



CAMPAIGN TO **STOP** KILLER ROBOTS



Report on Activities

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

About this report

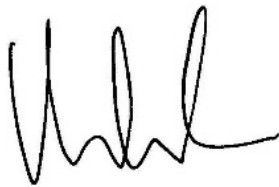
This report details activities by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots at its second global meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 26-28 February 2020.

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 Marín 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

Table of Contents

- About this report 2
- I. Lead-up to the Global Meeting 4
- II. Public Events 4
- III. Global Meeting 5
- Annex I – List of Participants 7
- Annex II – Meeting Agenda 11
- Annex III: Media Coverage 14

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.

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. Members 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/>
- 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

Capitulo 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 (IANSA) 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 Ecología 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_au

SEHLAC @SehlaOrg

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 Bahía 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	
10:30am-12:00pm	Press conference
12:00pm-12:45pm	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
1:00pm-2:00pm	Public event
2:30pm-4:30pm	Discussion: Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Latin American Scientific and Legal Perspective.
6:00pm-7:00pm	Public stunt @ Plaza de Mayo
Evening	FREE

Thursday, 27 February	
8:30am-9:00am	<i>Registration and Networking</i>
9:00am-9:30am	Welcome and why we're here
9:30am-10:15am	Plenary I: Ban treaty or bust
10:15am-10:30am	<i>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</i>
10:30am-12:00pm	Small Groups Session I: Rationale for a ban treaty Divide into 40-minute workshops on each topic, repeated twice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killer robots wouldn't work (Tech) • The 'ick' factor (Ethics) • Why a legal treaty, and other FAQs (Law)
12:00pm-1:00pm	<i>Lunch Break and Networking</i>
1:00pm-2:15pm	Plenary II – Elements of a Treaty Banning Autonomous Weapons
2:15pm-3:00pm	Plenary III - Latin American Scientific Perspective

3:00pm-3:15pm	<i>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</i>
3:15pm-4:45pm	<p>Small Groups Session II: Building support for a ban</p> <p>Divide into 40-minute workshops on each topic, repeated twice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confronting racial injustice • Mobilizing tomorrow’s leaders (youth) • Working with an intersectional feminist approach • Finding tech-sperts and supporting researchers • Who aren’t we speaking or listening to?
4:45pm-5:00pm	Report back and wrap up
Evening	FREE

Friday, 28 February	
8:30am-9:00am	<i>Registration and Networking</i>
9:00am-9:15am	Welcome and Review of Day I
9:15am-9:30am	Soapbox session with Jody Williams
9:30am-10:30am	Plenary IV: Creating champions for the treaty
10:30am-11:30am	Plenary V: Building Regional Consensus
11:30am-11:45pm	<i>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</i>
11:45pm-1:15pm	<p>Small Groups Session III: How we’ll get a treaty</p> <p>Divide into 40-minute workshops held twice on each topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building pressure in capital • Using CCW as an incubator • Reaching the public • Moving from words to actions
1:15pm-2:15pm	<i>Lunch Break and Networking</i>
2:15pm-3:15pm	Small Groups Session IV: National & Regional Planning
3:15pm-4:15pm	Plenary VI: National & Regional Planning report back
4:15pm-4:30pm	<i>Coffee/Tea Break and Networking</i>
4:30pm-4:45pm	Soapbox session: Open mic
4:45pm-5:00pm	Closing Plenary: Report back and wrap up

5:00pm	Meeting end.
7:00pm	Social event at La Viruta Tango Bar

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...

February 2020 *Página/12* on the global meeting <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/249521-jody-williams-nos-preocupa-pensar-que-las-armas-autonomas-de>

February 2020 *Clarín* on the global meeting https://www.clarin.com/mundo/campana-robots-asesinos-llega-buenos-aires-reclamo-gobierno_0_FwkGrNYQ.html?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1582716842

February 2020 *Telam* on the global meeting <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202002/434385-reunion-internacional-en-buenos-aires-para-frenar-el-desarrollo-de-robots-asesinos.html>
