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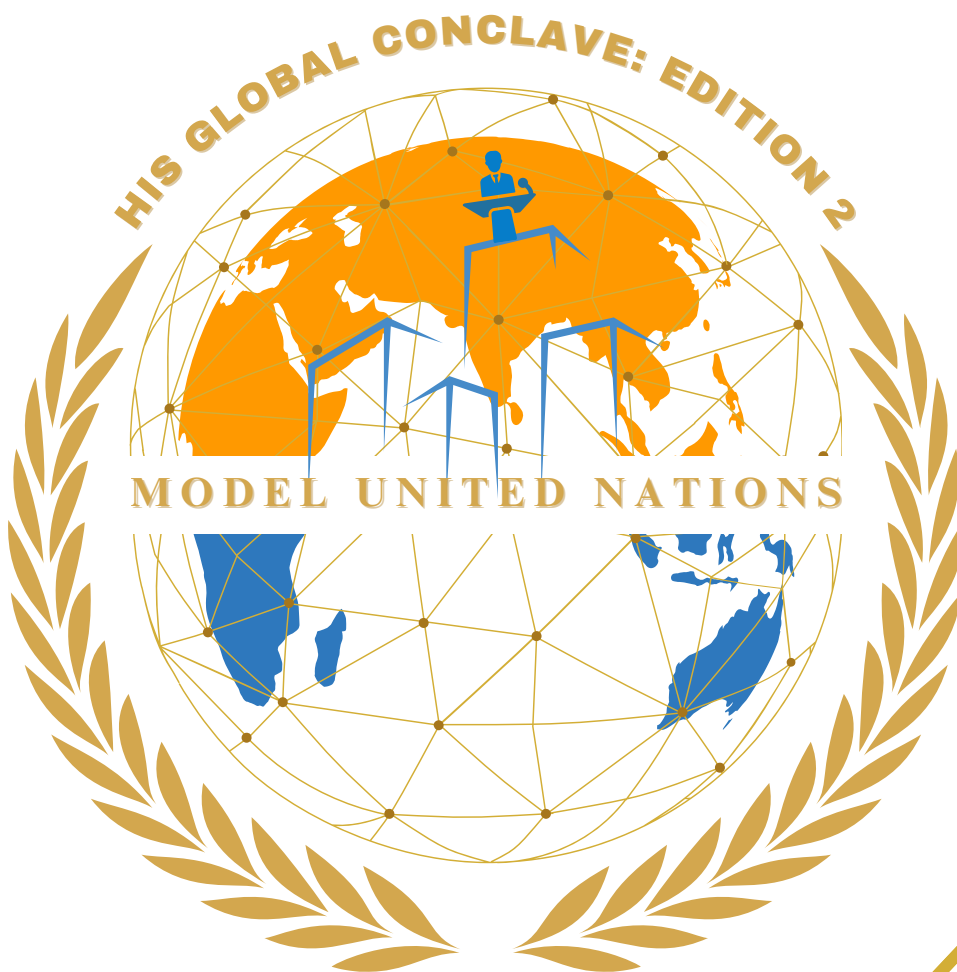
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**Karapakkam**



# BACKGROUND GUIDE

**NOVEMBER 05, 2025**



**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**  
“Fostering Global Dialogue for a Better Future”

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council at this HIS Global Conclave. As the primary organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council holds a unique position within the United Nations system, and we are honoured to guide you through this simulation of one of the world's most influential bodies.

This committee will address two critical agendas that define the contemporary landscape of global security: the regulation of autonomous weapons and artificial intelligence in warfare, and the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. These issues represent the intersection of technological advancement with traditional security concerns and the persistent challenge of protecting civilian populations during armed conflict.

As members of the Security Council, you carry the weight of representing not only your nation's interests but also the broader responsibility of collective security. The decisions you make in this committee will require balancing national sovereignty, humanitarian principles, technological progress, and strategic stability. We encourage you to engage in substantive debate, build coalitions across traditional divides, and seek innovative solutions to these complex challenges.

Throughout this conference, we expect rigorous research, diplomatic negotiation, and adherence to parliamentary procedure. Remember that effective diplomacy requires both firm principles and flexible tactics. Listen carefully to your fellow delegates, build consensus where possible, and do not shy away from difficult conversations.

We look forward to witnessing your diplomatic skills and collaborative spirit as you tackle these pressing issues. Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Executive Board. Best wishes for a productive and enlightening committee session.

Sincerely,  
Alven Aloysius  
Chairperson,UNSC  
Kishore E  
Santhosh Bezaleel  
ViceChairperson,UNSC

# History of the Committee

The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 under the United Nations Charter as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions that member states are obligated to implement under international law.

## Structure and Composition

The Security Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States) who possess veto power, and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. This structure was designed to reflect the geopolitical realities of the post-World War II era, ensuring that the world's major powers would remain engaged in the collective security system.

