



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Media Advisory

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots returns to the United Nations in Geneva

21-23 November 2018

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots will be at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva from 21-23 November to urge states at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) to start negotiating a new treaty to ban fully autonomous weapons, also known as lethal autonomous weapons systems.

States will decide on Friday, 23 November whether to continue their deliberations in 2019 as well the desired outcome. A majority of states now wish to commence negotiating a new treaty to prevent removing human control from weapons systems and the use of force, including 26 states that demand a ban treaty. Austria, Brazil, and Chile have formally proposed the CCW “negotiate a legally-binding instrument to ensure meaningful human control over the critical functions” of weapons systems.

Yet the CCW takes its decisions by consensus, which means a small minority of military powers that have rejected calls for new international law—most notably Israel, Russia, South Korea, and the United States—could prevent the CCW from moving to a negotiating mandate.

Calls for a new treaty to ban killer robots have multiplied this year. During last week’s Paris Peace Forum, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed his strong desire for states to negotiate an international treaty banning weapons systems that would select and attack targets without meaningful human control. At the United Nations General Assembly last month, 50 countries raised concerns over fully autonomous weapons and many called for a new international treaty. Germany’s foreign minister’s urged states to support “our initiative to ban fully autonomous weapons—before it is too late!” However, German officials are not pursuing a ban treaty or any new international law at this time.

On Wednesday, 21 November 2018 at 13:15 the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots will hold a CCW side event briefing in Room XXII to explore European views on the call to ban killer robots. See the event flyer for more details. This event is open to UN-accredited journalists and features:

- A new report by French NGOs exploring France’s problematic position which contrasts with President Emmanuel Macron concern at removing human control from weapons systems;
- A Slovenian professor of artificial intelligence on why so many AI experts, roboticists, and scientists see an urgent need for a new ban treaty;
- A PAX representative in the Netherlands on the recent European Parliament resolution calling for “a legally binding instrument prohibiting lethal autonomous weapons systems”
- A software engineer from Dublin on why tech workers support the effort to ban killer robots amid broader concerns over how the technology they help develop is used by militaries.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots will Facebook Live the side event briefing. The CCW meeting will not be webcast, but @BanKillerRobots will tweet highlights using the hashtags #CCWUN and #KillerRobots.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is a rapidly growing coalition of 86 non-governmental organizations in 49 countries working to preemptively ban the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons. Its CCW delegation of two-dozen campaigners are available for media interviews in English as well as in Arabic, French, German, Russian, Spanish and other languages.

To schedule an interview, please contact Clare Conboy, Media consultant. Tel/Whatsapp. +44 (7507) 415-987, media@stopkillerrobots.org

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots photos from actions at the UN in Geneva and New York can be found here.

For more information, see:

- Website: www.stopkillerrobots.org
- Twitter: [@BanKillerRobots](https://twitter.com/BanKillerRobots)
- Facebook: [@stopkillerrobots](https://www.facebook.com/stopkillerrobots)
- Instagram: [stopkillerrobots](https://www.instagram.com/stopkillerrobots)