



UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots  
United Nations Association - UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London  
SW1A 2EL

robotsuk@una.org.uk

4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP  
Foreign Secretary  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Dear Foreign Secretary,

**RE: UNGA Resolution on Autonomous Weapons Systems**

We are writing to urge the United Kingdom to support the resolution on autonomous weapons systems to be tabled at the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the upcoming 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in October 2023.

After 10 years of multilateral discussions without concrete outcomes, progress is urgently required to safeguard against the serious legal, ethical, humanitarian, and security risks posed by autonomous weapons systems. The call for an international legally binding instrument to address these challenges is supported by over 90 States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, experts in technology and artificial intelligence, and civil society organisations around the world. The UN Secretary-General has repeatedly issued calls on states to urgently launch negotiations for new international law, most recently calling on countries to adopt a treaty by 2026. He has described autonomous weapons as 'morally repugnant and politically unacceptable'.

The First Committee resolution, which builds on a joint statement signed by the UK to the UNGA last year, calls for the UN Secretary-General to seek the views of states and stakeholders and submit recommendations for a way forward. It is crucial for the UK government to support such international engagement on this issue. It must also work to build momentum towards launching negotiations. We call upon the United Kingdom to support the resolution by co-sponsoring it and by voting in favour of it at the First Committee in October and at the UNGA voting session in December.

Beyond this resolution, we also urge the United Kingdom to commit to making urgent progress towards establishing a new international law on autonomous weapons systems outside of the deadlocked Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and to articulate this commitment in a statement to the First Committee in October. Given that the UK is pursuing a role in the global conversation around regulating AI and convened the first-ever session to discuss the risks of AI at the United Nations Security Council earlier this year, and is set to host the first major global summit on AI safety this Autumn, the government should seize the opportunity to voice its support for negotiations and play an active and meaningful role in advancing negotiation towards a treaty through an inclusive and effective forum, ideally the UNGA.

A briefing paper by Stop Killer Robots, a coalition of 230+ civil society organisations from 70+ states, containing five reasons why states should support the resolution is enclosed.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

1. Actions Ideas Disarmament Diplomacy (AIDD)
2. Action on Armed Violence (AOAV)
3. Airwars
4. Article 36
5. Amnesty International UK
6. Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)
7. Drone Wars UK
8. Every Casualty Counts
9. ForcesWatch
10. JUST AI Network
11. Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR)
12. Rethinking Security
13. Saferworld
14. Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR)
15. Statewatch
16. United Nations Association - UK (UNA - UK)
17. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) UK