



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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Statement
by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1099th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Security Dialogue on “Responsible Military Use of New and Emerging Technologies”

26 February 2025

At the outset I would like to commend the Spanish FSC Chairpersonship for bringing this highly relevant topic for today’s discussion and also thank the panelists for their insightful presentations.

Against the backdrop of ever-growing uncertainty and global turmoil, discussions on the responsible military use of new and emerging technologies have never been more pertinent. The massive use of force in the conflict zones across the OSCE, including in our region, has highlighted rapid changes in the methods and means of warfare, posing unprecedented challenges to security, peace, and stability in the OSCE area. Given the significant security implications of these changes, we believe that they should remain high on the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

It is with this understanding that back in 2021 the FSC Chairpersonship of Armenia held a Security Dialogue discussion on Challenges of the New Generation Warfare, which reflected the pace and scale of technological development in conventional arms domain and its potential impact on security in the OSCE area.

To respond directly to the Chair’s guiding questions, in particular, on the key principles that should guide the responsible military use of new and emerging technologies in conflicts, we firmly believe that international law, particularly international humanitarian law and international human rights law, is fully applicable to all weapon systems, including those incorporating artificial intelligence and autonomous technologies. Meanwhile, Armenia underscores the necessity of regulating AI in the military domain in strict compliance with existing international legal instruments, without prejudice to the possibility of *lex ferenda*, thereby mitigating the risk of exploitation by irresponsible actors to violate international law.

When it comes to the lessons learned and concerns, we have to acknowledge that the development of new weapon systems, particularly those incorporating artificial intelligence and autonomous technologies can multiply the existing security threats and create new ones. The high number of losses among the civilian population and damages to non-military objects and civilian infrastructure caused by the use of remote-controlled and high-precision weapons, that we have witnessed during recent years, suggest their deliberate and indiscriminate use. This underscores the paradox: despite being designed to prevent unintended non-combatant casualties, modern weapons often fail to fulfill this primary objective.

In our not very distant past we have been heavily affected by the unprecedented use of autonomous weapons systems, particularly UAVs, loitering munitions and other types of modern weapons targeting not only military installations but also civilian infrastructure and

even cultural heritage sites. The indiscriminate nature of these attacks took a heavy toll on human lives and inflicted profound suffering on innocent civilians.

The absence of clear guidelines and accountability mechanisms for autonomous weapon systems only exacerbates the risks posed by these technologies. In this regard, it is essential that humans retain responsibility and accountability for the use and impact of autonomous weapon systems, as decision making, responsibility and accountability can never be transferred to machines.

Furthermore, the integration of AI capabilities in military operations requires robust accountability mechanisms, including their utilization under a well-defined and responsible human chain of command and control. To this end, the Republic of Armenia co-sponsored The Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy during the high-level endorsement meeting at the UN headquarters in November 2023 as well as endorsed the "Blueprint for Action" document, which is the result of the inaugural Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024.

Dear colleagues,

We also have to acknowledge that the increased proliferation and use of weapons, including autonomous weapons systems, compel us to develop rules for responsible behavior and accountability.

In this context, the adoption of the resolutions titled *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, which Armenia supported, and *Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and its Implications for International Peace and Security*, which Armenia co-sponsored, represents a significant milestone in our collective efforts to address critical aspects related to the use of such technologies.

Within the framework of promoting the responsible use of military AI we attach significant importance to ensuring the responsible and ethical transfer of military AI technologies, including autonomous weapon systems. Such transfers must not occur if there is a reasonable concern that the weapon systems may be used to perpetrate or enable grave breaches of international humanitarian law or serious violations of international human rights law. Therefore, states that produce cutting-edge technologies and weapons should demonstrate exceptional responsibility and behavior in order to prevent malicious actors from acquiring such weapons.

Armenia advocates for development of efficient legal review procedures, ethical standards and mechanisms for oversight and accountability. To this end, our collective efforts should focus not only on reinforcing and building upon our existing achievements but also on keeping pace with the rapid advancements in technology, particularly in weapons systems that incorporate artificial intelligence and autonomous capabilities.

Armenia is ready to actively contribute to this collective endeavor, guided by the principles of full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law, and upholding the commitments laid out in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.