



# CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

United Nations General Assembly  
First Committee on Disarmament & International Security

## SIDE EVENT BRIEFING

### The urgent need for a treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force

**Monday 21 October 2019**  
13:15-14:45

**Conference Room 4**  
United Nations  
New York

#### *Introduction*

- Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, **UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

#### *Speakers*

- Ms. Jody Williams, **1997 Nobel Peace Laureate**
- Ms. Liz O'Sullivan, **Tech Worker**
- Ms. Mariana Sanz, **Youth Campaigner**

#### *Chair*

- Ms. Mary Wareham, Coordinator of the **Campaign to Stop Killer Robots**

Fully autonomous weapons systems, also known as lethal autonomous weapons systems or “killer robots,” pose a grave threat to humanity. Calls are mounting for nations to take strong action to create a new ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force. This event will various perspectives on the need to address the ethical, legal, operational, technical, security and other serious challenges raised by killer robots.

For more information, see [www.stopkillerrobots.org](http://www.stopkillerrobots.org) or contact:

- Farah Bogani, Tel. +1 (613) 298-4744, [farah@stopkillerrobots.org](mailto:farah@stopkillerrobots.org)

## Biographies of Speakers

### **Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

Appointed Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on 1 May 2017 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Izumi Nakamitsu is leading implementation of the Secretary-General's 2017 Agenda for Disarmament and oversees the UN's "Youth for Disarmament" initiative. Nakamitsu has undertaken various roles in UN agencies, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). She has worked in UN field operations in (former) Yugoslavia, Turkey, and northern Iraq.

### **Jody Williams, Nobel Peace laureate**

Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for their work to eradicate antipersonnel landmines through the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Since 2006, Williams has served as the founding chair of the Nobel Women's Initiative, which brings together female Nobel Peace laureates to work for justice and sustainable peace. In 2013, she published a memoir entitled *My Name is Jody Williams*. [@JodyWilliams97](#) [@NobelWomen](#)

### **Liz O'Sullivan, International Committee for Robot Arms Control**

Liz O'Sullivan is the Technology Director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (**STOP**), a member of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), and has worked in the artificial intelligence (AI) industry for 8 years. Liz previously worked for Clarifai, a small New York-based provider of computer vision technology, but left earlier this year after raising concern at the company's participation in a Department of Defense contract (Project Maven) to use its aerial POV object localization software. The company's founding director declined to pledge not assist in the development of fully autonomous weapons, leading her to quit the organization the very next day. [@lizjosullivan](#) [@icracnet](#)

### **Mariana Sanz, Youth Campaigner**

Ms. Sanz is a design student at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. She has been a part of the Scout movement - the world's largest educational youth movement - since she was seven years old, which has taught her the value of life, built her morals and values, and shaped the person she is today. Sanz first learned about the serious threats posed by killer robots at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in July 2019.

### **Mary Wareham, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots**

Mary Wareham has coordinated the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots since its inception in October 2012. The global coalition of 118 non-governmental organizations is working in 59 countries to preemptively ban weapons systems that would select targets and use force without meaningful human control. Wareham is advocacy director of the arms division of Human Rights Watch and is involved in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition, the civil society engines behind the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. [@marywareham](#) [@bankillerrobots](#) [@hrw](#)