



The Economist

Press Corps

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Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic 2: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) topic one is: LAWS (Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems). These are weapons that have no clear definition, although artificial intelligence is involved in how they operate. This is a pressing topic in our world today due to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, the expanding use of lethal weapons, and the future role of AI in warfare. Some nations believe they have a very strong potential, but other nations believe they raise ethical questions.

The Economist visited the MMUN (Montessori Model United Nations) conference, where delegates discussed the future of LAWS. In their opening speeches, the delegates discussed the issues and benefits of these weapons. The main takeaway was that creating international regulations would be supported by countless nations.

The Economist interviewed several delegates on their country's position on how these weapons should be used. Countries such as the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Ukraine, and the Republic of Korea believe that creating regulations or treaties that contain these weapons is the best way to make sure that AI does not get out of hand. They

believe that we cannot use these weapons when we do not know what they are fully capable of yet.

Although the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of South Africa, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan feel that there should be a total ban until we can fully understand what these AI weapons are capable of. But some nations believe that LAWS will bring benefits regarding their national security. These countries include the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is because these countries are under threat, and they believe that these LAWS will help dissolve that threat.

The Economist observed the DISEC committee session when the Informal Consultation was happening. The delegates broke down this conflict into four sub-topics. The first sub-topic was the Potential of LAWS. The second one was Human Intervention. The third sub-topic was the Danger of LAWS, and the fourth was the Definition and Regulation of LAWS.

Lethal autonomous weapons systems raise many ethical and safety concerns. International treaties or meetings seem to be the best approach to see if these weapons can be used, or if they can be used at all.