

Stop Killer Robots

Annual Report 2024



**IT'S TIME TO
VOTE AGAINST THE
MACHINE**

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Message from the Chair of the Steering Committee



"Let us rise to meet this moment — with courage, clarity, and conviction — to build a future where technology serves humanity, not the other way around."

- Maria Pia Devoto

Chair of the Steering Committee

In 2024, discussions on autonomous weapons systems gained significant traction, with expanded dialogues in regional conferences and in multilateral fora. The Stop Killer Robots campaign was reinvigorated, demonstrating a strong commitment to achieving a binding legal instrument to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems.

The year 2024 marked a pivotal moment for Stop Killer Robots. From grassroots campaigns to the United Nations Secretary-General's report on autonomous weapons systems, and with 166 states voting against the machine on the second consecutive resolution on autonomous weapons at the UN General Assembly, the momentum towards negotiating an international treaty to protect humanity from automated harm continued to grow. Stop Killer Robots collaborated with states, international organizations, and a diverse community of stakeholders to raise awareness, deepen engagement, and strengthen partnerships. The goal is to foster a world where technology promotes peace, justice, human rights, equality, and respect for the law, rather than automated killing. Stop Killer Robots was also awarded Archivio Disarmo's Golden Dove for Peace Award at a ceremony in Rome's Hall of the Protomoteca in October. The award is given to an international figure or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the cause of peace. Previous winners include the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (2017), Nelson Mandela (1987), and Amnesty International (1991).

Amidst global tensions and rapid technological advancements, establishing new international rules and norms that uphold a rights-based world order is crucial. Significant progress has been made towards creating new international law on autonomous weapons systems. Over 120 states have publicly supported the need for a new international treaty to maintain meaningful human control over the use of force and ensure that the use of autonomy in weapons systems adheres to ethical, legal, and humanitarian standards. The UN Secretary-General and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross have repeatedly urged states to negotiate a new legally binding instrument to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapons, aiming to conclude such negotiations by 2026. Our coalition of over 270 civil society organizations in 71 countries remains steadfast in developing legal and other norms that ensure meaningful human control over the use of force, counter digital dehumanization, and reduce automated harm.

Political courage is essential to take the next step in negotiating a treaty on autonomous weapons systems, which will undoubtedly save lives and draw legal red lines against the automation of killing before it is too late. Let us rise to meet this moment—with courage, clarity, and conviction—to build a future where technology serves humanity, not the other way around.

This report summarises key activities and accomplishments of the Stop Killer Robots campaign over the 2024 fiscal year (April 2024 - March 2025).



AND SUPPORT THE UN RESOLUTION AGAINST KILLER ROBOTS



Our mission

We didn't expect a campaign to Stop Killer Robots to be needed in the world - but it is. The Stop Killer Robots campaign is an international coalition of non-governmental organisations that seeks to counter threats to humanity and human dignity through the adoption of a new international treaty to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems (AWS). We support the development of legal and other norms that ensure meaningful human control over the use of force, counter digital dehumanisation, and reduce automated harm.

Our vision and values

The campaign to Stop Killer Robots is working for a world:

- in which we respect each other's inherent dignity;
- where we all take responsibility for how our choices regarding technology change the relationships between us, individually and collectively;
- in which technology is developed and used to promote peace, justice, human rights, equality and respect for law; and
- where people work together, as activists, to build a better society and overcome inequalities and systems of oppression.

It is a world that rejects the automation of killing and instead, promotes the principle of human control over emerging technologies that affect our lives, livelihoods, and relations with each other.

Towards that vision, we seek:

- to build and strengthen social norms that reject autonomous killing by machine in warfare, policing, border control and other circumstances;
- to demand meaningful human control, which ensures responsibility and accountability, in any use of force;
- to counter digital dehumanisation and to protect human rights, now and in the future;
- to build recognition that we are individually and collectively responsible for developing and shaping the technologies that frame interaction between us;
- to challenge the inequalities and oppressions in society that are reproduced or exacerbated through technology.

