



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Remarks at Launch of the First Report of the Global Commission of
Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM)**

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As delivered



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Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for the invitation to speak at this side event marking the launch of the first report of the Global Commission of REAIM.

I recall when this Commission was launched at the 2023 REAIM Summit. At that time, the topic of AI was still relatively new to many States.

Just two years later, when the Commission delivered its first report, 98 speakers addressed disarmament and international security during the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly – many of whom raised the emergence of AI, in both civilian and military contexts.

I, therefore, congratulate the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Commissioners on publishing this timely and important report.

Representing a cross-regional and diverse set of expertise — from military practitioners to ethicists, philosophers, lawyers, and disarmament experts — the Commission's composition reflects a good example of linking policy choices to researched expertise.

Key Contributions of the Commissions' Report:

Many of the topics addressed in the report are directly relevant to the UN General Assembly discussions on AI in the military domain and I would like to highlight some:

First, the report includes practical components, such as guiding principles for the design and development of AI, recommendations for States, and much needed guidance on the full life-cycle of AI systems.

Second, the report's in-depth coverage of the technical characteristics of AI explains complex concepts in an accessible way— carefully bridging the gap between technical community with the policy world.

Third, the “responsibility by design” approach, identified in the report – which integrates ethics and legal compliance throughout the AI life cycle is a concept that warrants greater attention from the diplomatic community.

Fourth, the report contains critical guardrails for responsible AI approaches in the military domain and red lines regarding the use of AI: including prohibiting the use of AI to autonomously select and engage targets, identifying use cases where AI undermines human rights and democratic principles, and emphasizing the need to prevent integration of AI into nuclear decision-making.

I took particular note of the Commissioners' call for a legally-binding instrument to ensure that “the decision to authorize the use of nuclear weapons remain under human control”.

The Secretary-General has been clear on the nexus of AI and nuclear weapons: Until nuclear weapons are eliminated, they must remain under the control of humans.

States should use every available forum – including the General Assembly and the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - to address the alarming potential convergence of AI with nuclear weapons.

It is vital that those who deal with AI policy and those who are responsible for policy related to nuclear weapons are both cognizant of the inherent risks at the nexus between the two.

Fifth, the Commissioners' recommendation to establish a permanent and inclusive multilateral dialogue on the responsible integration of AI into the military domain is especially welcome. This echoes a similar recommendation

made by the Secretary-General in his report on AI in the military domain.

The Secretary-General's Report:

In his report, the Secretary-General further urges States to fully meet their obligations under relevant disarmament frameworks.

He calls upon them to systematically assess and prepare for the impact of AI on these frameworks. This recommendation also extends beyond the nuclear domain to other weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons.

The Secretary-General also urges States to closely examine the increasingly blurred lines between civilian AI developments and their potential military applications.

In this regard, last month's Security Council open-debate on AI and International Peace and Security contributed to raising awareness of the cross-cutting risks posed by AI within the broader context of peace and security.

Looking Ahead & Closing Points:

Looking ahead, I encourage the Commission to prioritize the implementation of its recommendations at both the national and multilateral levels. I also urge Member States to consider which of these recommendations could be taken forward in the forums of the United Nations.

In closing, I thank the Kingdom of the Netherlands once again for its leadership and commitment.

This report lays a strong foundation – but its real value will be measured by the actions it inspires.

Thank you very much for your attention.