Annalena Baerbock

Federal Foreign Minister Federal Foreign Office Auswärtiges Amt D-11013 Berlin GERMANY

11/09/23

Dear Minister,

RE: UNGA Resolution on Autonomous Weapons Systems

We are writing to urge Germany to co-sponsor the resolution on autonomous weapons systems to be tabled at the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security at the upcoming 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in October 2023.

After 10 years of multilateral discussions without concrete results, progress is urgently needed to safeguard against the serious legal, ethical, humanitarian, and security risks posed by autonomous weapon systems. The call for an international legally binding instrument to address these challenges is supported by over 90 States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, technology and artificial intelligence experts, and civil society organisations around the world. The UN Secretary-General has repeatedly called on states to urgently launch negotiations for new international law, describing autonomous weapons as 'morally repugnant and politically unacceptable'.

The First Committee resolution calls on the UN Secretary-General to seek the views of states and stakeholders and submit recommendations for a way forward. It is crucial to support international engagement on this issue and to build momentum towards launching negotiations. We call on Germany to support the resolution through co-sponsorship and a vote in favour at the First Committee in October and at the UNGA voting session in December. Beyond this resolution, we also urge Germany to commit to making urgent progress towards establishing a new international law on autonomous weapons systems outside of the deadlocked Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and to articulate this commitment in statements to the UNGA high-level debate in September and to the First Committee in October.

A briefing paper by Stop Killer Robots, a coalition of 230+ civil society organisations from 70+ states, outlining five reasons why states should support the resolution, is attached.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,