initiate negotiations for an international treaty

- In December 2024, **166 countries** voted in favor of the **UN General Assembly Resolution 79/62 on autonomous weapons systems**. This marks the second consecutive year a resolution on autonomous weapons was passed in the General Assembly. The resolution mandated talks in New York under UN auspices in May 2025 to discuss the broader scope of challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems and how to address them.
- In September 2024, the **'Pact for the Future'** was adopted by world leaders at the opening plenary of the international 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations.
- In August 2024, Stop Killer Robots participated in UN multilateral meetings on autonomous weapons at the **UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)** in Geneva, sponsoring a diverse expert delegation made up of 9 campaigners from 8 countries (Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, and the United Kingdom), maintaining high expectations for states to commit to launch negotiations of a treaty.
- Mandated by the first-ever resolution on autonomous weapons systems in the UN General Assembly, the **UN Secretary-General's report on AWS** received a record high number of submissions (58 member states views, 29 views from civil society, 2 academic, 2 international organisations, and additional summaries and outcome documents of international and regional meetings). Stop Killer Robots ran a concerted lobbying campaign encouraging states and other stakeholders to submit their views to the Secretary-General, conducting direct outreach to diplomatic and government representatives, and coordinating to ensure broad thematic and regional submissions, including from Stop Killer Robots.
- The **'Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation'** international intergovernmental conference hosted by Austria in April 2024 was the largest international meeting outside of the United Nations (UN) to take place on autonomous weapons systems, with more than 1,000 participants and 144 states in attendance. As the leading civil society campaign on autonomous weapons systems, Stop Killer Robots conducted advocacy in partnership with Austria ahead of and at the Conference to advocate for wide participation of states and other stakeholders. The conference concluded with a Chair's Summary, now endorsed by 40 states, affirming commitment to new international law on autonomous weapons systems.
- Supported by Stop Killer Robots, in April 2024 the **first-ever African intergovernmental meeting on autonomous weapons** was hosted in Freetown, Sierra Leone under the theme 'Peace and security aspects of autonomous weapon systems: an ECOWAS perspective'. At the conference, ECOWAS member states adopted the **Freetown Communiqué** calling for a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems, 'with prohibitions and regulations that effectively address the threats and challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems.'



Freetown, Sierra Leone, April 2024

Inspiring senior political movement to



initiate negotiations for an international treaty



Parliamentary Pledge signatories: Members of Parliament Faika El-Nagashi (Austria) & Hon. Modou Lamin B Bah (The Gambia)

- To support our parliamentary outreach, we **launched a new newsletter** called '**Politician in the Loop**' created for politicians who are supportive of our cause. The monthly newsletter keeps subscribers informed of our activities, shares opportunities for them to engage on the topic, profiles resources, and connects subscribers with parliamentarians who are signatories to the Stop Killer Robots Parliamentary Pledge.

- Stop Killer Robots coalition member organisations strengthened their parliamentary outreach in 2024. Through campaigner outreach supported by Stop Killer Robots' Small Grants Programme, **132 parliamentarians from across Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Republic of the Gambia, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, and Uruguay have now pledged their support for the campaign's Parliamentary Pledge.** Notably, 2024 saw the first signatories of the Parliamentary Pledge from countries on the African continent and the Middle East. The Parliamentary Pledge commits parliamentarians to urge their national governments to negotiate new international law on autonomous weapons systems.