## Primary Responsibilities

Under Chapter VI and VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers include:

- Investigating disputes or situations that might lead to international friction
- Recommending methods for adjusting disputes or terms of settlement
- Determining the existence of threats to peace, breaches of peace, or acts of aggression
- Calling upon parties to settle disputes through peaceful means
- Imposing economic sanctions and other measures not involving armed force
- Authorizing military action to maintain or restore international peace and security
- Establishing peacekeeping operations and special political missions

# Agenda 1: Regulation of Autonomous Weapons and Artificial Intelligence in Warfare

## Introduction to the Agenda

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and autonomous technologies has created a new era of warfare that challenges existing legal frameworks. Autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)—often called "killer robots"—are weapons that can select and engage targets without meaningful human control. These range from automated defense platforms to potentially fully autonomous weapons capable of making life-and-death decisions independently.

Key questions include: Who bears responsibility when an autonomous system violates the laws of war? Can machines make ethical determinations in combat? How can the international community prevent a destabilizing AI arms race?

## Current State and Key Issues

Multiple nations are developing autonomous military capabilities including drone swarms, AI-enhanced targeting systems, and automated defense systems. While fully autonomous lethal weapons are not yet widely deployed, the technology is advancing rapidly. Concerns extend to algorithmic military decision-making, AI-enhanced cyber warfare, and the potential for AI systems to escalate conflicts faster than human decision-makers can respond.

## Legal and Ethical Concerns

International humanitarian law requires parties to distinguish between combatants and civilians, use proportional force, and minimize civilian harm. Critics argue autonomous weapons cannot fulfill these requirements due to lacking human judgment and moral agency. The principle of "meaningful human control" has emerged as central to debates—should critical lethal force decisions remain under human control, or might autonomous systems eventually make more precise decisions?

Accountability remains problematic: if an autonomous weapon commits a war crime, who is responsible—the programmer, commander, manufacturer, or political leadership?

## International Positions

Since 2014, discussions on LAWS have occurred within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons framework. Positions range from calls for preemptive bans to arguments for regulation within existing frameworks. Some nations emphasize potential for reduced civilian casualties through precision, while others stress fundamental incompatibility with humanitarian principles. Civil society groups like the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots advocate for prohibition, supported by many AI researchers warning of arms race risks.

# Agenda 2: The Ongoing Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

## Introduction to the Agenda

The conflict in Ukraine represents one of the most significant challenges to European security since the Cold War. Beginning with political upheaval in 2014, it escalated into armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russia's annexation of Crimea, followed by Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. The conflict has caused tens of thousands of casualties, displaced millions, and raised fundamental questions about sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the effectiveness of international security mechanisms.

The Security Council faces the challenge of addressing this crisis while Russia, a permanent member with veto power, is a party to the conflict.

## Historical Context

Following Ukraine's 1991 independence after the Soviet Union's dissolution, the country became a focal point between Russian and European interests. The 2013-2014 Euromaidan protests led to President Yanukovich's removal. Subsequently, Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014 following a disputed referendum, and armed conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region.

The Minsk Agreements (2014 and 2015) aimed to end the conflict but were never fully implemented. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion, claiming to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine—justifications rejected internationally.



## Humanitarian Crisis

The conflict has created one of Europe's largest humanitarian crises in decades. Millions have been displaced internally and as refugees. Civilian infrastructure including hospitals, schools, and homes has been extensively damaged. Credible reports document war crimes including attacks on civilians, executions, torture, and sexual violence.

Destruction of energy infrastructure has left millions without electricity, heating, and water. Food security has been affected globally, as Ukraine is a major grain exporter and the conflict has disrupted agricultural production and Black Sea export routes.

## International Response and Security Council Dynamics

Western nations have imposed extensive sanctions on Russia and provided military and financial assistance to Ukraine. Many countries in the Global South have adopted neutral positions. Russia has used its veto power to block Security Council resolutions, preventing decisive action. In March 2022, the General Assembly overwhelmingly condemned the invasion, demonstrating broad international opposition.

The conflict highlights questions about the Security Council's effectiveness when permanent members are involved in conflicts and debates about potential veto system reforms.

## Key Challenge

Resolving the conflict requires addressing immediate humanitarian needs while working toward sustainable political settlement. Critical issues include achieving ceasefire and troop withdrawal, protecting civilians, ensuring humanitarian access, accountability for international law violations, reconstruction, return of displaced persons, security guarantees for Ukraine, and addressing root causes of regional security concerns.

# Key Treaties and Frameworks Related to Autonomous Weapons and AI in Warfare

## Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980)

Also known as the Inhumane Weapons Convention, this treaty prohibits or restricts the use of specific types of weapons that cause unnecessary suffering. Since 2014, its Group of Governmental Experts has discussed the challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems.

## Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols

These form the foundation of international humanitarian law, establishing rules for the conduct of armed conflict and protection of non-combatants. Key principles include distinction between combatants and civilians, proportionality in use of force, and precautions to avoid civilian harm—all relevant to debates about autonomous weapons.

