consequences caused by system malfunction, bias, or cyber interference.

International efforts to address these challenges have largely taken place within forums such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the United Nations General Assembly. Despite ongoing discussions, progress has been limited due to diverging national interests and concerns over strategic disadvantage. While some states advocate for binding regulations or outright prohibitions on fully autonomous weapons, others favor voluntary guidelines and national oversight mechanisms. This lack of consensus has resulted in an uneven and fragmented global approach to regulation.

Relevant Actors



The United States: The Pentagon requested $13.4 billion in FY2026 for AI and autonomy, including $9.4 billion for aerial drones and $1.7 billion for maritime platforms, marking the first dedicated budget line. Key experiment bases include DoD labs, test ranges like Eglin AFB (Florida) and White Sands (New Mexico), and partnerships with firms like Anduril and Shield AI. Innovations feature the Replicator initiative for thousands of expendable AI drones by 2026, swarm autonomy, and AI targeting systems. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Hicks stated in 2023 that Replicator aims to "galvanize progress" against China with small, smart platforms.

China: China invests over $500 billion in broader AI military tech, with state firms like Norinco driving autonomous systems. Bases center on PLA research centers in Beijing, Shanghai, data hubs (over 250 AI centers), and test sites in Xinjiang or the South China Sea areas. Key innovations include DeepSeek AI-powered robot dogs (Unitree Go2 Pro), drone swarms, Norinco P60 autonomous vehicles (50 km/h combat ops), and Huawei chip-integrated targeting. Xi Jinping has emphasized AI for "intelligentized warfare," with PLA tenders for AI robot dogs and swarms signaling a strategic push.

Russia: Russia's funding relies on state budgets and China ties, with limited public figures but high drone volumes. Bases span Ukraine frontlines, Arctic ranges, and Moscow labs for electronic warfare. Developments cover AI drone visuals, jamming/GPS spoofing, and semi-autonomous systems post-comms loss. No major public statements noted, but tight state control enables rapid deployment amid supply issues.

Ukraine: Ukraine's investments total hundreds of millions via grants like Brave1's $8M and over $100M in defense tech, producing 4.5M drones yearly from 500+ startups. Experiment bases are frontline areas (Donbas), Kyiv tech hubs, and production facilities scaled for NATO integration. Innovations encompass AI modules for target recognition/navigation (10,000 purchased in 2024), FP-5 cruise missiles (3,000km range), and 99% automated intel via modular software. Officials describe the war as a "live test bed," with visions of AI-unified real-time battlefields replacing human combat roles.

Israel: Israel's investments are classified but leverage startup ecosystems for AI defense, with heavy integration in

operations. Primary bases include IDF C4I/Cyber Directorate, Gaza/West Bank testbeds, and Negev Desert ranges. Standouts are Lavender AI (37,000 targets generated), Iron Dome enhancements, and Golden Eagle semi-autonomous UAVs for ISR/strikes. IDF leaders call recent Gaza ops the "first conflicts" heavily using AI/robotics for targeting and logistics.

QARMAs

1. What ethical challenges arise from delegating critical military decisions to artificial intelligence and automated systems?
2. How do emerging technologies challenge the enforcement of International Humanitarian Law and existing accountability mechanisms?
3. What risks do autonomous and AI-assisted weapons pose to global stability and civilian protection?

Questions

1. What is your delegation's position on the regulation of emerging military technologies such as AI-driven weapons and autonomous systems?
2. Does your delegation support binding international regulations, voluntary guidelines, or national oversight mechanisms for these technologies?
3. Is your delegation currently investing in or deploying emerging warfare technologies? If so, how does it ensure compliance with international law?
4. How should responsibility be assigned when emerging technologies contribute to violations of International Humanitarian Law?

Useful Links

- https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/emerging-challenges/artificial-intelligence-military-domain#:~:text=Military%20and%20security%20applications%20of,terrorism%20operations%2C%20and%20border%20security.
- https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/ais-growing-role/
- https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/29/issue/1
-

Sub-Topic A: Regulating Autonomous and AI-Enabled Weapon Systems in Modern Global Conflicts with Emerging Hardware and Software Warfare Technologies

Key Concepts

1. **Group of Governmental Experts (GGE LAWS):** CCW forum since 2017, deliberating binding norms on AWS, proposing prohibitions on uncontrollable systems, and regulations mandating human control.

2. **Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs)**: Fully autonomous robotic systems capable of delivering lethal force.
3. **Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS)**: Weapon systems capable of identifying, selecting, and engaging targets without direct human intervention.
4. **Dual-Use Technologies:** Hardware/software (e.g., AI chips, generative models) with civilian-military applications, regulated via export controls like Wassenaar Arrangement.

Current Situation and Approach

Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS) and Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs) are increasingly present in modern warfare, driven by rapid advances in artificial intelligence, robotics, and data-processing capabilities. These systems are designed to identify, select, and engage targets without direct human intervention, allowing for faster response times and expanded operational reach. While proponents argue that such technologies can enhance military efficiency and reduce risks to personnel, their deployment raises serious ethical and legal concerns.

In contemporary conflicts, many states have already integrated AI-enabled systems into military operations, particularly through autonomous drones, loitering munitions, and algorithmic targeting software. Although some of these systems operate under human supervision, the growing sophistication of AI has led to increasing levels of autonomy in both hardware and software components. This shift challenges the principle of meaningful human

control and raises questions about whether fully autonomous weapons can comply with International Humanitarian Law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.

