



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

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## VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations Secretary-General of the United Nations and on 15 March 2018, requesting information on the status of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of measures taken to strengthen the existing international law in respect to its dissemination and full implementation. We would like to refer to the response given in 2014, which we would like to provide the following information:

At the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva from 8–10 December 2015 Finland participated in the conference and undertake and support a study looking into the application of international humanitarian law in the context of autonomous weapons systems by Dr. Jari Paavola. The report 'Autonomous Weapons Systems and Humanitarian Law: 'Out of the Loop'' was completed in 2017. The report was prepared by the Finnish Institute of International Law Research Unit. The end product is a very readable report that discusses the legal implications of lethal autonomous weapons systems and the decision to use lethal force from humans. The report also discusses LAWS from the vantage point of international humanitarian law and precaution as well as touches upon the issue of accountability. Drawing on a variety of materials the report makes several recommendations which highlight the importance of the selection and engagement of targets when using autonomous weapons systems.

The report can be downloaded free of charge from the website <http://formin.fi/and.fi/pub>

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The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations Secretary-General of the United Nations would like to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations our request for your consideration.

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations