



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

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Geneva

PRESS RELEASE:

Russia and the United States continue their losing fight against the inevitable killer robots treaty

- At this week's Convention of Conventional Weapons (CCW) meeting, Russia and the United States ensured that nations could not agree to a meaningful recommendation for tackling the serious challenges raised by lethal autonomous weapons systems. Both states repeatedly rejected any effort to mention the need to retain meaningful "human control" over the use of force.
- The US and Russia along with China, Israel, South Korea and the UK are investing significant funds to develop weapons systems with decreasing human control over the critical functions of selecting and engaging targets.
- Most of the 93 states participating in the CCW talks on killer robots have expressed their strong desire to launch negotiations on a new treaty to retain human control over the use of force, including [29 states](#) that demand a prohibition on killer robots. Jordan added itself to the list of ban states at this week's meeting.
- Nations will decide the future of the United Nations talks on killer robots at the CCW's annual meeting on 15 November 2019. If the CCW cannot produce a credible outcome, alternative pathways must be pursued to avoid a future of autonomous warfare and violence.

Coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch, said:

"Russia and the US are continuing their losing fight to prevent the creation of the inevitable treaty that's coming for killer robots. Nations cannot allow their ambition and desire to create a new treaty on these weapons systems to be limited by these military powers."

Concerns are mounting about the threat killer robots pose to our humanity and shared security. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots coalition has nearly doubled in size over the past year, to a current total of 113 non-governmental organizations in 57 countries and [thousands of tech workers and AI experts](#) have pledged not to work on projects that may pave the way towards autonomous warfare"

Tech worker, Laura Nolan, left her job at Google last year in protest at the company's participation in a US Department of Defense project called Project Maven, which many view as paving the way towards fully autonomous weapons or killer robots. Now a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, she said:

"I am deeply troubled by the lack of urgency that characterizes the current UN talks on killer robots. These weapons systems will be hacked, will behave unpredictably, will experience errors, and will not be able to reliably abide by the [laws of war](#). That is why a ban treaty is urgently needed."

Full web post:

<https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/2019/08/russia-united-states-attempt-to-legitimize-killer-robots/>

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