International regulation has struggled to keep pace with these developments. Existing legal frameworks were established under the assumption that humans would remain directly responsible for the use of lethal force. As a result, they provide limited guidance on accountability when AI-driven systems contribute to unlawful harm. Ongoing discussions within multilateral forums, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, reflect deep divisions among states. While some advocate for a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons, others oppose restrictive measures, citing concerns over national security, technological competitiveness, and military deterrence.

At the same time, the dual-use nature of artificial intelligence and autonomous technologies increases the risk of proliferation to non-state actors and unintended escalation. The absence of clear international safeguards has intensified calls for regulatory mechanisms that balance innovation with humanitarian obligations. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated global approach that clarifies legal responsibility, establishes limits on autonomy in weapon systems, and ensures that ethical considerations remain central to military technological development.

QARMAs

1. Should international law prohibit the development and deployment of fully autonomous weapon systems, particularly Lethal Autonomous Robots capable of delivering lethal force without human control?
2. How can states ensure accountability for violations of International Humanitarian Law committed through the use of Autonomous Weapon Systems and AI-driven military technologies?
3. What safeguards, legal, technical, and ethical, should be established to balance military innovation with humanitarian obligations and civilian protection?

Questions

1. Should international law prohibit the development of fully autonomous weapons?
2. How can states ensure accountability for crimes committed by AI-driven systems?
3. What safeguards should be established to balance innovation with humanitarian obligations?

Useful Links

- https://lieber.westpoint.edu/artificial-intelligence-armed-conflict-current-state-international-law/
- https://www.lawjournals.org/assets/archives/2025/vol11issue5/11113.pdf
-

Sub-Topic B: Military Enhancement and Semi-Autonomous Technologies in Contemporary Conflicts

Key Concepts

1. **Military Enhancement Technologies:** Technologies designed to augment the physical, cognitive, or operational capabilities of soldiers, including AI-assisted decision systems, wearable digital equipment, and networked battlefield tools.
2. **Semi-Autonomous Weapon Systems:** Weapon systems that perform functions such as target identification or engagement with limited human oversight, where machine-generated inputs significantly influence lethal decisions.
3. **Meaningful Human Control:** The principle that human operators must retain sufficient supervision, understanding, and authority over military technologies to ensure accountability and compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

Current Situation and Approach

Military enhancement and semi-autonomous technologies have become increasingly prominent in contemporary armed conflicts, reshaping the role of human combatants and the conduct of warfare. These technologies include AI-assisted targeting systems, semi-autonomous drones, networked command platforms, and digitally enhanced soldiers equipped with real-time data processing, surveillance tools, and automated threat detection.

While not always fully autonomous, such systems significantly influence military decision-making and reduce direct human involvement in critical combat functions.

In modern conflicts, semi-autonomous weapon systems are frequently deployed alongside human operators. Autonomous Weapon Systems are used to identify, track, and engage targets with limited human oversight, while Lethal Autonomous Robots represent a growing concern due to their potential to operate without any human intervention in the use of lethal force. Additionally, military enhancement technologies, such as AI-supported battlefield analysis, wearable sensors, and integrated communication systems, augment soldiers' capabilities by accelerating perception, reaction time, and coordination. This integration blurs the line between human agency and machine decision-making.

The deployment of these technologies raises serious ethical and legal challenges. As machines increasingly influence or execute lethal actions, questions arise regarding accountability for violations of International Humanitarian Law. Existing legal frameworks assume that human actors are directly responsible for decisions in armed conflict, yet semi-autonomous systems complicate this assumption by distributing responsibility across commanders, operators, programmers, and manufacturers. This diffusion of responsibility creates uncertainty over who should be held accountable when unlawful harm occurs.

International approaches to regulating these technologies remain fragmented. Some states argue that semi-autonomous systems and military enhancements improve precision and

reduce civilian casualties, advocating for continued development under national oversight. Others warn that increasing autonomy risks eroding meaningful human control and undermining humanitarian principles. Discussions within international forums have highlighted the need for safeguards that ensure human responsibility remains central to the use of force, while addressing the risks of proliferation, escalation, and misuse in contemporary conflicts.

As military enhancement and semi-autonomous technologies become normalized in warfare, the international community faces growing pressure to clarify legal standards, define acceptable levels of autonomy, and establish mechanisms that balance technological innovation with ethical and humanitarian obligations.

QARMAs

1. Should international law prohibit the development and deployment of fully autonomous weapon systems, particularly Lethal Autonomous Robots capable of delivering lethal force without human control?
2. How can states ensure accountability for violations of International Humanitarian Law committed through the use of Autonomous Weapon Systems and AI-driven military technologies?
3. What safeguards, legal, technical, and ethical, should be established to balance military innovation with humanitarian obligations and civilian protection?

Questions

1. Should international law establish limits or prohibitions on the use of military enhancement technologies and semi-autonomous weapon systems that reduce meaningful human control in armed conflict?

2. How can accountability be ensured when semi-autonomous systems and enhanced soldiers contribute to violations of International Humanitarian Law?

3. Does the increasing integration of human–machine systems in warfare strengthen compliance with humanitarian principles, or does it undermine ethical responsibility and civilian protection?

Useful Links

- https://inss.ndu.edu/Media/News/Article/4306224/autonomous-artificial-intelligence-in-armed-conflict-toward-a-model-of-strategi/
- https://www.technologyreview.com/2026/01/06/1129737/autonomous-warfare-europe-drones-defense-automated-kill-chains/
- https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/6th-generation-fighters-next-stealth-fighters-could-be-everything-92656

COLEGIO BILINGUE SANTA MARTA MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS

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