## Martens Clause

First articulated in 1899 and incorporated into subsequent humanitarian law treaties, this clause states that even in cases not covered by specific treaties, civilians and combatants remain under the protection of principles of international law derived from established custom, humanity principles, and public conscience.

## Biological Weapons Convention (1972) and Chemical Weapons Convention (1993)

While not directly applicable to autonomous weapons, these treaties provide precedents for preemptive prohibition of entire categories of weapons deemed inherently problematic, informing debates about whether similar approaches should apply to LAWS.



# Key Treaties and Frameworks Related to the Ukraine Conflict

## United Nations Charter (1945)

The foundational document of the UN system, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, and Chapter VII provisions authorizing the Security Council to take action in response to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression.

## Budapest Memorandum (1994)

An agreement in which Ukraine agreed to relinquish its nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union in exchange for security assurances from Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom regarding Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's actions are widely viewed as violations of these commitments.

## Minsk Agreements (2014 and 2015)

Two agreements aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine through ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weapons, and political measures including decentralization reforms. The agreements were never fully implemented and became defunct following the 2022 invasion.

## Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)

Establishes the ICC's jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The ICC has an active investigation into alleged crimes committed in Ukraine, despite Russia not being a party to the Rome Statute.

# Major Achievements and Global Initiatives

## Security Council Achievements in Arms Control and Regulation

### Resolution 1540 (2004)

A landmark resolution requiring all states to develop and enforce legal and regulatory measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors. This demonstrates the Council's ability to establish binding obligations on all UN member states regarding emerging security threats.

### Counter-Terrorism Framework

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Security Council established a comprehensive counter-terrorism framework, including Resolution 1373, which obligates states to prevent and suppress terrorist financing and deny safe haven to terrorists.

### Non-Proliferation Regime

The Council has played a crucial role in enforcing the nuclear non-proliferation regime, including sanctions regimes against North Korea and Iran related to their nuclear programs, and authorization of the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

## Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution

The Security Council has authorized numerous peacekeeping operations that have helped stabilize post-conflict situations, facilitate political transitions, and protect civilians. Successful missions have included operations in Cambodia, Mozambique, El Salvador, and Timor-Leste. Currently, the UN operates multiple peacekeeping missions across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

## Regional Initiatives on the Ukraine Crisis

### Normandy Format

Diplomatic negotiations involving Ukraine, Russia, France, and Germany aimed at implementing the Minsk Agreements, though largely inactive since the 2022 invasion.

### Humanitarian Corridors and Grain Exports

Despite the conflict, negotiations have achieved limited success in establishing humanitarian corridors for civilian evacuations and agreements to allow grain exports from Ukrainian ports, addressing global food security concerns.

### Reconstruction Planning

The international community has begun planning for Ukraine's eventual reconstruction, with estimates suggesting hundreds of billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild damaged infrastructure and the economy.

## Humanitarian Initiatives

### Protection of Civilians

Since 1999, the Council has increasingly addressed the protection of civilians in armed conflict, establishing this as a legitimate concern for international peace and security and mandating peacekeeping missions to protect civilian populations.

### Women, Peace and Security

Resolution 1325 (2000) recognized the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and the importance of women's participation in peace processes. Subsequent resolutions have built a comprehensive framework on women, peace, and security.

### Children and Armed Conflict

The Council has established mechanisms for monitoring and reporting violations against children in armed conflict, creating accountability for parties that recruit child soldiers or target children.

## Global Initiatives on Emerging Technologies

### UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda

"Securing Our Common Future" (2018) includes recommendations for addressing the risks posed by emerging technologies, including autonomous weapons systems and developments in artificial intelligence that could affect strategic stability.

### Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS

Operating under the CCW framework, this group has facilitated international dialogue on the challenges posed by autonomous weapons, developing guiding principles that emphasize human responsibility in the use of weapons systems.

### Global Commission on AI

Various international initiatives have sought to develop ethical frameworks for artificial intelligence, including military applications, bringing together governments, industry, academia, and civil society to address governance challenges.

## Conclusion

As delegates to the United Nations Security Council, you face the critical task of addressing two defining challenges of our time. The regulation of autonomous weapons and artificial intelligence in warfare requires you to anticipate future threats while establishing frameworks that balance security needs with humanitarian principles. The ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine demands immediate action to protect civilians while upholding the fundamental principles of the international order.

Your deliberations in this committee will shape responses to these crises and potentially establish precedents for how the international community addresses similar challenges in the future. Approach these agendas with the seriousness they deserve, engage constructively with delegates representing diverse perspectives, and remember that the decisions of the Security Council carry real consequences for peace and security worldwide.

We wish you productive debates and successful negotiations.

## Research Resources

- UN Security Council Official Website: [www.un.org/securitycouncil](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil)
- UN Office for Disarmament Affairs: [www.un.org/disarmament](http://www.un.org/disarmament)
- International Committee of the Red Cross: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)
- Arms Control Association: [www.armscontrol.org](http://www.armscontrol.org)
- International Criminal Court: [www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)
- Security Council Report: [www.securitycouncilreport.org](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org)