Addressing The Use And Exploitation Of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) And Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS) For Espionage And Warfare

General Assembly 1

Issue Description:

With the introduction of Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapon Systems were introduced. These weapons let AI decide whether to attack a target based on just a few factors, like shapes, warmth and speed. The issue with AWS, is that there is not a single person who can be held responsible for the actions the robot takes. Whether it is just spying, or actually killing an innocent, ordinary citizen. With UAS, there is someone who can be held responsible. However, these systems are very sensitive to both technical and human error, with the aerial systems being hard to control in certain weather circumstances. Furthermore, the GPS connection and other communication services often fail, possibly resulting in injury.

Why has this issue not been resolved?

The advantages of these systems is that they are very affordable, and are relatively easy to use. There are currently no internal regulations on UAS training, which highly increases the chances of human error. Using AWS and UAS saves armies around the world thousands of losses in personnel, and a lot of money in training and staff wages.

Important stances on the issue

While most nations would like to form stronger regulations on the use of AWS and UAS, there are a few nations opposing these. While Russia, UK and USA argue that the current laws stated in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) are sufficient enough, Israel and South Korea argue that these systems are an operational necessity, reduce the risk of human error through emotion and defend lots of human lives.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

The International Humanitarian Law states, created in 1863 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, states that all autonomous weapons must distinguish between combatants and civilians. Furthermore, attacks must not cause excessive civilian harm. Lastly, commanders must take all precautions possible to prevent civilian casualties, requiring continuous human oversight.

Sources

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_humanitarian_law

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Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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