**The United States of America**

**Position for the General Assembly First**

1. **The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence**

The United States of America is deeply concerned about ensuring that Member States retain their sovereign rights and have the ability to protect their citizens and their own sovereignty in any way they see fit while upholding international law and global standards. Acknowledging the United States’ role as a crucial actor in international diplomacy and security, the United States is strongly concerned with protecting human life across international borders. The United States seeks to use its global influence to set an example for other Member States, so this technology can be used in ways that further promote peace and security.

The United States, during the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), presented a working paper that recommended the committee focus on promoting a global effort of accountability and ethical use of these emerging technologies. The United States encourages active research and development efforts with other Member States, existing global science and technology initiatives, and United Nations research and humanitarian bodies. The United States recommends collaboration on creating a “code of conduct” for future research, development, and use of these technologies.

As proposed at the GGE, the United States recommends four aspectsto address the necessary improvements for the future: 1) Application of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by clarifying how the requirements apply to homing munitions, decision support tools, and the reliance on autonomous weapons systems to select and engage targets; 2) Human Responsibility by ensuring these technologies cannot be used to evade accountability and encourage proper training techniques to inform commanders of the possible effects of LAWS; 3) Human-Machine Interaction by recommending training and development practices compliance with IHL to minimize civilian casualties, and 4) Weapons Reviews by encouraging legal weapon evaluations as needed and identifying potential risks. The United States expresses its hope for collaboration and participation of all Member States to create achievable solutions that respect each Member States’ sovereignty in this crucial matter.

1. **Combating the Global Illicit Arms Trade**

The United States of America has been monitoring the ongoing trade of illicit arms as it continues to pose an alarming threat to global security. The United States recognizes the work done by the United Nations within the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNDOA) and in the Security Council (UNSC). However, the United States emphasizes the need for Member States to act and implement the measures created by the body. The UN has done its job in creating guidelines to combat the trade of illicit arms, but these measures are ineffective if Member States do not implement them.

The United States recognizes the need for Member States to improve the management of weapons and ammunition as it is the key to preventing the trade of arms. The United States has actively engaged in working with other Member States to implement the UN Program of Action on small arms and light weapons established by the United Nations in 2001 and has become the single largest provider of such efforts. The United States in 2020 collaborated with the Republic of Ecuador to provide ammunition management training to their armed forces and supported the destruction of 220,000 obsolete small weapons ammunition. Since 2015, the United States has collaborated with the Republic of Niger to construct 30 storage facilities, trained personnel in physical security and stockpile management, and destroyed 15 tons of excess ordnance. The United States is committed to assisting Member States in implementing these guidelines.

The United States encourages Member States to implement these tools and guidelines and encourages the Security Council to continue to do so as well. The UNDOA noted the uneven implementation of the measures laid out by the United Nations amongst Member States. Emphasizing that the UN Program of Action was implemented first in 2001, this uneven implementation is discouraging given the time that has passed. The United Nations Security Council has passed Resolution 2220 addressing the illicit transfer, destabilization, accumulation, and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including Council-mandated arms embargos. Resolution 2370 address the need to prevent terrorist access to weapons. Seeing as these issues affect all Member States, the United States calls on Member States to implement these measures as stated in the UN Program of Action and the embargos addressed by the UN Security Council, as these measures are only effective once all Member States have done so. The work done by the United Nations has been sufficient. As our ambassador, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, stated in the Security Council last November, “the shortfall is in Member States’ national efforts to implement these measures.” Our focus should be on encouraging and supporting Member States’ efforts toward implementing these measures and not creating new ones.