

The Debate on a Regulation of **LAWS**

April 16th, 2024

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Initiative

CAMPAIGN TO **STOP**  **KILLER ROBOTS**
StopKillerRobots.org



Processes





* = 11 guiding principles; mandate to work on “clarification, consideration and development of aspects of the **normative and operational framework**”

 = no consensus for a report, almost no mandate for following years

**Multilateral
regulation?**

No

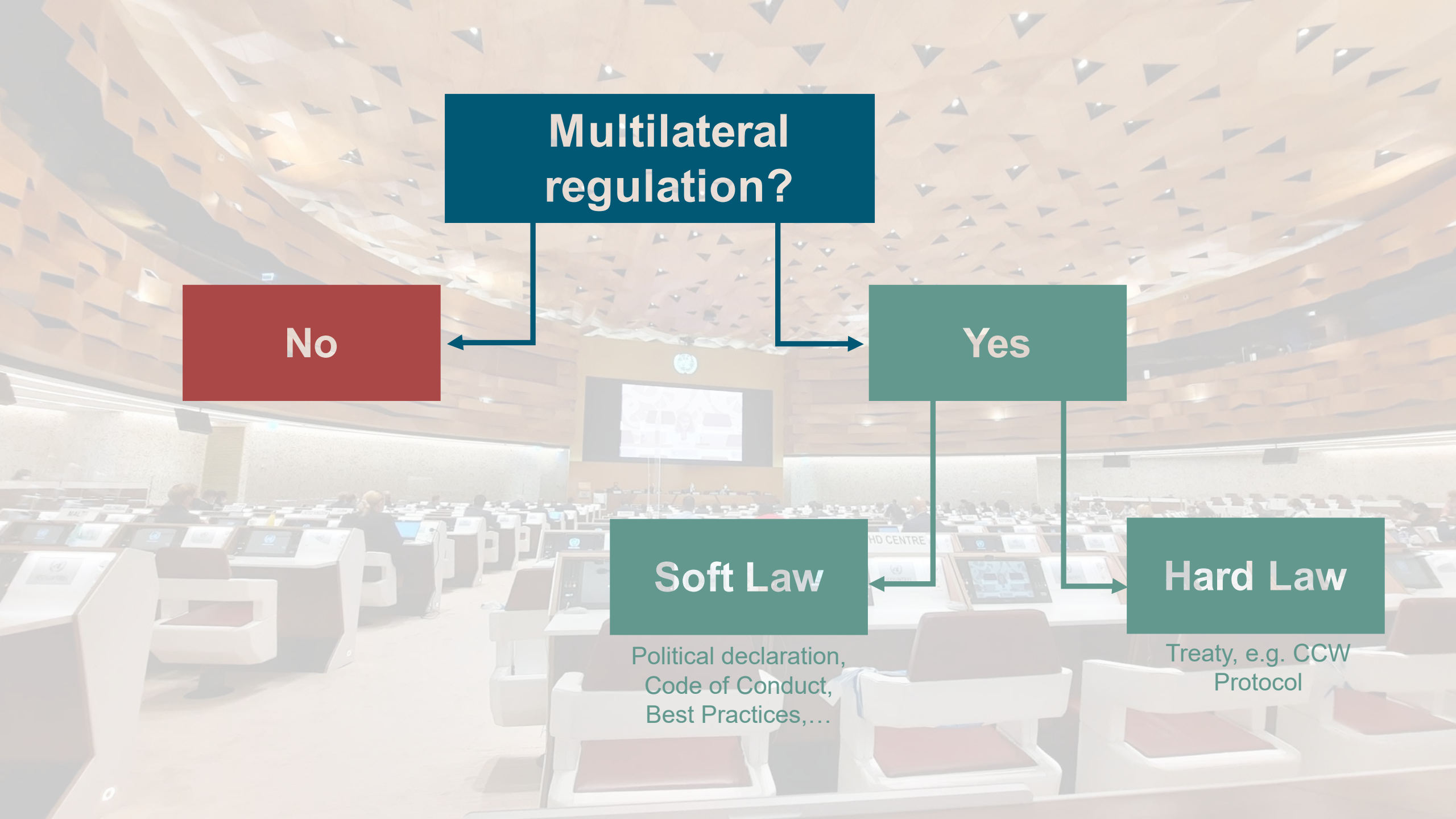
Yes

Soft Law

Political declaration,
Code of Conduct,
Best Practices,...

Hard Law

Treaty, e.g. CCW
Protocol



Content



view of potential military deployment, the risk of loss of life, and the potential loss of life, must be considered under IHL, including but not limited to the system to control the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems, the risk of proliferation, and risk of acquisition by unauthorized persons. Investigation measures can include: rigorous testing, readily understandable human-machine interaction, establishing doctrine and procedures, and circumstances of engagement.

Consideration should be given to the possible effects of emerging lethal autonomous weapons systems on regional and global security thresholds for armed conflict.

Research and development of autonomous technologies should be based on the sole rationale that such technologies could be used for the same time, given the dual use nature of the underlying technology. Lethal autonomous weapons systems, it is important to promote responsible use of such technologies.

Under the same agenda item, the Group considered a range of aspects, described in the Chair's summary, including the following aspects that may benefit from clarification:

Some delegations argued that emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems could aid the human operator in complex combat situations and evaluation of the system in complex operational environments. Other delegations argued that such technologies could be capable of being used in situations requiring human decision-making.

