

IMPACT AND RISKS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

1 PROLIFERATION

KILLER ROBOTS OR LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS MAY GENERATE PANIC, FEAR AND DEVASTATION IN THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, CONSIDERING THAT THEY CAN BE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE COMPARED TO THEIR PRODUCTION, SO THEY CAN SIMPLY BE REPLICATED WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS. THIS INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WILL PROLIFERATE AMONG A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTORS, INCLUDING DICTATORS AND NON-STATE ACTORS.

3 ETHICS

A MACHINE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A PERSON, SUCH DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED TO AN ALGORITHM OR PROGRAMMING, BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS GOES AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE.

A ROBOT OR PROGRAMMING DOES NOT UNDERSTAND OR RESPECT THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE, THEREFORE, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MAKE A "DECISION TO KILL"; THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT, IMPLICITLY OR EXPLICITLY, HUMAN DIGNITY, IT IS SIMPLY COMPLETING THE TASK FOR WHICH ITS ALGORITHM WAS PROGRAMMED OR DESIGNED.

2 LEGALITY

WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF KILLER ROBOTS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL LAW (IHL) AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED, AS THE DECISION OF LIFE AND DEATH CANNOT BE MADE BY A MACHINE/ROBOT/PROGRAMMING, BUT THESE WEAPON SYSTEMS MUST BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A HUMAN/COMMANDER, WHO UNDER HIS EXPERIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS (COMBAT) CAN PRECEDE HUMAN ACTIONS AND MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IMPLEMENTED TO LETHAL WEAPONS DEVALUE AND DEHUMANIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO TAKE A LIFE IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AND DO NOT RESPECT THE IMMINENT VALUE PLACED ON HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY.

IMPACT AND RISKS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

4 RESPONSIBILITY

LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS CREATE AN ACCOUNTABILITY GAP AS TO WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE IF AN ILLEGAL ACT WERE TO BE COMMITTED. WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE: THE MANUFACTURER, THE DEVELOPER, THE MILITARY COMMANDER OR THE ROBOT ITSELF?

6 UNPREDICTABILITY

DEPLOYMENT OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS COULD LEAD TO ACCIDENTAL WARFARE AND RAPID ESCALATION OF CONFLICT, AS WELL AS OTHER UNINTENDED BUT DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES.

IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS DESIGNED AND DEPLOYED BY OPPOSING FORCES WILL REACT AND INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. THESE WEAPONS COULD BE HIGHLY UNPREDICTABLE, ESPECIALLY IN THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS AND WHETHER THEY ARE CAPABLE OF SELF-LEARNING.

5 ARMS RACE

STATES WOULD START AN ARMS RACE IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AND USE LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS. QUICK ADVANCES IN ROBOTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLIED TO MILITARY TECHNOLOGY WOULD HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECTS AND THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

7 OWNERSHIP OF KILLER ROBOTS

THE EMERGENCE OF KILLER ROBOTS OR LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THEIR POSSIBLE OR FUTURE USE BY CRIMINAL OR TERRORIST GROUPS WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION IN THE FACE OF THE INEVITABLE LARGE-SCALE WARS OR GLOBAL ARMS RACES THEY MIGHT CAUSE.

THESE SYSTEMS COULD BECOME WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, CAUSING AN EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE AND DEATH BOTH NATIONALLY AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM. KILLER ROBOTS OR LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE A NEW THREAT TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, AS THESE WEAPONS SYSTEMS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF STATES, BUT CAN BE DANGEROUSLY ACQUIRED AND FINANCED BY NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS, CRIMINAL OR TERRORIST GROUPS.

PERFORM THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity, you should communicate the importance of banning Killer Robots and/or Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

How you can do it?

Design and make a poster or representative message for the prohibition of Killer Robots and/or Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, this should be addressed kindly and as a petition to your local, state, departmental, municipal government, among others. It is important that you get it to any of these, the message must be spread in a clear way, remember that it is everyone's duty to build a better world, free of threats from the new technologies implemented to the Weapons Systems.

