



## **CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS**

26 April 2017

Aloysio Nunes  
Minister of External Relations  
Ministry of External Relations  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco H - Eixo Monumental  
Brasília - DF, 70170-090  
BRAZIL

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots to urge Brazil to support the call to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons, also known as “lethal autonomous weapons systems” or killer robots. We also strongly urge Brazil to pay its assessed financial contributions due to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) and other core humanitarian disarmament treaties without further delay.

As a high contracting party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), Brazil has participated in the three CCW meetings held on lethal autonomous weapons systems since 2014. We commended Brazil’s previous disarmament representative, Ambassador Pedro Motta Pinto Coelho, for chairing that first meeting’s session on ethical and sociological issues raised by these weapons future weapons that, once activated, would select and target without human intervention. We welcomed Brazil’s support for the proposal to establish a Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems that states agreed to at their Fifth Review Conference of the CCW last December.

The creation of the Group of Governmental Experts enables states to move from an informal discussion process to a formal, action-oriented setting. They can begin negotiations on a new legal instrument at any time and conclude new international law. In the campaign’s view that outcome should be a ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems. We encourage Brazil to join with the nineteen states that have endorsed the call to prohibit these weapons and work to enshrine that objective in new international law.

We urge Brazil to participate in the Group of Governmental Experts meeting on 21-25 August 2017 and elaborate your country’s position on the multiple challenges associated with removing human control from targeting and attack decisions. We encourage Brazil to outline its preferred outcome for these CCW deliberations, which our campaign believes should be the creation of a new CCW protocol. We would like to hear your position on the need to retain human control over the critical functions of weapons systems.

The decision to establish the Group of Governmental Experts doubled the time that states would spend deliberating in 2017 on killer robots, from one week to two. Yet according to the UK president of the CCW’s 2017 meeting of high contracting parties, the deficit created by

late payments for financial contributions owed by Brazil and a handful of CCW states combined with implementation of the UN's "Umoja" financial procedure is likely to result in the cancellation of the second meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts, scheduled for 13-17 November 2017.

As of 31 March 2017, Brazil owed the CCW \$238,906 in arrears out of a total of \$564,698 due in outstanding contributions from states, according to the UN Financial Resources Management Service's [summary of CCW contributions](#). Brazil accounts for 42% of the total arrears owed by CCW high contracting parties and the official record shows that 2010 was the last time that Brazil paid its assessed CCW contributions.

We urge Brazil to recognize its responsibilities by arranging to pay its contributions to the CCW and other humanitarian disarmament treaties as soon as possible. Please inform the UN Financial Resources Management Service and CCW states of your plan for making these overdue payments, including timeframe. Paying these outstanding arrears will allow Brazil to regain its long-standing status as a supporter of diplomacy aimed at peacefully resolving conflict and protecting civilians from indiscriminate weapons.

Finally, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is compiling an overview of country policy and practice on fully autonomous weapons for distribution at the GGE in August 2017. We would appreciate any written information on Brazil's official policy and practice on fully autonomous weapons, including its position on the international process and views on the call for a ban on these weapons. Please respond by June 1 so that we can incorporate your reply into the country profile.

As always, we stand ready to discuss this urgent international challenge with your representatives. We hope to meet with your representatives in Geneva when we next visit in early June.

Sincerely,



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CC:

- Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota & Neil Giovanni Paiva Benevides, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN in Geneva
- Campaign to Stop Killer Robots Brazil representatives Denise Garcia, Gustavo Viera & Cristian Wittman