FORUM: Disarmament Commission

QUESTION OF: Measure to Curtail the Negative Impact of the Development of Military Drones

MAIN-SUBMITTER: Portugal

CO-SUBMITTER: Saudi Arabia, Iran, India, Pakistan, Germany, Japan, Syria, China, Italy, Afghanistan

THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION,

*Observing* the increasing tensions surrounding drones in the international community,

*Realizing that* military drones provide risk mitigation and cost-effective ways of gathering intelligence in remote or hazardous locations,

*Bearing in mind* that the military drones have been predicted to grow from USD 14.14 billion in 2023 to USD 35.60 billion in 2030, forecasting a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14.10%,

*Aware of* 120 military drone accidents since 2009,

*By noting* that military drones were responsible for over 1,700 civilian casualties in conflict areas in 2020,

*Further noting* the decrease in terrorism and casualties, with around a 75% decrease in fatalities and 35% curtailment in attacks per year,

1. Strongly urges the United Nations (UN) to establish a formal, international treaty for military drones with provisions such as but not limited to:
	1. International laws for designing, manufacturing, and using combat drones, with provisions such as but not limited to:
		1. making sure that military drones are only used in line with the concepts of difference, balance, and military necessity,
		2. mandating that drones can only be used with the consent of the territorial state, for instance, if a non-state armed group were operating in that state, and in self-defense, by authorization of the UN Security Council, and other legal military reasons,
		3. ensuring that military drones are only flown by qualified and trained people who follow set rules of engagement and standard operating procedures,
		4. defining what types of drone attacks constitute an open declaration of war and which constitute mere self-defense to prevent the use of drones in an “eternal war,”
	2. Establishing an international law, established by formal international organizations like the United Nations (UN), for protecting civilians from military drones through means such as but not limited to:
		1. classifying drone attacks not made under a declaration of war that led to a certain number of casualties as human rights violations, depending on the classifications of wars according to internationally established laws,
		2. restricting violators of human rights through travel bans, trade restrictions, political isolation, etc.,
		3. granting civilian victims of drone attacks protected status and legal protections;
2. Calls upon member states to form a new branch of the United Nations called the United Nations Committee on Drone Regulation and Development (UNCDR) with goals such as but not limited to:
	1. Creating limits for the annual production of military drones by member states in order to:
		1. ensure military drones are used for targeted attacks that reduce civilian casualties,
		2. eliminate the threat of mass drone attacks, which would lower the threshold for the use of force and lead to dramatic civilian casualties,
	2. Establishing limits for the international trade of drones,
	3. Ensuring all member states are well-equipped to deal with drone attacks by creating an international information pool on counter-drone and drone monitoring technology,
	4. Calling upon More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to assist Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) in manufacturing and utilizing such technology through means such as but not limited to:
		1. sending experts from MEDCs to inspect and recommend improvements to the counter-drone or drone-detecting facilities of LEDCs,
		2. asking MEDCs to donate counter-drone or drone-detecting technology to LEDCs,
	5. Holding biannual meetings to reaffirm the alliance’s goals as drone technology advances, discuss progress, adjust and create new objectives, and implement specific means of achieving said objectives,
	6. Ensuring the privacy and security of each member state’s military drone developments by limiting drone surveillance for member states who agree to usage quotas,
	7. Conducting further research about the proper usage of drones and decrease of casualties through means such as but not limited to:
		1. researching the casualties in wars with and without drones by gathering and computing the data of wars from the same countries on wars with and without drones,
		2. furthering editing drone restrictions in five years to adjust regulations according to data;
3. Suggests member nations to invest in the development of counter-drone technologies in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Providing tax cuts or subsidiaries to private companies that work with member states to develop and implement anti-drone technology,
	2. Holding annual meetings where drone experts from each country gather to develop and share ideas on new drone surveillance technology, which include but are not limited to:
		1. acoustic sensors, such as microphones,
		2. Radio Frequency (RF) Analyzers,
		3. AI-powered Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS), such as Indraja;
4. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) support people who are damaged by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Providing for displaced victims through means such as but not limited to:
		1. creating temporary shelter for families and adults who are living in the regions deemed dangerous,
		2. sending volunteers to feed through temporary food shelters, clothe, and protect such victims,
		3. creating a website for victims to connect to the local families who are willing to provide them with shelter, food, donations, and other necessities to victims,
	2. Protecting the health of drone victims through means such as but not limited to:
		1. therapy for people suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and drone-related anxiety,
		2. setting up temporary medical stations and sending volunteer medical personnel to attend to physical injuries,
	3. Enacting preventative strategies for protecting civilians from drone attacks through means such as but not limited to:
		1. teaching civilians how to act in case of a drone attack through instructional videos and increased public awareness of the dangers posed by drone attacks,
		2. constructing drone bunkers for civilians to hide in during drone attacks,
		3. implementing drone sensors and sirens in areas prone to drone attacks in order to alert civilians when they retreat to said bunkers,
	4. Targeting those most severely affected by creating a Drone Attack Severity Index (DASI) that considers both the frequency and lethalness of drone attacks to assess long-term damage,
	5. Gaining information about the needs and desires of specific groups of drone victims through means such as surveys in order to more effectively target their security needs,
	6. Training and hiring environmental victims to work with and/or join NGOs in order to help them regain control of their lives and improve national economic stability by using their contributions to increase GDP and strengthen economic markets;
5. Requests the United Nations and relevant non-government organizations (NGOs) to encourage the public to lobby for moderate drone regulation in their own countries through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Posting articles about both the dangers large-scale drone attacks pose to civilians and the positive effects of drones in order to adequately represent them in the media through means such as but not limited to:
		1. spreading statistically correct information that is biased toward neither side,
		2. social media apps such as TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook,
		3. newspapers,
		4. billboards,
		5. national public service advertisement,
	2. Creating a website that reports on both the dangers of large-scale drone attacks and the benefits of limited drone strikes and that also:
		1. organizes donations for drone lobbying,
		2. connects individuals interested in drone lobbying;
6. Regulates the drone industry through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Investing more technology and money for more development in drone safety, through means such as but not limited to:
		1. investment from the Ministry of National Defense for enough budget for further development in technology, such as Infrared Thermography (IRT) and Hyperspectral Imaging (HIS),
		2. further education of professional engineers for military drones specifically to expand the industry of military drones speeding up the technology growth,
	2. Investing money and manpower for faster development if the development of industry seems necessary:
		1. encourage the United Nations (UN) to create specific regulations for the production and development of military drones,
		2. countries or military forces having threats or attacks from external forces needing the support of military drones can request for less limitation of the development or possession of military drones;
7. Suggests that pilots receive further training on drone operations to decrease the mistakes of making unnecessary damage unrelated to the target, which would increase the reliability of military drone operations through means such as but not limited to:
	1. Providing funds and support from the Ministry of National Defense for military capability through means such as but not limited to:
		1. increase budget for military drones,
		2. make an agreement between the military and the Ministry of National Defense appointing the fund and support,
	2. Advertising the military drone operators aiming for volunteers wanting to join or gathering funds from citizens:
		1. post information or resources about military drone pilots on social media used by many people, like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, etc.,
		2. provide information about the qualifications and requirements to become a military drone operator.