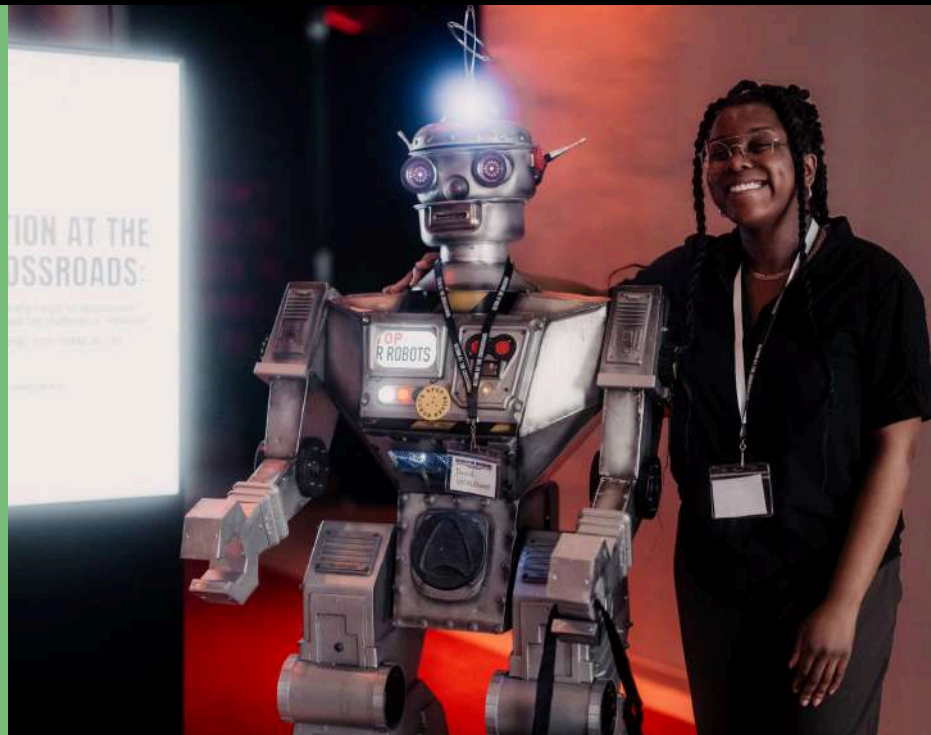


Raising public awareness & building stigma



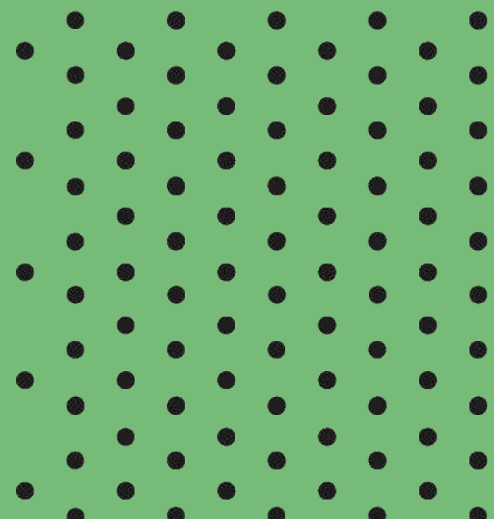
on autonomous weapons systems

- In April 2024 Stop Killer Robots hosted a civil society forum 'Action at the Crossroads' to complement the Austrian Government's 'Humanity at the Crossroads' international meeting on autonomous weapons systems. Action at the Crossroads had 180 registrants including members of civil society, academia, government officials and media. The event featured four conference streams of workshops, panel discussions, art displays, and Stop Killer Robots' **interactive exhibition 'Automated by Design'**. The programme featured **38 speakers**, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams and Ambassador Alexander Kmentt, Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



Dr. Elke Schwarz, Queen Mary University London
 Dr. Thompson Chengeta, Liverpool John Moores University
 Dr. Catherine Connolly, Automated Decision Research

"Action at the Crossroads" Forum
 Vienna, Austria, April 2024



Raising public awareness & building stigma



on autonomous weapons systems

- From September - November 2024, campaigners undertook coordinated **public actions in 11 cities across 10 countries** (covering all continents) as part of the **Vote Against The Machine, #MoreThanData** campaign. The actions called attention to killer robots while highlighting the various ways the public could act (i.e. petition, sharing social posts, contacting parliamentarians). These actions raised awareness of the resolution on autonomous weapons that was due to be voted on by states at the UN - a significant opportunity for movement toward a treaty, and a hook which campaigners used to enhance their advocacy at the local and regional level.



London, UK



Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil



Tokyo, Japan



Helsinki, Finland



Johannesburg, South Africa

#VOTE AGAINST THE MACHINE

AND SUPPORT THE UN
RESOLUTION AGAINST



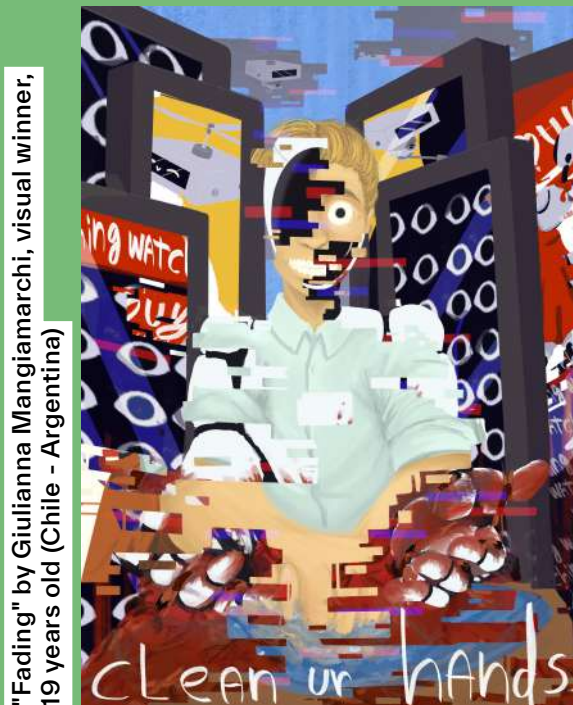
Stop Killer Robots campaigners, New York, USA

