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Legal Review of New Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare

Dr Gilles Giacca
Arms Unit, ICRC Legal Division



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Key questions

- Why legal reviews are important?
- What is the scope of the review and how should it be done?
- What are the specific challenges posed by autonomous weapon systems?



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Article 84, Additional Protocol I

Rules of application: “The High Contracting Parties shall communicate to one another ... their official translations of this Protocol, as well as the laws and regulations which they may adopt to ensure its application.”



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What is the scope of the review and how should it be done?

A GUIDE TO THE LEGAL REVIEW OF NEW WEAPONS, MEANS AND METHODS OF WARFARE

MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 36 OF
ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL I OF 1977



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What are the specific challenges posed by autonomous weapon systems?

- **Do you have specific policy/guideline regarding autonomous weapon systems?**
- **Does the reviewing authority attach conditions/restrictions on a new weapon (e.g. rules of engagement, standard operating procedures, or instructions)?**
- **Where weapons are procured from private manufacturers, police, or foreign suppliers, do you rely on their technical specifications and description of the weapon's performance, or do you do your own testing of the weapon?**



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- **How is the reliability of the weapons tested? How potential unpredictability of robotic systems could affect legal reviews processes? Has your State developed any standard on testing and validation? What is the level of reliability considered to be acceptable?**
- **Does the review mechanism undertake common testing with other States?**
- **Are weapons already fielded in the battlefield subject to regular review based on its technical performance?**