Artificial Intelligence and its Implications for International Peace and Security
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Friday 16 August, 2019 in S-2726

#Youth4Disarmament

Background
Young people around the world have a critical role to play in raising awareness and developing new strategies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, including their proliferation. It is imperative to listen, engage and work with this generation in discussions on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues.

Recognizing the role of young people in bringing about change, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has placed youth engagement at the core of its disarmament education efforts. The ultimate goal will be to increase youth participation and create spaces for them both on and offline to make meaningful substantive contributions in support of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts.

In celebration of the International Youth Day (12 August), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) launches a Youth for Disarmament dialogue on “Artificial Intelligence and its Implications on International Peace and Security”. Youth for Disarmament is an initiative of UNODA to connect young people with experts to learn about today’s international security challenges, the work of the United Nations and how they can become involved. The overall objective of Youth for Disarmament is to impart knowledge and skills to individuals that empower them to make their own contributions, as national and world citizens.

There is no universally agreed definition of artificial intelligence (AI). The term AI has been applied where computer systems imitate thinking or behaviour that people associate with human intelligence, such as learning, problem solving and decision-making. Recent developments in AI will likely have revolutionary impacts across the spectrum of human activity – from healthcare, to transport, manufacturing and education. However, it also has significant implications for international peace and security.

Much like electricity or the internal combustion engine, neither of which was intended for military purposes but greatly increased the lethality of combat, AI has the potential to transform warfare in ways that could potentially decrease stability and increase the likelihood of armed conflict, often with
unintended consequences. The use of AI in conflict also raises serious ethical and moral questions, including about the role of machines in making life or death decisions.

**Guiding Questions**

- What are the possible military applications of AI?
- What are the ethical and moral concerns about the military use of AI?
- How can human control be ensured?
- What are the potential benefits of military use of AI?

**Agenda**

11:00 Welcome & Introduction

11:10 Opening remarks

11:15 Panel Discussion

- Mr. Chris King, Head, Science and Technology Unit, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Dr. Emilia Javorsky (MD, MPH), Director, Scientists Against Inhumane Weapons, Future of Life Institute
- Ms. Eleonore Pauwells (PhD), United Nations University

12:15 Q &A

12:45 Closing remarks