



LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE OF  
**SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF  
AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS.**

**La Ribera, Belén, Costa Rica**  
February 23 & 24 2023

**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

**COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL HACIENDA BELEN**





<b>DAY 1: THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>08:00h</b>	Arrival, registration, and coffee served
<b>09:00h - 10:00h</b>	<p><b>Opening segment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. José León Desanti, Member of the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNPADEM)</li><li>• Video message from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger</li><li>• Mrs. Allegra Baiocchi, UN Resident Coordinator United Nations System in Costa Rica</li><li>• Video message from the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu</li><li>• Ambassador Flávio Soares Damico, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament</li><li>• Mr. Luis Almagro Lemes, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS)</li><li>• Ambassador Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship a.i.</li></ul> <p><b>Costa Rican cultural performance</b></p> <p><b>Group photo</b></p>
<b>10:00h - 10:20h</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:20h - 10:30h</b>	<p>Message from Minister a.i. Christian Guillermet-Fernández on agenda matters</p> <p>Presentation of the negotiation process of the communiqué</p>
<b>10:30h - 12:30h</b>	<p><b><i>Expert Panel: Setting the scene on the key issues surrounding autonomous weapons systems.</i></b> Each speaker is invited to speak for 15-20 minutes. Afterwards, the moderator will open the floor for questions.</p> <p>This panel is invited to provide an overall background as to what autonomous weapons are, why they pose fundamental issues globally, and what efforts to date have been made towards prohibition and regulation. The panel is invited to address the following questions:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN Secretary-General has called autonomous weapons “politically unacceptable and morally repugnant”. Why do autonomous weapons pose serious challenges to ethics, law, security, and the protection of civilians?</li> <li>• What types of autonomous weapons are currently being used and what is the forecasted trajectory for their development?</li> <li>• What efforts have been made at an international governance level to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems? What is the ‘two-tier’ approach?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ambassador Maritza Chan Valverde, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, New York.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Neil Davison, Senior scientific and policy adviser, ICRC</li> <li>• Professor Toby Walsh, Chief Scientist at UNSW AI Institute, Sydney</li> <li>• Comodoro Pablo Farias, Argentina Air Force</li> <li>• Ing. María Estrada Sánchez M.Sc., Academic Deputy Chancellor, Costa Rican Institute of Technology (ITCR)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30h - 14:00h</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>14:00h - 15:15h</b></p>	<p><b>Expert panel: Social and Humanitarian Impact.</b> Each speaker is invited to speak for 15 mins. Afterwards, the moderator will open the floor for questions.</p> <p>Below are potential questions to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial, gender and disability bias: Machine learning systems raise concerns about encoded bias. Historically marginalized populations are disproportionately harmed by the automation of decision-making processes. Selecting individuals to kill based on sensor data, especially through facial recognition or other biometric information, introduces substantial risk for the selective targeting of groups based on perceived age, gender, race, ethnicity, ability, and religious dress. Autonomous weapons could greatly increase the risk of targeted violence against specific groups of individuals.</li> <li>• The use of autonomous weapons systems by police and border control forces could undermine international human rights law</li> </ul>



	<p>including the right to freedom of assembly, the right to privacy and the right to life and dignity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autonomous weapons could lead to an expansion of extrajudicial and targeted killings outside of contexts of armed conflict.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderador:</b> Ambassador Carmen Claramunt Garro, Honorary President of the Costa Rican Commission on International Humanitarian Law.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor Bernard Duhaime, International Law at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University of Quebec in Montreal</li> <li>Ms. Bonnie Docherty, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch</li> <li>Dr. Ariana Macaya, Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights</li> <li>Dr. Renata Hessmann Dalaqua, Head of Gender and Disarmament, UNIDIR</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:15h - 15:45h</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>15:45h - 17:00h</b></p>	<p><b>Expert panel: Security and proliferation risks.</b> Each speaker is invited to speak for 15 minutes. The moderator will then open the floor for questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Escalation: Autonomous weapons introduce the risk of accidental and rapid conflict escalation due to challenging and untested complexities of interaction between autonomous systems on the battlefield, and more generally as a result of machines or humans misunderstanding signals or actions. Automation has the potential to increase the speed of warfare thus reducing the time for de-escalatory measures.</li> <li>Proliferation: Different types of autonomous weapons have the potential to proliferate among state militaries as well as non-state actors. Certain types of autonomous weapons do not require costly or inaccessible raw materials. The proliferation of autonomous weapons could also increase global power imbalances. Reducing the risk of proliferation should be a key priority in reducing the risks of autonomy in weapons.</li> <li>Autonomous weapons arms race: Arms race dynamics, which favour speed over safety, further compound the inherent risks of unpredictability and escalatory behaviour of autonomous weapons.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Moderador:</b> Ms. Dyanne Marengo González, President of the Costa Rican Red Cross.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Laura Bruun, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)</li> <li>• Professor Stuart Russell, UC Berkeley</li> <li>• Dr. María Vanina Martínez, Institute of Computer Science, Argentina</li> <li>• Mr. Joseph Callixtus, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, CARICOMIMPACS</li> </ul>
17:00h - 18:30h	<b>Break</b>
18:30h - 20:30h	<b>Cocktail reception</b>

<b>DAY 2: FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>08:30h</b>	Arrival, registration, and coffee served
<b>10:00h - 12:50h</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Debate - Latin American and Caribbean States</li> <li>• Statements from observers and civil society</li> </ul>
<b>13:00h - 14:30h</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:30h - 15:30h</b>	<p><b>Expert Panel: Steps for the Future Panel.</b> The moderator will ask each panelist for their opinion on possible future steps needed to ban and regulate autonomous weapons systems. Each panelist is invited to speak for 7 minutes. The moderator will then open the floor for questions.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Richard Moyes, Article 36</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. María Soledad Martínez Bergara, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva</li> <li>• Mr. Alonso Martínez Ruiz, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva</li> <li>• Ms. Grisselle Rodríguez Ramírez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations in Geneva</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Andreas Bilgeri, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva</li><li>• Sra. Charlene Rhonda Roopnarine, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in New York</li><li>• Mr. John Borrie, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand</li></ul>
<b>15:30h - 16:00h</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>16:00h - 16:30h</b>	Adoption of the final document and closing remarks
<b>19:15h</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

## SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Optional outdoor sightseeing excursion