Report on Activities

2020 Global Meeting of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
Buenos Aires, Argentina
26-28 February 2020
About this report

This report details activities by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots at its second global meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 26-28 February 2020.

The report provides an overview of the meeting and related outreach activities, while the annexes contain the list of participants, schedule, and compilation of media coverage.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots appreciates the generous donor support that allowed us to convene the global meeting and associated events and activities. We thank the Argentine Ministry of Science and Technology for providing the Campaign with use of the Centro Cultural de la Ciencia.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is grateful to the ground team at Asociación para Políticas Públicas in Buenos Aires for hosting the global meeting and associated events, namely Maria Pía Devoto (team leader), Candelaria López (logistics), Marisa Otamendi (communications), Ignacio Uman (media), Gaston Lacorte (political meetings), Jose Luis and Marin and Lucas Orellano (photos and videos), Guillermo Simanavicius (robot artist) and Ricardo Oscar Rodriguez (scientific advice). We acknowledge staff team’s hard work and welcome the many contributions by Farah Bogani, Clare Conboy, and Isabelle Jones.

This report is available on the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots website at: www.stopkillerrobots.org/publications.

Mary Wareham
Washington DC
28 April 2020
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I. Lead-up to the Global Meeting

In August 2019, the Steering Committee agreed to convene a global meeting of the members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 26-28 February 2020. This would be the third international gathering of the campaign since London in 2014 and the second global meeting, following the first one in Berlin, Germany on 21-23 March 2019.

The Human Security Network in Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC) is a member of the Campaign’s Steering Committee, and its member Asociación para Políticas Públicas hosted the Campaign meeting. Argentina has participated in diplomatic talks on killer robots concerns and endorsed the call for a ban on fully autonomous weapons in 2016 so this was an opportunity to encourage the newly elected government and states from the region to launch negotiations on a new international ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force.

Prior to the global meeting, campaigners from Article 36, Human Rights Watch and SEHLAC participated in the Rio Symposium on Autonomous Weapons Systems in Brazil on 19-20 February. One highlight was Austria’s announcement that it will hold a multilateral meeting on killer robots in Vienna in February 2021, while Japan announced it will convene a regional meeting on 2-3 December.

II. Public Events

More than 70 campaigners—including the Campaign’s three staff members—from 35 countries participated in the second global meeting. New Campaign members attended from Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Paraguay and Uruguay.1 The list of participants is annexed to this report.

To raise public awareness and secure media coverage, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots held several public events on 26 February, including a press briefing, public event, scientists’ talk, and visual stunt.

At the opening press conference, the Campaign encouraged the governments of Argentina and other Latin American states to support the call for a ban on killer robots by launching negotiations on a new treaty. Significant gender-related concerns raised by fully autonomous weapons were highlighted by the all-female panel of speakers including Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and SEHLAC coordinator María Pía Devoto.

The press conference concluded with the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and the Argentine Scouts organization. This agreement follows Campaign outreach at the July 2019 World Scout Jamboree in the United States.

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1 Global meeting participants came from countries across the region (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States) and around the world (Australia, Cameroon, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom).
An event featuring campaigners from around the world introduced the concerns surrounding killer robots and the speakers’ personal perspectives on why a ban is urgently needed, including from a feminist and youth inclusive approach. A public seminar conducted in Spanish with scientists, artificial intelligence (AI) experts, and researchers from the region explored the concerns raised by emerging technologies and especially fully autonomous weapons. Prominent female technology experts participating in the global meeting included Vanina Martinez from Argentina, Renata Wassermann from Brazil, Kristen Thompson from Canada, and Laura Nolan from Ireland. Memebers of WILPF Cameroon, Lebanon, and Spain addressed the public events along with WILPF’s disarmament program, Reaching Critical Will.

Campaigners held a visual stunt in the afternoon at the Plaza de Mayo to provide media with photographs and videos. One of Argentina’s most iconic landmarks, the square is where national holidays are marked. It is also the scene of public demonstrations, such as those undertaken by the Madres de Plaza de Mayo group of mothers to protest the disappearances of their children during Argentina’s military dictatorship in 1976-1983. The visual stunt provided photographs and video footage of the campaigners with their new robot mascot, “Maria” made by local artist Guillermo Simanavicius. A summary of media coverage can be found in Annex III.

During the week, a small Campaign delegation led by Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and Asociación para Políticas Públicas director María Pía Devoto engaged high-level officials to encourage Argentina to operationalize its stated support for banning fully autonomous weapons. They met with Argentina’s Minister of Defense Agustín Oscar Rossi and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Pablo Tettamanti. The Senate issued a special proclamation welcoming the Campaign to Argentina and the delegation met with Senator Jorge Taiana and Senator Dalmacio Mera from the Senate foreign relations committee.

III. Global Meeting

The global meeting on 27-28 February took place at the Centro Cultural de la Ciencia (Science Cultural Centre) museum and visitors center, which opened in 2015. Argentina’s Ministry of Science and Technology provided the center’s meeting space for the Campaign’s use free-of-charge.