Raising public awareness & building stigma



on autonomous weapons systems

- On the International Day of Peace in September 2024 we launched the **'Future 2045 Youth Art Contest'** to **inform young people** about autonomous weapons and encourage them to use creative outlets to highlight the importance of achieving regulations and prohibitions in the present or near future. The winning works in each category (visual, audio, text) will be featured on our channels in 2025, creating new ways of engaging the public.



"Fading" by Giuliana Mangiamarchi, visual winner, 19 years old (Chile - Argentina)

- The campaign saw **increased media coverage** during the reporting period. This includes **prime-time broadcast coverage** on BBC's AI Decoded Programme where Campaign Vice-Chair Dr. Peter Asaro spoke on a panel about AI in the military. Highlights also include coverage in The Guardian, Al Jazeera and the News Movement.
- Stop Killer Robots audiences have continued to grow, and we have seen **increases in our social media follower counts and account reach** over the reporting period, with additional growth during the UNGA campaigning period. Notably, our Instagram account has reached over 281% more people since the UNGA campaign began in mid September. Our TikTok content has reached 116,000 viewers between May 2024 and May 2025. In the same period, our LinkedIn following has grown by 62%.

What others have said about autonomous weapons systems in 2024

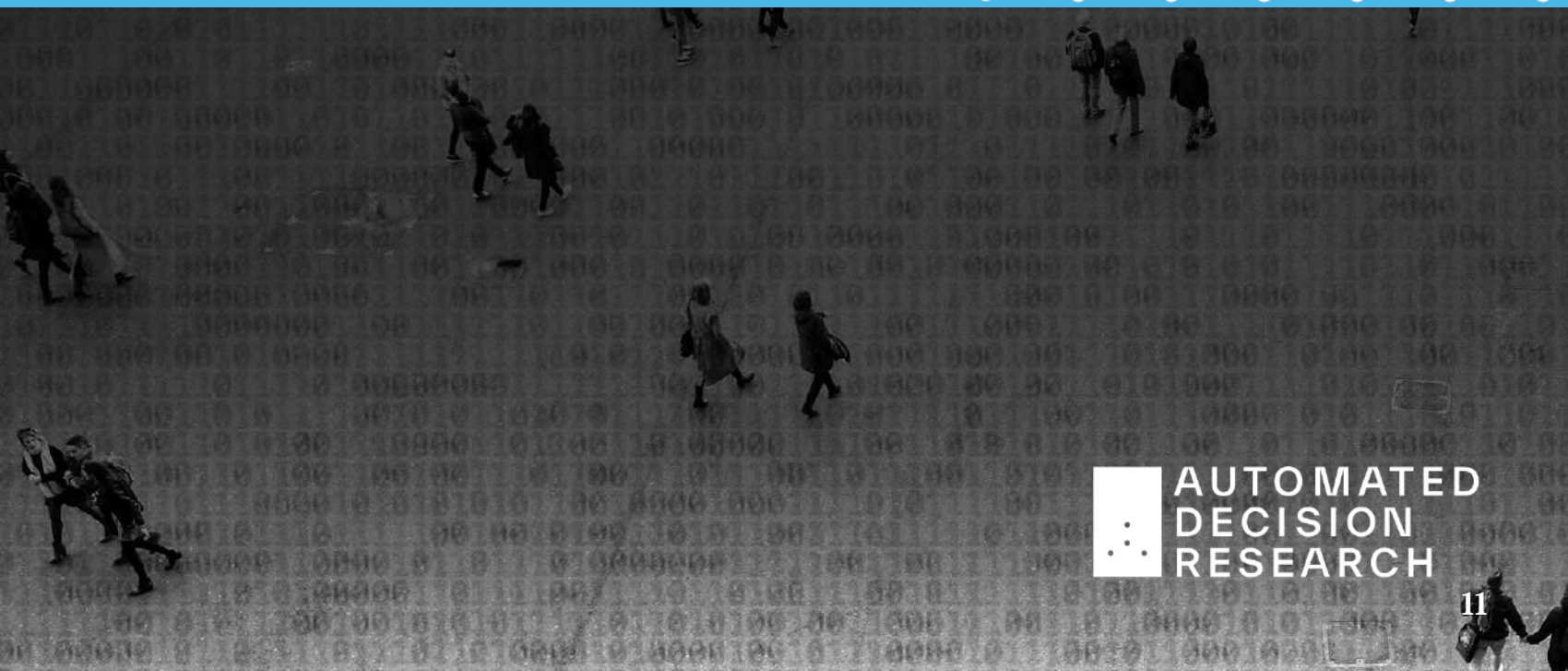
- In October 2024, the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Professor Geoffrey E. Hinton, together with John J. Hopfield, in recognition of their contributions to the field of artificial intelligence. **Professor Hinton was one of the first AI experts to endorse the call for new international law to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems.**
- In June 2024, the **Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Dr. Morris Tidball-Binz** presented a report to the **56th session of the Human Rights Council** on the key challenges posed by autonomous weapons to international human rights law and **recommended specific prohibitions on types of AWS that pose particular risks to human rights.** In particular, the Special Rapporteur recommended prohibitions on any autonomous weapons system which includes facial recognition technologies; and on anti-personnel autonomous weapons systems.

