UNIDIR invites you to the side event

The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies: Understanding Different Types of Risks

11 April 2016, 13h10–14h50, room XXIV
Palais des Nations

In the nascent discourse on autonomous weapon systems (AWS), discussion of "risk" has focused on the risks the use of such technologies could create in legal and ethical terms *if* these systems function in line with the intentions of their designers and operators, especially in matters of targeting and attack. Little attention has been paid, to date, to other types of risks—technological, strategic and unintentional risks.

How should we define risks, and how might they be managed, mitigated, or decreased? In relation to emerging technologies, who decides what level of risk is tolerable in a particular circumstance or course of action?

This event will focus on generating a broader understanding of the different types of potential risks that AWS may pose and how they might be managed, mitigated, reduced or eliminated.

Panelists include

- **Dr John Borrie** on unintentional risk
- **Dr Heather Roff** on the risks posed by new configurations of emerging capacities
- **Paul Scharre** on risk and strategic stability
- **Dr Wendell Wallach** on creative ways forward

Attendees are welcome to join us for a sandwich at 13h00
in front of the meeting room

For more information about UNIDIR's project "The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies", supported by the Governments of ***Canada, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands****, see http://bit.ly/1Rpqkiw*

About the Project

In 2013 UNIDIR launched an initial 18-month project on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies.

The project focused on advancing the nascent multilateral discussion by refining the areas of concern, identifying relevant linkages, and learning from approaches from other domains that may be of relevance to this topic. Rather than offering specific policy recommendations, the project's primary aim was to provide insights and conceptual frameworks that will enable policy-makers to better think, discuss and make informed decisions about autonomy in weapon systems.

Now in its second phase, the project continues to focus on bringing clarity to circular and polarized discussions on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies. Building on Phase I's successful format of small, expert-led discussions and public observation papers, the project examines substantive areas where there is common ground, identifies areas requiring further investigation and indicates where other fields and disciplines might usefully contribute to the discussion in the arms control community.

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Latest paper

The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies in the Maritime Environment:

Testing the Waters

Recent attention among governments, civil society organizations and the media has focused on technical, military, legal and ethical issues of the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies. Experts have suggested that fully autonomous weapons are likely to first appear in the relatively "uncluttered" maritime environment. Yet, policy-makers have directed relatively little attention to the specific issues and challenges in this environment that might be different or more acute than on land or in the air. This paper aims to shed light on these issues in order to inform the broader debate on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies. It is the fourth in a series of UNIDIR papers on increasingly autonomous technologies.

Available in pdf at www.unidir.org/publications

Other UNIDIR resources available for download:

- *Framing Discussions on the Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies*
- *The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies: Considering how Meaningful Human Control Might Move the Discussion Forward*
- *The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies: Ethics and Social Values*