United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Information and Outreach Branch
UN Plaza
Room S-3185
New York, NY, 10017, USA

Date: January 15, 2015

Subject: Endorsement of Autonomous Weapons ban call

Dear UN Directorate

Artificial intelligence and information technologies will contribute to substantial human progress in the next years. These endeavours should be appreciated but should also be closely monitored for negative side effects. One of such side effects is undoubtedly the phenomenon of autonomous offensive weapons that select and engage targets without human intervention. Dangers of such weapons were pointed out by many authoritative and influential individuals throughout the world as well as numerous organisations and societies.

Four Slovenian societies involved in artificial intelligence are adding their voices to this call against autonomous weapons with the aim to:
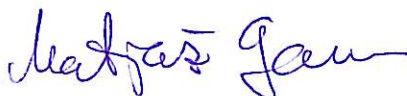- Divert artificial intelligence's course away from making killer robots that potentially pose a threat to humankind ..
- Extend the much needed ground rules for warfare to the use of artificial intelligence as has been the case with the ban of chemical and biological weapons

The open letter (Attachment 1), which is also available on http://futureoflife.org/AI/open_letter_autonomous_weapons, contains numerous reasons why experts in this field are concerned by autonomous weapons. At this stage, we would like to point out that the call has already been endorsed by thousands of important individuals as well as hundreds of national and international organisations including the International Federation for İnformation Processing (IFIP), which has passed this motion at the General Assembly meeting on 12th October 2015 in Daejeon, Seoul.

The initiative was discussed, analysed and publicly presented by the four Slovenian societies and the motion was passed during a round table discussion on October 1, 2015, at the premises of the Faculty of Computer and Information Science, University of Ljubljana (Attachment 2). We call upon you to organise a discussion in UN regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

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