Demonstrating research



and policy expertise

- Automated Decision Research published an essay on the **critical role of human rights in discussions on the regulation of autonomous weapons systems.**
- The Automated Decision Research **State Positions Monitor** now features all 193 UN member states, plus observer states Palestine and the Holy See. State profiles are updated frequently to ensure accurate and up-to-date representation of state positions.
- Automated Decision Research published a report which provides **an assessment and overview of states' submissions to the UN Secretary General's report on autonomous weapons systems.** This report pinpoints key elements of states' contributions to the report, and underlines that 47 of those 58 state submissions to the Secretary-General express support for some form of prohibition and/or regulation of autonomous weapons.
- Automated Decision Research researcher Sai Bourouthu was interviewed for the **Inside Geneva podcast episode on new wars, new weapons and the Geneva Conventions.**
- In an update to the 2023 briefing paper on 'Targeting people and digital dehumanisation', Automated Decision Research published a briefing paper, **'Targeting people and digital dehumanisation: recent stakeholder contributions'**, highlighting a number of recent relevant contributions on the legal and ethical issues surrounding the targeting of people with autonomous weapons by states and other stakeholders in recent discussions.
- The e-journal Ethics & Armed Forces published Automated Decision Research's article **'Advocating for a Legally Binding Instrument on autonomous weapons systems: which way ahead'** as the lead article in its 10th anniversary issue, published in June 2024.
- Researcher Gugu Dube participated as a speaker at the Palestine Forum for Digital Activism (PDAF) in a panel session on 'Artificial Intelligence in Wartime: Gaza, Automated Warfare, Surveillance, and the Battle of Narratives' in June 2024.
- In a briefing paper titled **'Autonomous weapons and the 'lethal' qualifier'**, Automated Decision Research explained why using the term 'lethal' in nomenclature describing autonomous weapons, and in particular in discussions on their prohibition and regulation, is inappropriate and limiting, and aims to restrict scrutiny of the use of autonomous weapons to the armed conflict context.
- The Africa Regional Youth Disarmament Workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26-27 September 2024 featured Automated Decision Research researcher Gugu Dube as an expert presenter on the topic of weapons and policy monitoring.