The full agenda for the global meeting is annexed. In short, its goals were: 1) to increase knowledge and awareness about the rationale and pathway to a legally binding instrument, and 2) to enable campaigners to strategize and discuss how to prohibit killer robots, especially planning activities and strategy for the national and regional levels. To enable deeper engagement by participants, most of the meeting was conducted in small group workshop sessions.

The global meeting had a strong focus on gender and youth. The Campaign’s Medium blog post elaborated how banning killer robots is a feminist foreign policy. The participants considered gender and other concerns raised by removing meaningful human control from the use of force,
noting the potential for fully autonomous weapons to exacerbate existing systems of inequality and oppression and to be used to perpetuate gender-based violence.

The global meeting included a session with diplomats from Argentina and Paraguay to discuss engaging with governments that share the Campaign’s desire for a new international ban treaty. The frank exchange looked at the limitations and constraints of the current diplomatic talks at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) as well as strategies for negotiating a ban treaty elsewhere.

The Campaign produced several new publications for the global meeting:

- “**Key Elements of a Treaty on Fully Autonomous Weapons**” paper outlining key elements of a legally binding instrument on fully autonomous weapons, also available in **French**, **Spanish**, and **Portuguese**;
- A “**Frequently Asked Questions - Treaty Elements**” paper expanding on the Campaign’s position paper and addressing questions received;
- An updated **Campaigner’s Toolkit** with new chapters by Hayley Ramsey Jones on intersectionality and racism, John MacBride and Lode Dewaegheneire on engaging military personnel, and Clare Conboy on media work;
- The Campaign’s **Medium** blog on “**Killer robots, feminism… and a feminist foreign policy?**” by Erin Hunt of Mines Action Canada;
- This new web page on gender and killer robots: [https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/gender-and-killer-robots/](https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/gender-and-killer-robots/)
- This web post and brief video published after the global meeting.

Campaign members also shared new publications and materials, including:

- A PAX report entitled “**Conflicted Intelligence**” on the role played by universities in assisting militaries and defence contractors to develop technologies that contribute to autonomous weapons;
- A Centro Delàs de Estudios por la Paz report on “**Drones armados y drones autónomos**,” also available in **English**;
- Spanish translations of Human Rights Watch reports “**Atender la llamada**” and **poster**, “**Construyendo el caso**,” and “**Cuidado con el vacío**” and **poster**, in addition to the “Losing Humanity” report **poster** and the two-page **overview** on HRW publications on killer robots reports;
- A 14-page **WILPF guide on killer robots** providing gender analysis of serious threats raised and laying out the necessary regulatory response;
- Soka Gakkai International Office for UN Affairs **web post on the global meeting**;
- Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic humanitarian disarmament **web post on the global meeting**.

For more information, please see the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots **website**.
Annex I – List of Participants

Global Meeting of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
Buenos Aires, Argentina
26-28 February 2020

Staff Team, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
Farah Bogani, @_farahbogani
Clare Conboy-Stephenson, @ClareConboy
Isabelle Jones, @issjones

African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace
Linnet Loise Wairimu Ng’ayu, @wairimungayu

Amnesty International
Daphne Eviatar, @deviatar

Article 36
Elizabeth Minor, @elizabethminor3

Asociación para Políticas Públicas (APP)
Maria Pia Devoto, @piadevoto
Candelaria Lopez
Gaston Lacorte

Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR-Japan)
Yuki Sakurai, @YukiSak62440988 @aarjapan

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots – Hungary
Dalma Biro

Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas
Alejandro Castañeda Medina, @Alejandro_Casta
Alvaro Jimenez, @alvarojimenezmi
Camilo Serna

Capítulo de la Juventud Argentina
Juana Dal Masetto

Center for International Security and Policy (Kazakhstan)
Alimzhan Akhmetov, @cisp_astana

Centre Delàs d’Estudis per la Pau
Tica Font, @ticafont
Pere Ortega, @portega
Centro de Estudios de Política Internacional (CEPI)  
Damián Gariglio, @damian_gariglio  
María Belén Díaz Funes  
Nicolas Tripicchio

Committee of 100 (Finland)  
Kaisu Kinnunen

Docente  
Gualdemar Jiménez, @Gualoc

ECPAT  
Maria Eugenia Villarreal, @mevilareal

Ethics & Technology  
Alena Popova, @alenapopova

Facing Finance  
Vanessa Müller, @KillerRoboterSt @facingfinance

Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)  
Hazel Villalobos, @HazelVillalobo3

German Peace Society  
Marius Pletsch, @MariusPletsch

Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic  
Daniel Moubayed, @dmoubayedjd

Human Rights Watch @hrw  
Bonnie Docherty  
Steve Goose

International Action Network on Small Arms (IANS) Women Network – Nigeria  
Mimidoo Achakpa, @IANSAWomenN1g

Igarape Institute  
Ivan Marques, @ivancontente  
Pedro Augusto Pereira Francisco

International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) @icracnet  
Peter Asaro, @peterasaro  
Laura Nolan, @lauralifts  
Kristen Thomasen, @KristenThomasen

Instituto de Ciencias de la Computación, UBA-CONICET
Ricardo Oscar Rodriguez, @RicardoOscar61

