WASAMUN 2023

Friday 20 – Saturday 21 January 2023

WYCOMBE ABBEY
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Disarmament and International Security

Topic Guide: The question of regulating the military use of artificial intelligence (AI)

Introduction
Currently Militaries across heavily rely on modern technologies in every regard in the day-to-day running of their business. Artificial intelligence is often at the heart of this and is shaping the future of warfare. The use of artificial intelligence allows countries access to a wealth of cutting-edgy techniques and means that large volumes of data can be managed in a much more efficient way due to the decision-making abilities of AI.

General Information
There are many benefits to the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Military. Firstly, improved threat-sensing, this reduces the risk upon the lives of soldiers through Mobile Corporative and Autonomous Sensors. This kind of technology allows for warfare to be much more precise, introducing the idea of soldiers having the ability to be directed as to where threats are coming from. Secondly, it increases the cyber-security which in turn safeguards those working for the military and further protect the vital communications networks. In the modern world we are living in, cyberattacks are becoming an increased threat globally and the presence of AI can help to minimise the threat. Finally, AI can improve the quality of transportation within the military. In difficult situations whereby the route to take is unclear, AI can be used to suggest a path based on current threats in real time.

Whilst there are a multitude of benefits to AI, as with all good things AI has some disadvantages as well. Firstly, it requires a very large funding and investment program to introduce AI into a military This means it is limited to wealthier nations with large defence budgets. Furthermore, it is a program which needs constant upgrading and maintenance also provides substantial costs. Secondly, AI will never quite replicate human intelligence, it is a program built on history that doesn't have the same capacity for self-progress as human intelligence. Furthermore, AI doesn't have the ability to judge situations of a moral or ethical level, meaning they cannot differentiate between right and wrong.

Previous UN Involvement
The UN has previously warned about the consequences that AI could hold for public peace and safety, in the Militarization of Artificial Intelligence in August 2019. In November 2021 a 'global agreement' was passed on the issue of Ethics of AI by 193 countries.

Further Reading:
- UN Arms Trade: The Militarization of Artificial Intelligence
  - https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Stanley-Stimson-UNODA-2020-TheMilitarization-ArtificialIntelligence.pdf
- UNESCO: AI Recommendation Ethics
  - https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics
- NPR: The UN Warns that AI can pose a Threat to Human Rights
  - https://www.npr.org/2021/09/16/1037902314/the-u-n-warns-that-ai-can-pose-a-threat-to-human-rights
- ITUWRC: United Nations Activities on Artificial Intelligence
  - https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/gen/S-GEN-UNACT-2018-1-PDF-E.pdf

- UN System Chief Executives Board of Coordination: Artificial Intelligence
  - https://unsceb.org/topics/artificial-intelligence