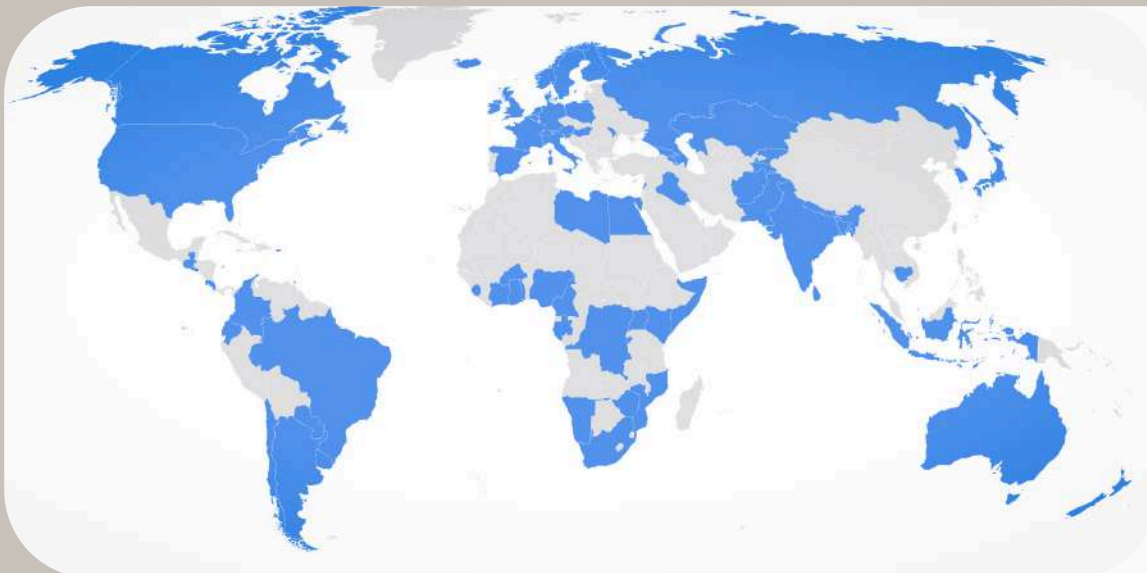
**AUTOMATED
DECISION
RESEARCH**

Strengthening coalition



mobilisation and engagement

- The Stop Killer Robots **coalition membership** grew to **274 members** as of **March 2025**, amplifying our influence and reach to new communities across 71 countries, notably the Avaaz Foundation joined the coalition with their nearly 69 million members.

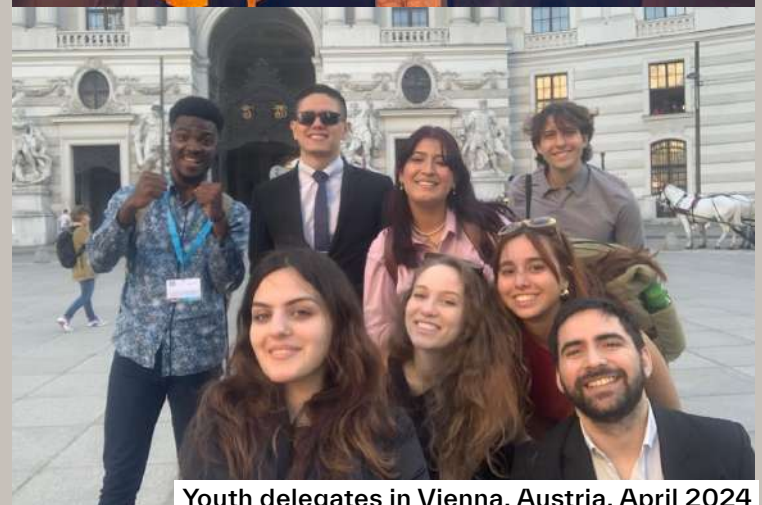


274
member organisations

71
countries

1
shared goal

- The **Stop Killer Robots Youth Network** grew to 154 members in 50 countries by the end of March 2025, representing a more than **25% increase in our campaigners under age 30** since our mid-year report in November 2024. These youth participate in the movement to stop killer robots in their capacity as students, volunteers, or young professionals, not otherwise affiliated with a member organisation. Youth Network members celebrated UN Disarmament Week with a [blog series](#) on autonomous weapons systems and additionally submitted a [poster](#) to the UNIDIR Global Conference on AI, Security and Ethics.
- In partnership with campaign members Soka Gakkai International and Mines Action Canada, **10 youth delegates** from **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ghana, Hungary, Pakistan, Paraguay, and Sweden** were sponsored to participate in the 'Action at the Crossroads' civil society forum and 'Humanity at the Crossroads' international conference in Vienna, Austria in April 2024.
- **Sponsorship of delegations** and advocacy missions enabled Stop Killer Robots coalition members to conduct grassroots outreach at **RightsCon 2025 in Taipei**, Taiwan and the **Sziget Festival in Budapest**, Hungary.



