



CAMPAIGN TO **STOP** KILLER ROBOTS

Country Positions on Negotiating a Treaty to Ban and Restrict Killer Robots

September 2020

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots tracks the positions of all countries on the call to ban fully autonomous weapons and retain meaningful human control over the use of force. This document identifies states that have: 1) called for a ban on such weapons; 2) endorsed group statements calling for a treaty to prohibit and restrict them; 3) called moves to negotiate a new international treaty premature; and/or 4) commented publicly to elaborate their views on this issue.

For more information see the 2020 Human Rights Watch report “[Stopping Killer Robots](#)” and our website: www.stopkillerrobots.org

1. National statements calling for a ban

Since 2013, **30 countries** have called for a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons.

Alphabetical order

1. Algeria
2. Argentina
3. Austria
4. Bolivia
5. Brazil
6. Chile
7. China*
8. Colombia
9. Costa Rica
10. Cuba
11. Djibouti
12. Ecuador
13. Egypt
14. El Salvador
15. Ghana
16. Guatemala
17. Holy See
18. Iraq
19. Jordan

20. Mexico
21. Morocco
22. Namibia
23. Nicaragua
24. Pakistan
25. Panama
26. Peru
27. State of Palestine
28. Uganda
29. Venezuela
30. Zimbabwe

Chronological order

1. Pakistan on [30 May 2013](#)
2. Ecuador on [13 May 2014](#)
3. Egypt on [13 May 2014](#)
4. Holy See on [13 May 2014](#)
5. Cuba on [16 May 2014](#)
6. Ghana on [16 April 2015](#)
7. Bolivia on 17 April 2015
8. State of Palestine on 13 November 2015
9. Zimbabwe on [12 November 2015](#)
10. Algeria on [11 April 2016](#)
11. Costa Rica on [11 April 2016](#)
12. Mexico on [13 April 2016](#)
13. Chile on [14 April 2016](#)
14. Nicaragua on 14 April 2016
15. Panama on 12 December 2016
16. Peru on 12 December 2016
17. Argentina on 12 December 2016
18. Venezuela on 13 December 2016
19. Guatemala on 13 December 2016
20. Brazil on 13 November 2017
21. Iraq on 13 November 2017
22. Uganda on 17 November 2017
23. Austria on 9 April 2018
24. China* on 13 April 2018
25. Djibouti on 13 April 2018
26. Colombia on 13 April 2018
27. El Salvador on 22 November 2018
28. Morocco on [22 November 2018](#)
29. Jordan on 21 August 2019
30. Namibia on 24 October 2019

* China [states that its call](#) is to ban the use of fully autonomous weapons, but not their development or production.

All except four (except Egypt, Ghana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe) are states parties to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), which has discussed concerns over lethal autonomous weapons systems since 2014.

2. Group statements calling for a new treaty

Additionally, since 2018, approximately **50 CCW states parties have endorsed various group statements calling for a new international treaty to prohibit and restrict lethal autonomous weapons systems**. The endorsers of these group statement can be found below the following consolidated list:

1. Afghanistan
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Bahrain
4. Bangladesh
5. Belarus
6. Benin
7. Bolivia
8. Burkina Faso
9. Burundi
10. Cambodia
11. Cameroon
12. Cape Verde
13. Cote d'Ivoire
14. Cyprus
15. Dominican Republic
16. Gabon
17. Grenada
18. Guinea-Bissau
19. Honduras
20. India
21. Jamaica
22. Kuwait
23. Lao PDR
24. Lebanon
25. Lesotho
26. Liberia
27. Madagascar
28. Maldives
29. Mali
30. Malta
31. Mauritius

32. Mongolia
33. Niger
34. Qatar
35. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
36. Saudi Arabia
37. Senegal
38. Seychelles
39. Sierra Leone
40. South Africa
41. Sri Lanka
42. Philippines
43. Togo
44. Turkmenistan
45. Tunisia
46. United Arab Emirates
47. Uzbekistan
48. Zambia

This list does not include 17 other CCW states parties that have both called for a ban in their national capacity and endorsed one or more of the following group statements: Algeria, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Guatemala, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, State of Palestine, Uganda, and Venezuela.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

In March 2018, a CCW [working paper by the Non-Aligned Movement](#) called for a “legally binding international instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on lethal autonomous weapons systems.” Since then NAM representatives have repeated this call on multiple occasions. Of the 125 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) members, 65 are CCW states parties: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Philippines, Togo, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Zambia.

Africa Group

Benin [made a statement at the CCW in April 2018](#) on behalf group of African states that recommended negotiating a legally binding instrument “at the earliest” and found that “fully autonomous weapons systems or LAWS that are not under human control should be banned.” Of the 54 countries in Africa, 25 are CCW states parties: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia. All these states are also NAM members.

