**A Humanitarian Perspective on Military Artificial Intelligence**

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　Some of the most important developments in science and technology in recent years have been in machine learning, including the rapid development of large language models - AI tools have quickly attracted public attention, not only for their ability to generate text and images, or write code, but also for the risks that may come with some of their uses. I am therefore particularly pleased to participate in the discussion on strengthening international security management of AI at this year's Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

　　The International Committee of the Red Cross has drawn attention to several applications of artificial intelligence in armed conflict that have significant humanitarian implications from a humanitarian perspective. For example, certain military applications of artificial intelligence could increase the dangers posed by autonomous weapons, exacerbate the harm to civilians caused by cyber operations and information warfare, and negatively impact the critical role of human judgment in armed conflict. Most worryingly, some have suggested that artificial intelligence could be used to guide decisions on the use of nuclear weapons, which could increase the risk of their use with catastrophic consequences.

　　In recent years, China has published the "China's Position Paper on Strengthening the Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence" and the "China's Position Paper on Regulating the Military Application of Artificial Intelligence", and expressed concerns about the "lack of sound governance of artificial intelligence" in the recently released white paper "Working Together to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind: China's Initiatives and Actions". It is encouraging that China emphasizes that artificial intelligence should be "people-oriented" and should follow the principle of "artificial intelligence for good". This is interrelated with the "people-oriented approach" taken by the International Committee of the Red Cross to artificial intelligence in armed conflict - this approach focuses on retaining human control and judgment over weapons based on the legal obligations and moral responsibilities of participants in armed conflicts.

　　The ICRC's immediate concern is the high-risk application of artificial intelligence in today's armed conflicts. A key priority is therefore to address the dangers posed by the growing military development of autonomous weapons - weapons that select and use force against targets without human intervention. Such weapons raise serious humanitarian, legal and ethical issues, which are exacerbated by artificial intelligence, and the ICRC has been urging States to adopt new international rules to specifically prohibit and restrict these weapons.

　　On October 5, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross issued an urgent joint call for countries to complete the above-mentioned negotiations by 2026. The International Committee of the Red Cross stressed that autonomous weapons that directly target humans and unpredictable autonomous weapons, such as those controlled by machine learning, must be prohibited, while clear and specific restrictions must be set for all other weapons. This complements China's practice of clearly defining "unacceptable autonomous weapon systems" (which must be prohibited) and "acceptable autonomous weapon systems" (which must be regulated).

　　With the rapid development of today's weapons acquisition and their use in conflicts, the ICRC welcomes China's initiatives in this regard and encourages China to strengthen its efforts to gain support and cooperation from the regional and international community to draw clear legal red lines for autonomous weapons to protect present and future generations. The Beijing Xiangshan Forum provides a unique opportunity to seek dialogue in support of multilateral initiatives that effectively address contemporary challenges.

　　The ICRC attaches great importance to its ongoing dialogue with China, whether through the ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia in Beijing, through the relevant delegations of both sides to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and with the Chinese Permanent Mission in Geneva. I personally look forward to in-depth exchanges on these issues at the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

**About the Author:**

　　Neil Davison is a Senior Science and Policy Advisor in the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Department of the International Law, Policy and Humanitarian Affairs Department at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters in Geneva. He has represented the ICRC in multilateral disarmament discussions since 2011. He leads the ICRC's response to the challenges posed by emerging technologies such as autonomous weapons and military artificial intelligence.