# TOGETHER FIRST

Yes

Nonspaign to Stop Killer RobotsYes

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Risk multipliers** | **Organisations?** | **Is organisation?** |
| **Weapons of Mass Destruction** | **Conflict or political violence** | **Short** |
| **Global catastrophic risks mitigated** | **Risk multipliers managed** | **Implementation timeframe** |

DETAILS

**Killer robots would violate international humanitarian law and bring about untold suffering. Governments must urgently launch negotiations on a new international treaty to pre-emptively prohibit fully autonomous weapons and retain meaningful human control over the use of force.**

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is an international coalition of more than 140 non-governmental organizations and academic partners in over 60 countries with the specific goal of pre-emptively banning the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons, also known as lethal autonomous weapons systems, or killer robots.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots calls on all policymakers to create a new international treaty to pre-emptively ban fully autonomous weapons and retain meaningful human control over the use of force; and promote development of national policies and laws to implement and enforce a ban. The Campaign views such a treaty as a humanitarian imperative, legal necessity, and moral obligation.

Since the launch of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, a broad range and growing number of countries, regional bodies, private companies, organizations, and individuals have endorsed the call to pre-emptively ban fully autonomous weapons, including:

- Thirty countries: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China (on use only), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, State of Palestine, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who has urged states to prohibit weapons systems that could, by themselves, target and attack human beings, calling them “morally repugnant and politically unacceptable.”

- More than 4,500 artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics experts, who signed an open letter in 2015 affirming that they have “no interest in building AI weapons and do not want others to tarnish their field by doing so.” Since then, another 30,000 individuals have signed various open letters supporting a ban on lethal autonomous weapons, including more than 14 current and past presidents of AI and robotics organizations and professional associations such as American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE-RAS), International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), and the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI). Individual signatories include Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Skype co-founder Jaan Tallin, the late Professor Stephen Hawking, and Google DeepMind chief executive Demis Hassabis along 21 of his lab engineers, developers and research scientists. Notable female signatories include Professors Barbara Grosz of Harvard University, Martha E. Pollack of the University of Michigan, Carme Torras of the Robotics Institute at CSIC-UPC in Barcelona, and Francesca Rossi of Padova University as well as IBM Watson design leader Kathryn McElroy.

- More than 270 scientists in 37 countries, who have warned that interactions by devices controlled by complex algorithms “could create unstable and unpredictable behavior … that could initiate or escalate conflicts, or cause unjustifiable harm to civilian populations.” Signatories include Professors Geoffrey Hinton of the University of Toronto, Alan Bundy of the University of Edinburgh, Bruno Siciliano of the University of Naples, and James Hendler of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (former Chief Scientist of the Information Systems Office at the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency aka DARPA).

- More than 26 Nobel Peace Laureates, who are concerned that “leaving the killing to machines might make going to war easier.” This includes: Jody Williams, Juan Manuel Santos, Leymah Gbowee, Tawakkol Karman, Shirin Ebadi, José

Ramos-Horta, F.W. de Klerk, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Oscar Arias Sánchez, Archbishop

[illegible]

More than 160 religious leaders and organizations of various denominations, who called killer robots, "an affront to [illegible] conflict is often a contributing factor to global poverty. Use of weapons can contaminate and reduce agricultural [illegible] human dignity and to the sacredness of life." The signatories include South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the [illegible] land, destroy cities and economies, increase health care costs, and have long-term effects on the physical, mental, [illegible] Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, the Archbishop of Liverpool Rev. Malcolm McMahon, the Archbishop of [illegible] Jubaland Rev. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Religions for Peace Secretary General Dr. William Vendley, Maryknoll [illegible] there is growing recognition by the international community that there must always be human control over the use [illegible] Office for Global Concerns Executive Director Gerry Lee, and the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan [illegible] of force.

Banning killer robots would support peace and security, in turn contributing to sustainable development. The lack of [illegible] Killer robots would ensure retain the capital and resources within the use of force and decentralize banning fully [illegible] – The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the UN Special Rapporteur on the [illegible] rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in their joint report that drew attention to potential law [illegible] Enforcement use of weapon systems that would lack meaningful human control.

[illegible] a rules-based international order.

[illegible] weapons through a new international [illegible] Article 2 of the Fourth Geneva Convention [illegible] Force existing international humanitarian law and international human [illegible] rights law. And a ban on killer robots would prevent the slippery slope towards a lowering threshold for conflict and [illegible] the conduct of forever wars.

[illegible] contracts," Boston Dynamics owner Softbank said it will not develop killer robots as it does "not have a weapons [illegible] We will continue to engage with concerned states to advocate for a ban in international fora.

[illegible] The negotiation of a new international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons is also crucial because these [illegible] and seek to adopt one by the end of 2020; 3) Commit not to develop or acquire fully autonomous weapons and [illegible] Conventional Weapons (CCW) begin negotiations on a new killer robots protocol [illegible] and political violence.

[illegible] Although formal policy and [illegible] 2014 with civil society [illegible] been [illegible] Sustainable Development [illegible] in an effort to bring new countries, civil society [illegible] states both at the Convention on Conventional Weapons and the UN General Assembly, little progress has [illegible] groups, endorsers, and allies on board the call to ban killer robots.

Political will is growing, but the pace of action must quicken if we hope to prevent the consequences of fully [illegible] As the moral, ethical, legal, operational, technical, proliferation, international stability and other concerns raised by autonomous weapons.

[illegible] killer robots within the CCW in 2020 and 2021, there is no [illegible] CCW to address [illegible] for a new international treaty, [illegible] 2014, but have yet to [illegible] development of increasingly autonomous weapons. It is urgent that states pick up the pace and immediately launch negotiations on a treaty to ensure meaningful human control over the use of force, before it's too late.

For more information, visit www.stopkillerrobots.org.