



CARICOM Conference: The Human Impacts of Autonomous Weapons

5-6 September, 2023

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Day 1: Tuesday 5 September, 2023	
08:00 – 9:00	Registration
09:00 – 9:50	<p>Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lt. Col. Michael Jones, Executive Director, <i>CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)</i> - Senator The Honourable Reginald Armour S.C., <i>Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago</i> - Hayley Ramsay-Jones, Geneva Director, <i>Soka Gakkai International Office for UN Affairs</i> - Sophie Orr, Regional Director for Americas, <i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i> (remote presentation) - The Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., <i>Minister of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago</i> <p><i>Keynote address:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Maritza Chan Valverde, <i>Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations</i>
9:50 - 10:00	Photo
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break
10:20 - 10:25	What are Autonomous Weapons Systems? (video animation)
10:25 – 11:20	<p>Setting the scene: key issues surrounding autonomous weapons systems</p> <p>This session will provide a background to what autonomous weapons are and the risks and challenges they pose to peace, security, and humanitarian protections. It will introduce the foundational issues, and consider the human impacts of autonomous weapons from social, humanitarian, legal, ethical, technical, and security perspectives.</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brady Mabe, Legal Advisor, <i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i> - Isabelle Jones, Campaign Outreach Manager, <i>Stop Killer Robots</i> - Callixtus Joseph, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, <i>CARICOM IMPACS</i> <p><i>Moderated by: Sherwin Toyne Stephenson</i>, Programme Manager, Crime and Security, <i>Directorate of Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat</i></p>
11:20 - 11:30	Commentary from H.E. Sir Ronald Sanders , <i>Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation of American States</i> (remote presentation)



11:30 - 11:45	<p>Key issues surrounding autonomous weapons systems: Q & A</p> <p><i>Moderated by: Sherwin Toyne Stephenson, Programme Manager, Crime and Security, Directorate of Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat</i></p>
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Increasing autonomy in weapons systems</p> <p>This session will discuss trends of autonomy and automated-decision making in weapons systems and wider society, weapons systems of concern that are in development or in use, and risks of autonomous weapons related to security and proliferation.</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laura Nolan, <i>Software engineer/ Member, International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC)</i> (remote presentation) - Ariel Conn, <i>Project Lead, Research Group on Issues of Autonomy and AI for Defense Systems, IEEE Standards Association</i> - Daan Kayser, <i>Project Lead, Autonomous Weapons, PAX</i> (remote presentation) - Gugu Dube, <i>Researcher, Automated Decision Research</i> (remote presentation) <p><i>Moderated by: Dr. Craig Ramlal, Lecturer, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of the West Indies</i></p>
12:45 – 14:30	<p>Lunch break</p>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Responding to the challenges autonomous weapons systems pose to global peace, security, and international law</p> <p>This session will discuss how International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law apply to autonomous weapons, and consider the need for a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons and possible structural elements such as prohibitions and regulations.</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brady Mabe, <i>Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross</i> - Chelsea Mai, <i>Foreign Services Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize</i> - Dr. Thompson Chengeta, <i>Principal Investigator, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Study on Human Rights Implications of AI / Reader of Law, Liverpool John Moores University</i> - Valene Guerra-Abraham, <i>Senior Legal Counsel, Criminal Justice Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago</i> - Farah Abdool, <i>Senior Legal Counsel, Criminal Justice Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago</i> - Dr. Peter Asaro, <i>Associate Professor, The New School / Visiting Scholar, Center for an Informed Public, University of Washington</i> (remote presentation) <p><i>Moderated by: Rufus Ferdinand, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, CARICOM IMPACS</i></p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Film Screening, <i>Immoral Code</i></p>

	Immoral Code is a documentary that contemplates the impact of killer robots in an increasingly automated world. Automated decisions are being introduced across all parts of society. From pre-programmed bias to data protection and privacy concerns, there are real limitations to these algorithms - especially when that same autonomy is applied to weapons systems. The film examines whether there are situations where it's morally and socially acceptable to take life, and importantly - would a computer know the difference?
17:00	Light refreshments

Day 2: Wednesday 6 September, 2023	
09:00 – 9:45	<p>Intersectional perspectives on autonomous weapons systems</p> <p>This session will consider cross-cutting and intersectional issues in the regulation of emerging technologies. Speakers will discuss issues such as the risk of racial, gender, and other biases in AI and autonomous weapons; Global North/South dynamics in the development and regulation of emerging technologies; impact on environment, climate change, and biodiversity; and engaging different stakeholder groups.</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hayley Ramsay-Jones, Geneva Director, <i>Soka Gakkai International Office for UN Affairs</i> - Mutale Nkonde, CEO, <i>AI for the People</i> (remote presentation) - Dr. Thompson Chengeta, Principal Investigator, <i>African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Study on Human Rights Implications of AI / Reader of Law, Liverpool John Moores University</i> - Brandon Mata Aguilar, Project Technician, <i>Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)</i> - Cieanna Smith, Attorney / Member, <i>International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC)</i> (remote presentation) <p><i>Moderated by: Isabelle Jones</i>, Campaign Outreach Manager, <i>Stop Killer Robots</i></p>
9:45 - 10:30	<p>Roundtable discussion: Regional perspectives on autonomous weapons</p> <p>This session will take the format of a roundtable discussion, inviting participants to raise issues related to autonomous weapons that resonate or require clarification in order to contribute to the elaboration of a regional position on the issue.</p> <p><i>Moderated by: Callixtus Joseph</i>, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, <i>CARICOM IMPACS</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Taking action against autonomous weapons systems</p> <p>This session will consider the political landscape of multilateral discussions on autonomous weapons systems, the trajectory of the issue, and opportunities for states to engage in upcoming multilateral meetings and cross-cutting initiatives.</p>

	<p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexander Kmentt, Ambassador, Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, <i>Federal Ministry for Europe and International Affairs, Austria</i> (remote presentation) - H.E. Maritza Chan Valverde, Ambassador, <i>Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations</i> - Tania Banuelos Mejia, Political Affairs Officer, <i>United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</i> <p><i>Moderated by: H.E. Stan Smith, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the United Nations</i></p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Consideration of Declaration on Autonomous Weapon Systems</p> <p>Closed session: CARICOM Member States</p>
14:30 - 15:30	<p>Exchange of Views and Adoption of the Declaration</p> <p>Statements by States, observers, regional/international institutions, and civil society</p> <p>Adoption of the Declaration</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Next steps for the future</p> <p>This session will identify upcoming opportunities for the Caribbean Community to participate in international discussions on autonomous weapons, including the First Committee of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Stan Smith, Ambassador, <i>Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the United Nations</i> - Asha Challenger, First Secretary, <i>Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations</i>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p><i>Remarks by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Ché A. Phillip, Ambassador, <i>Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations</i> - H.E. Maritza Chan Valverde, Ambassador, <i>Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations</i> - Senator The Honourable Reginald Armour S.C., <i>Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago</i>
Meeting concludes	