Youth delegates in Vienna, Austria, April 2024

Strengthening coalition



mobilisation and engagement

- Two cycles of the **Small Grants Programme** (June-November 2024; November 2024-March 2025) funded \$232,280 USD to campaign members to bolster their capacity and further advocacy initiatives at the national, regional, and thematic levels - **supporting national activities in 26 countries** (Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe); **regional projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East and North Africa**; and three thematic projects, one global project focusing on obtaining endorsements of the Stop Killer Robots Parliamentary Pledge, one project on disability, victim assistance, and remediation provisions, and a discourse analysis of the multilateral discussions on AWS. During this cycle of the Small Grants Programme, Namibia became a new country of work for the programme, bringing the total of countries with small grants projects to 59 over the lifecycle of the programme since 2018. Check out some regional highlights below:



TEDIC in Paraguay hosted an event on Human Rights Day to raise concerns of digital dehumanisation & killer robots



World BEYOND War Africa organisers engaged parliamentarians in Senegal, the Gambia, Togo, and Nigeria to garner endorsements of our Parliamentary Pledge

Considering Victim Assistance and Remediation Provisions for a Treaty on Killer Robots



The International Disarmament Institute in the USA created a policy brief on victim assistance and remediation provisions in a treaty on killer robots, engaging students in research & illustration



Sustainable Peace And Development Organization in Pakistan raised youth voices in their video project where young people shared their motivations to #StopKillerRobots



Asekäyttöisen tekoälyn kilpavarustelu lisää sodan riskiä ja kasvattaa sotilasvoimien tuhopotentiaalia. Kärnsijöinä olisivat ensi sijassa siviilit.



Committee of 100 in Finland published a research paper, alongside Saferglobe, on the effects of an autonomous weapons arms race & military AI in warfare

Governance and finance



2024 saw a change in the governance of Stop Killer Robots. The Campaign is now overseen by a **Steering Committee comprised of 9 organisations:**

Amnesty International, Article 36, Cultural Youth Movement Education Foundation (CYMEF), Human Rights Watch, International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), Mines Action Canada, PAX, PROTECTION, and Seguridad Humana en Latino América y el Caribe (SEHLAC).



The Steering Committee members are responsible for the governance of the Campaign – this includes membership, small grants, finance, and human resources – as well as guidance on policy development and strategy.

Moreover, the Campaign is now a not-for-profit association, registered in Geneva, Switzerland, from where the Executive Director leads the work since January 2025.

The city of Geneva is at the heart of international humanitarian action. It was the birthplace of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and remains the home of the ‘guardians of international humanitarian law’. Geneva is also recognised as the centre for peace, security, and disarmament, including the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), where discussions are ongoing on the issue of autonomous weapons systems. There, Stop Killer Robots works in partnership with government representatives from across the world, along with other key stakeholders, to move towards a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons.

Up until now, the Campaign co-founder Mines Action Canada (MAC), a registered Canadian non-profit incorporation, was the fiscal and legal sponsor for the Stop Killer Robots campaign. Human Rights Watch acts as the fiscal sponsor of the charitable giving program of the Campaign. Both organizations serve on the Steering Committee. In 2025, the financial administration of the Campaign will transition to the Swiss association which should run independently as of the first quarter of 2026.

During the reporting period, the campaign received the majority of its funding through the Geneva-based Swiss Philanthropy Foundation who passed on the funding to Mines Action Canada to be overseen by the Campaign’s Treasurer. Additionally, a private Japanese donor called United Peace International (UPI) provided funds for the campaign’s outreach and advocacy activities.

Our audited financial statements to follow. Our auditors examine the financial statements annually to confirm that the accounts conform to legal and statutory requirements. Our current auditors are Parker Prins Lebano Chartered Professional Accountants.

The priority for 2025, will be to diversify the Campaign’s donors and to secure sustainable and multi-year funding.

Financial statement



Statement of receipts and expenses from the 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 (in US Dollars).

Audited financial statement to follow once received from Parker Prins Lebano Chartered Professional Accountants.

RECEIPTS	2024
Donor Funds	1'487'629
Grants	63'268
Donations	1'538
Merchandise	1'205
Interest Earned	45'232
Total income	1'598'872
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Outreach and campaigning	313'642
Communication and Raising Public Awareness	46'847
Small grants to strengthen civil society	239'817
Personnel expenses	553'530
Consultant fees	111'447
Audit and legal fees	22'049
General and administrative expenses	25'178
Rent and utilities	23'813
Indirect programme cost	114'575
Total expenses	1'450'898
EXCESS	
Reserve funds	147'974

**DON'T
USE MY
DATA TO
TARGET
ME**



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