

Statement of the Interfaith Working Group of the Stop Killer Robots Coalition

*UNODA Informal Exchange on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain
and its Implications for International Peace and Security*

15-17 June 2026

The Interfaith Working Group of the Stop Killer Robots coalition welcomes the opportunity to address this gathering. We come from different religious, spiritual and faith traditions, yet we are united by convictions that lie at the heart of each of our teachings: the sacredness of life, the inalienable dignity of the human person, the imperative of moral responsibility, and a shared commitment to peacebuilding, nonviolence and the protection of our common humanity. It is from this foundation that we speak today.

At this critical juncture in human history, as AI is increasingly integrated into military systems, we are called to reflect not only on what technology can do, but on what it should do. The measure of any technological advancement must be its contribution to the protection of human life and the advancement of human dignity. AI may offer new capabilities in the domains of warfare and security, but it also raises profound questions of conscience, accountability and moral responsibility. Systems whose decisions cannot be fully understood or explained create a dangerous gap between action and accountability, one that risks undermining the principles of international humanitarian law and eroding the ethical foundations upon which lasting peace depends.

The accelerating pace of AI-enabled decision-making deepens this concern. Genuine peace is built through wisdom, restraint and dialogue not through the rapid automation of decisions on the use of force. When the time available for human reflection is compressed, the possibilities for de-escalation and mutual understanding narrow, and the risk of miscalculation, conflict and civilian suffering grows. Biases embedded in data and algorithms compound this danger, reinforcing discrimination and reducing individuals and communities to data points rather than recognising their inherent and equal worth. This process of digital dehumanisation is, at its core, a moral affront one that our traditions compel us to name and to resist.

The challenges posed by military AI cannot be resolved by technology. They demand a renewed commitment to human-centred values, international solidarity and the sanctity of life. Technology is not fate. It does not arrive as an inevitable force beyond human direction; it arrives as a choice, a reflection of values, priorities and the kind of future we are willing to build together. We have the possibility, and therefore the responsibility, to decide whether AI is used in ways that uplift humanity or degrade it. Peace is not secured through increasingly sophisticated means of destruction, but through dialogue, diplomacy, cooperation and a steadfast commitment to our shared humanity.

We therefore call upon Member States, with renewed determination and moral courage, to:

- Start negotiations for a legally binding international instrument that prohibits autonomous weapons systems that target people
- Stop the use of AI-assisted targeting systems, and ensure that all military applications of AI are developed and deployed in full adherence to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution;
- Guarantee that all systems used in conflict settings allow for the tracing and reconstruction of decision-making processes, so that responsibility cannot be displaced onto “the machine”; and
- Establish the robust multilateral cooperation and shared international framework that is indispensable to curbing the technological arms race and ensuring the protection of civilians and the infrastructure upon which their survival depends.

We likewise call upon those who develop and deploy AI, in industry, in research and in government to recognise, as Pope Leo XIV has written, that “developers bear a particular ethical and spiritual responsibility, for every design choice reflects a vision of humanity.” Concretely, we urge the technology industry to:

- Provide genuine transparency in the design, training data and decision-making processes of AI systems, including those intended for use in the military domain;
- Refuse to enter into contracts or support activities that could facilitate violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law; and
- Engage in good faith with international regulatory processes, recognising that private and voluntary self-regulation alone is wholly insufficient to meet the challenges posed by AI in warfare.

The future is not determined by our machines. It is determined by the moral and political choices we make together in this room today, and in every forum beyond it. At a time when many speak of conflict as unavoidable and technological acceleration as unstoppable, we affirm that another path remains open. Peace is possible. Human beings are capable of wisdom, restraint and solidarity. Let us choose wisely, and choose well with courage, conviction and a steadfast commitment to our common humanity.

In hope and shared purpose,

The Interfaith Working Group of the Stop Killer Robots Coalition