Recommendations

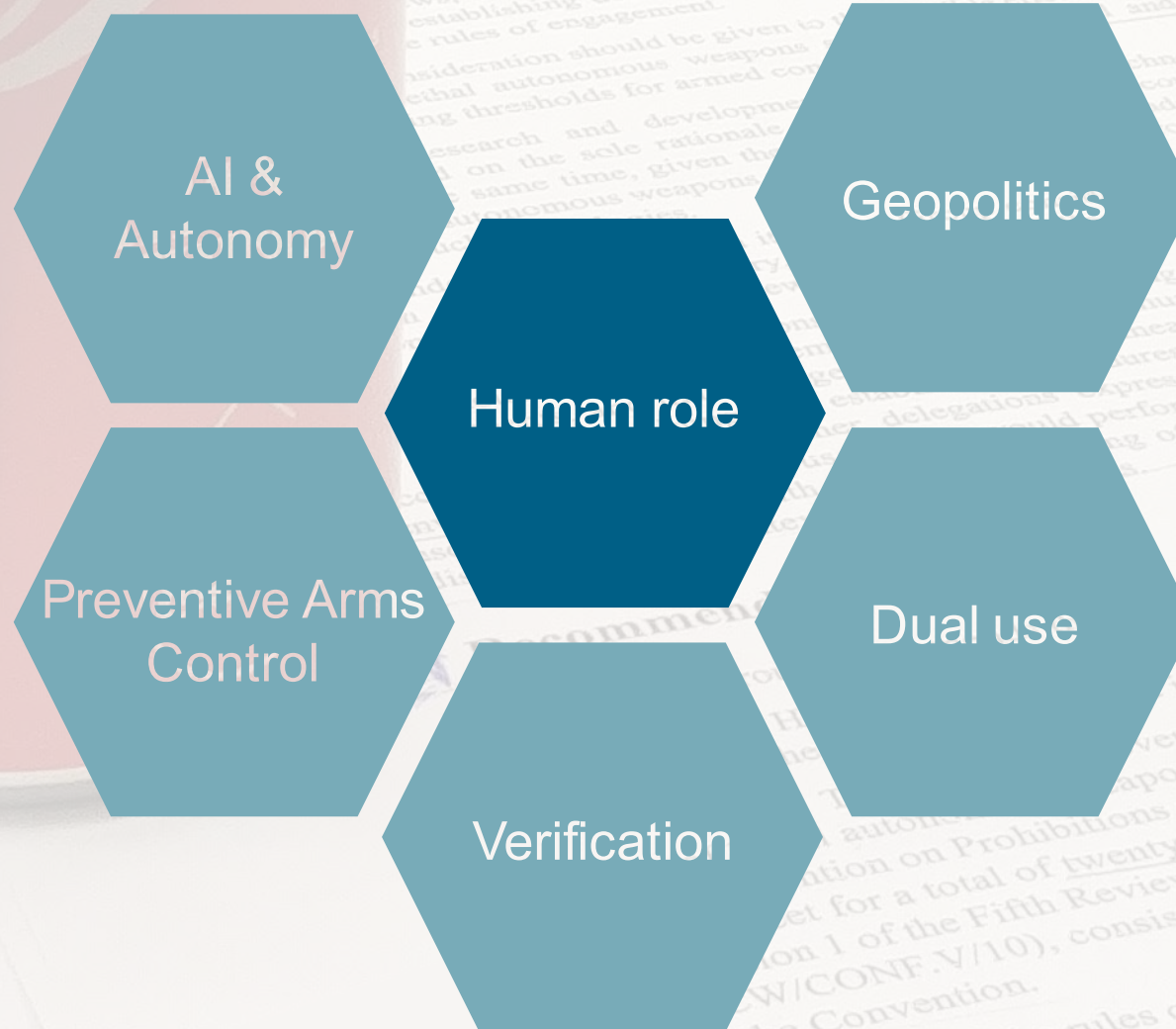
24. The Group recommends that:

- High Contracting Parties, at their 19th Meeting, endorse the guidelines affirmed by the Group as contained in Annex IV of this report.
- The Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objective of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons shall meet for a total of twenty-five days over 2020 and 2021 in Geneva, in accordance with Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/CONF.V/10), consistent with CCW/CONF.V/2 and subject to the Convention.
- The rules of procedure of the Review Conference shall be submitted to the meeting of High Contracting Parties to the 2021 Sixth Review Conference. The widest possible participation should be encouraged.

Content

- difference between reports and discussions
- Human „something“, human-machine interaction
- Focus on platform
- Life cycle of a weapon system
- Not
 - Cyber dimension
 - AI by itself (just one enabling technology)
 - Infrastructure or decision-support systems

Challenges



Commonalities

- Some form of regulation
- Purpose & framework: compliance with international law, esp. IHL
- Consideration of ethics
- **Human role at the center of considerations**
 - Design, development, use
 - **ensuring an appropriate level of human involvement throughout the life-cycle of the weapon system**
 - human agency, human responsibility and accountability, legal weapons testing, risk minimization



Outcome

Elements of a Normative Framework: One Option

Hard Law:
general rules

Treaty:
obligation to apply sufficient human control, i.e.,
prohibition of (L)AWS

Including:

Guiding principles

Requirements for design,
development & use

Transparency/ verification

Reviews & advisory board

Soft Law:
specifications

+ best practices & scenarios on operational context,
interfaces, weapon reviews, training,...

+ comments, manuals,...

+ others, e.g., ethic guidelines, standards,...

CCW + NATO
+ EU + national

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Picture credits:

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