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American Model United Nations General Assembly First Committee

GA First/I/5

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament

measures

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly First Committee

The General Assembly First Committee,

Guided by the principles outlined in Section IV Article 11 of the United Nations Charter, which notes the authority of the General Assembly to make recommendations regarding disarmament and the regulation of armaments,

Recalling the success of the Secretary-General Report 79/88 of 1 July 2024 in:

- 1. Compiling the views of both Member States and non-governmental organizations on the topic of lethal autonomous weapons (LAW) systems,
- 2. Allowing Member States to outline the risks posed by LAWs and discuss the scope and mechanisms for prohibitions on LAW systems,

Reaffirming resolution 78/241 of 28 December 2023, which recommended that Member States and observers have constant and consistent dialogue related to LAWs,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more aware than ever of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, particularly with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive accumulation and increasing capabilities of LAWs, which pose a significant threat to security and reduce the prospects of economic development in many regions,

Bearing in mind the many legal and ethical challenges posed by LAWs, including but not limited to:

- 1. The difficulty ensuring the legal accountability of governments and non-government actors to ensure that actions taken by LAWs comply with International Humanitarian Law (IHL),
- 2. The difficulty in ensuring that autonomous weapons systems are able to distinguish between military and non-military targets such as but not limited to civilians, medical personal, surrendered combatants and other individuals protected by the Geneva Conventions,
- 3. The difficulty in ensuring that the actions of LAWs are gradually escalated and proportional to the threat they are addressing,
- 4. The possibility of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems such as facial recognition systems to introduce bias or unintended behavior due to defects in their training data, including but not limited to underrepresentation or overrepresentation of racial and/or ethnic groups,

Reaffirming Member States' firm stance on the disarmament of conventional weapons that has proudly been established through various United Nations resolutions to enhance global disarmament efforts, including resolution 77/69 of 14 December 2022, which advocated for transparency in armament by calling for increased efforts by States to annually report their arms to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) registry, namely the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA),

Calling attention to the fact that UNROCA reporting levels reached record lows in 2022 as well as the fact that licensed production and technology transfer arrangements are not captured by existing transparency frameworks such as UNROCA and the Military Expenditures database,

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Keeping in mind the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) as the most appropriate forum for diplomatic discussion over the matters of conventional weapons,

Further keeping in mind that Member States support measures that are non-legally binding without holding hostility towards future legally binding resolutions over the subject of conventional weapons,

Acknowledging the lack of strict definitions and understandings of LAW systems within the broader international community,

Noting the limitations of previous agreements, such as the CCW, towards addressing the concerns regarding the development of LAW systems,

Observing the role of non-governmental actors in their attempts at establishing international conventions to protect against the usage of entirely autonomous weapons in conflicts,

Stressing the importance of existing normative frameworks such as the eleven guiding principles for the development and use of LAWS established by the 2019 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Autonomous Weapons Systems,

- 1. Strongly urges Member States to adopt the definition set forth by the International Committee of the Red Cross describing a LAW system as "any weapon system with autonomy in its critical functionsthat is, a weapon system that can select (i.e. search for or detect, identify, track, select) and attack (i.e. use force against, neutralize, damage or destroy) targets without human intervention" to be used when developing individual legal frameworks in their jurisdictions as well as in contributions to international action;;
- 2. Further urges Member States to continue reporting transfers of conventional weapons, as well as military holdings, national production and relevant domestic military policy to UNROCA;
- 3. Encourages Member States who have not yet done so to take measures, in accordance with national and international law, to take action in regulating LAW systems under their jurisdiction;
- 4. Encourages Member States who have implemented national LAW systems regulation to share expertise and best practices through the GGE on Autonomous Weapons and to encourage collaboration with non-governmental organizations in establishing such best practices;
- 5. Reminds Member States of the Secretary-General's goal to have a regulatory framework for LAW systems substantially achieved by the year 2026;
- 6. Recommends an addition of a protocol to the CCW regarding the development and deployment of LAW systems by 2026, which could potentially include legally binding measures to regulate their use and ensure compliance with international law; ;
- 7. Additionally recommends that the meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW facilitate the negotiations of legal regulation of laws by:
- (a) Expanding the mandate of the GGE on Autonomous Weapons Systems from "to further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, taking into account the example of existing Protocol within the Convention, proposals presented by High Contracting Parties and other options" to include "and to facilitate continued negotiations regarding the possibility of legislative frameworks addressing the regulation of such weapons systems";
- (b) Including negotiations for potential legal mechanisms for the regulation of LAW systems in their 2025 meeting;
- 8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its 80th session a report on the views of Member States and relevant NGOs on the topic of LAW systems, highlighting the progress in the implementation of disarmament measures relating to LAW systems to serve as a continuation of the work done in Report 79/88 of 1 July 2024;
 - 9. Decides to reconvene on the matter at the 80th session of the General Assembly.

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Passed, Yes: 77 / No: 6 / Abstain: 14

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