Arab Group

Iraq made a statement at the CCW in September 2020 on behalf of the Arab states parties to the CCW, which called for a new treaty to prohibit and restrict lethal autonomous weapons systems, reiterated that other measures cannot replace the required legally binding instrument, and underscored the importance of maintaining human control over the critical functions of weapons. Of the 125 CCW states parties, 12 are from the Arab world: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. All these states are also NAM members.

States that call a new international treaty on killer robots premature

Approximately 10 states have repeatedly opposed negotiating a new international treaty on lethal autonomous weapons systems, calling such a move “premature.”

Australia
France
India
Israel
Netherlands
Republic of Korea
Russia
Turkey
United States
United Kingdom

States that have commented on concerns raised by killer robots

A total of 97 countries have publicly elaborated their views on lethal autonomous weapons systems in a multilateral forum since 2013: 44 states in 2013, eight in 2014, fifteen in 2015, fourteen in 2016, four in 2017, eight in 2018, and four in 2019.

Most commented via their statements to meetings of the Convention on Conventional Weapons in Geneva and annual sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Almost two-dozen states spoke during the first debate on killer robots at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in May 2013.

1. Algeria on 30 May 2013
2. Argentina on 30 May 2013
3. Australia on 14 November 2013
4. Austria on 30 May 2013
5. Bangladesh on 21 October 2016
6. Belarus on 14 November 2013
7. Belgium on 11 November 2013
8. Bolivia on 17 April 2015

9. Botswana on 27 October 2015
10. Brazil on 30 May 2013
11. Bulgaria on 23 October 2014
12. Burkina Faso on 23 October 2017
13. Cambodia on 13 November 2017
14. Cameroon on 12 December 2016
15. Canada on 11 November 2013
16. Chile on 13 April 2015
17. China on 30 May 2013
18. Colombia on 17 April 2015
19. Costa Rica on 29 October 2013
20. Croatia on 15 November 2013
21. Cuba on 30 May 2013
22. Czech Republic on 13 May 2014
23. Denmark on 13 April 2015
24. Djibouti on 13 April 2018
25. Ecuador on 29 October 2013
26. Egypt on 30 May 2013
27. El Salvador on 29 October 2018
28. Estonia on 31 August 2016
29. Finland on 22 October 2014
30. France on 30 May 2013
31. Germany on 30 May 2013
32. Ghana on 14 November 2013
33. Greece on 29 October 2013
34. Guatemala on 16 May 2014
35. Holy See on 14 November 2013
36. Honduras on 13 April 2018
37. Hungary on 7 October 2016
38. India on 30 October 2013
39. Indonesia on 30 May 2013
40. Iran on 30 May 2013
41. Iraq on 13 November 2015
42. Ireland on 29 October 2013
43. Israel on 15 November 2013
44. Italy on 14 November 2013
45. Japan on 29 October 2013
46. Jordan on 31 August 2016
47. Kazakhstan on 13 November 2015
48. Kuwait on 26 October 2015
49. Latvia on 21 October 2016
50. Lebanon on 26 October 2015
51. Libya on 14 October 2019
52. Liechtenstein on 15 October 2018
53. Lithuania on 14 November 2013
54. Luxembourg on 30 April 2018

55. Madagascar on 14 November 2013
56. Mali on 13 May 2014
57. Mexico on 30 May 2013
58. Moldova, Rep. on 12 December 2016
59. Montenegro on 12 December 2016
60. Morocco on 30 May 2013
61. Myanmar on 10 October 2017
62. Namibia on 24 October 2019
63. Nepal on 11 October 2018
64. Netherlands on 29 October 2013
65. New Zealand on 30 October 2013
66. Nicaragua on 13 November 2015
67. North Macedonia on 19 November 2019
68. Norway on 13 May 2014
69. Pakistan on 30 May 2013
70. Palestine on 13 November 2014
71. Panama on 12 December 2016
72. Peru on 12 December 2016
73. Philippines on 14 April 2016
74. Poland on 13 April 2015
75. Portugal on 14 October 2014
76. Romania on 26 October 2015
77. Russia on 30 May 2013
78. San Marino, 16 October 2019
79. Sierra Leone on 30 May 2013
80. Slovakia on 12 December 2016
81. Slovenia on 12 December 2016
82. South Africa on 30 October 2013
83. South Korea on 14 November 2013
84. Spain on 11 November 2013
85. Sri Lanka on 13 April 2015
86. Sweden on 30 May 2013
87. Switzerland on 30 May 2013
88. Thailand on 29 October 2018
89. Tunisia on 17 October 2018
90. Turkey on 14 November 2013
91. Uganda on 17 November 2017
92. Ukraine on 14 November 2013
93. United Kingdom on 30 May 2013
94. United States on 30 May 2013
95. Venezuela on 13 December 2016
96. Zambia on 17 April 2015
97. Zimbabwe on 12 November 2015