

UNIDIR invites you to the side event

The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies:

Future Scenarios

Tuesday, 14 November 2017

8:30–9:45 **AND** 13:15–14:45

Room XXIV, UNOG

One of the challenges in the international discussion on increasing autonomy in weapon systems is that there isn't a shared vision of what future autonomous systems might look like. In addition, there are diverse views of how autonomy may be used in future weapons and in which contexts, as well as whether autonomous weapons are a near-, medium- or long-term concern.

The objective of this event is to support thinking on **how specific technologies or innovations could contribute to increasing autonomy in weapons systems**. What technological innovations might change our assessments about the time scale for AWS development? How might incremental increases in autonomous functions within a weapon system change different assessments: legal, strategic, operational, or ethical? How might technological breakthroughs in civilian applications be incorporated in weapon systems in unanticipated ways? Are development trajectories likely to be linear or to “leapfrog” in surprising ways?

Scenario-based planning is designed to help clarify thinking in a practical way. It also brings to the fore gaps or uncertainties that deserve further attention. This side event will present *specific* hypothetical future weapons and scenarios. While these scenarios may not represent the way that autonomy will develop in weapons, the scenarios are designed to represent plausible potential futures for how autonomy might develop over three different time frames—starting with near-term innovations, then 5 years and 15 years from now.

The event is divided into two sessions. The first, from 8:30 to 9:45, will focus on near-term technological developments, and from 13:15 to 14:45 will focus on longer term (5 to 15 year) horizons.

The two sessions will be different yet complementary and we encourage you to attend both in order to be presented with a spectrum of technological development scenarios.

The event will be moderated by **Kerstin Vignard** of UNIDIR and **Paul Scharre** of the Center for a New American Security.

Refreshments will be served at both sessions

For more information about the project “The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies”, visit http://bit.ly/UNIDIR_Autonomy