**Instituto de Formación Política e Ideológica (IFPI)**
Carlos Estrada, @carlosestradahn

**Instituto Ecologia Política de Chile (IEP)**
Manuel Baquedano, @manuelbaquedano

**Mines Action Canada**
Paul Hannon, @PCHannon
Erin Hunt, @erinlynnhunt

**Mines Advisory Group (MAG)**
Lizzie Humphreys, @lizzieeh26

**Nobel Women’s Initiative**
Jody Williams, @jodywilliams97 @NobelWomen

**Norwegian People’s Aid**
Ammal Ahmed Haj Mohamed

**Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout**
Raúl Arturo Sánchez Vaca, @rsanchezvaca

**PAX**
Maaike Beenes, @maaikebns

**Project Ploughshares**
Cesar Jaramillo, @ploughshares_ca

**Protection**
Ayman Sorour, @ayman_sorour

**Rocking Data**
Agustín Di Salvo

**SafeGround Inc. for Australia Campaign**
Matilda Byrne, @tbyrne11, @ban_kr_aus

**SEHLAC @SehlacOrg**
Wanda Muñoz, @_wandamunoz
Bianca Giglio Otamendi
Celina Giglio Otamendi
Marisa Otamendi, @motamendi20
Alejandra Umpiérrez, @underalek
Pamela Velasquez, @Pamevelasquez
Cristian Wittmann, @Cristianwitt

Silverpond Pty Ltd
Elizabeth Silver, @lizziesilver

Soka Gakkai International
Anna Ikeda, @anna_ikeda @sgi_ouna

Sustainable Peace and Development Organization
Muhammad Raza Shah, @SPADOorg

TEDIC – Paraguay
Belén Giménez, @belengimenezcic @tedicpy

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Allison Pytlak (Reaching Critical Will) @a_pytlak @RCW @WILPF
Sylvie Ndongmo (WILPF Cameroon), @Sndongo2005
Shirine Jurdi (WILPF Lebanon), @JurdiShirine
Gabriella Irsten (WILPF Sweden), @ikff_sverige @gabriellairsten

Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal
Shobha Shrestha, @ShobhaShrestha2

Special Guests

Universidad de los Andes
Andrés Páez

Universidad de Buenos Aires
Guadalupe Lopez
Vanina Martinez

Universidad Nacional del Sur in Bahia Blanca
Guillermo Simari

Universidad de Salvador – Rectorado (USAL)
Naomi Cunsolo, @NaomiCunsolo

Universidade de São Paulo
Renata Wassermann

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
Sebastian Spector

Government of Paraguay
Ana Rolon Candia (Minister of External Relations)
## Annex II – Meeting Agenda

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**Global Meeting of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots**  
**Centro Cultural de la Ciencia, Buenos Aires, Argentina,**  
**26-28 February 2020**

### Wednesday, 26 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Press conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm-12:45pm</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Public event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Discussion: Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Latin American Scientific and Legal Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Public stunt @ Plaza de Mayo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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</tbody>
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### Thursday, 27 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-9:00am</td>
<td>Registration and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am-9:30am</td>
<td>Welcome and why we’re here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-10:15am</td>
<td>Plenary I: Ban treaty or bust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15am-10:30am</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Small Groups Session I: Rationale for a ban treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divide into 40-minute workshops on each topic, repeated twice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Killer robots wouldn’t work (Tech)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The ‘ick’ factor (Ethics)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Why a legal treaty, and other FAQs (Law)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm-1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm-2:15pm</td>
<td>Plenary II – Elements of a Treaty Banning Autonomous Weapons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Plenary III - Latin American Scientific Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15pm-4:45pm</td>
<td>Small Groups Session II: Building support for a ban</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Divide into 40-minute workshops on each topic, repeated twice.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Confronting racial injustice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mobilizing tomorrow’s leaders (youth)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Working with an intersectional feminist approach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Finding tech-sperts and supporting researchers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Who aren’t we speaking or listening to?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Report back and wrap up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, 28 February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-9:00am</td>
<td>Registration and Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am-9:15am</td>
<td>Welcome and Review of Day I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15am-9:30am</td>
<td>Soapbox session with Jody Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am-10:30am</td>
<td>Plenary IV: Creating champions for the treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Plenary V: Building Regional Consensus</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am-11:45pm</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45pm-1:15pm</td>
<td>Small Groups Session III: How we’ll get a treaty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Divide into 40-minute workshops held twice on each topic.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Building pressure in capital</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Using CCW as an incubator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reaching the public</td>
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<td>• Moving from words to actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm-2:15pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break and Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Small Groups Session IV: National &amp; Regional Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm-4:15pm</td>
<td>Plenary VI: National &amp; Regional Planning report back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30pm-4:45pm</td>
<td>Soapbox session: Open mic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Closing Plenary: Report back and wrap up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Meeting end.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Social event at La Viruta Tango Bar</td>
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Annex III: Media Coverage

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots activities in Buenos Aires in February 2020 received strong national coverage in Spanish-language media. This Google document lists all the coverage and some highlights are listed below…

