



Provisional programme

Lethal autonomous weapon systems: understanding the human role throughout the weapon lifecycle

Thursday 9 – Friday 10 December 2021 | WP1998V

To be held online

The issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapons has been the focus of much discussion internationally and is also subject to calls from several states and NGOs for a ban. The debate is ongoing in the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which has established a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to discuss LAWS.

The UK position on LAWS is that human control is a critical aspect of the debate, and that this is therefore where the GGE should look to build consensus. Accordingly, Her Majesty's Government (HMG) have produced a working paper titled "The Human Role in Autonomous Warfare", to generate dialogue and stimulate debate.

To build upon and further develop the arguments set out in this paper, Wilton Park will convene an invitation-only virtual conference in partnership with the UK government's Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control Centre. The meeting will focus on understanding the human role throughout the weapon lifecycle.

In association with the UK Counter Proliferation & Arms Control Centre

Thursday 9 December

1250-1300

Participants log on

1300-1315

Welcome and introduction

1315-1445

1. Development

In this session, participants will discuss the development of autonomous capabilities, including the following:

- The impact of national policies
- Detailed system design
- Requirements and risk management processes
- Research and development
- Testing and evaluation, and verification and validation
- Legal reviews

1445-1500

Wrap up and a look to the following day

Friday 10 December

1250-1300

Participants log on

1300-1315

Welcome and introduction

1315-1445

2. Use

In this session participants will discuss the use of autonomous capabilities including:

- Operational planning
- Training of military personnel
- Rules of engagement
- Deployment of capability
- Targeting processes
- Post-use assessment

1445-1500

Wrap up and next steps

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Enquiries about participation to: LAWS@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Dr Mark Smith, Senior Programme Director
E: mark.smith@wiltonpark.org.uk