



**GA1:** Disarmament and International Security  
Committee

**Student Officer:** Alp Süner

**Issue:** Evaluating the implications of automation and artificial intelligence on national security and defense industries

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## I. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technical term that, in today's world, refers to the ability of automated machines to conduct human-esque actions or "think" as humans do. The term was first introduced in the 1930s by the father of modern computing, Alan Turing.

His concept of the terms was a machine that could make human-like abstractions of different topics, also referred to as "The Turing Machine." Which, in abstraction, is a machine that can think like humans and conduct complex operations like humans do. Nowadays, the same concepts set forth by the infamous codebreaker are still being used but in much more advanced settings.

The use of AI today is being implemented in many fields, as generative AI has taken the world by storm. Especially in Central and South America, the area of the world commonly referred to as the USA's backyard, nations face pressing issues with the rapid acceleration of the development of AI. In recent years, the USA has developed AI-enhanced defense and surveillance systems, such as the advanced automated Scylla system (Shinego, 2024) that conducts security sweeps of army depots. These technologies can prove to be beneficial for many nations. Still, they may also be dangerous for mal-motivated world powers trying to exploit weaker nations like Central and South America.

In the context of Central and South America, AI becomes crucial in the implementation and use of automated systems. The world's significant powers heavily influence the area and will need to adapt to the changing ways of surveillance, defense, and warfare. The region is not severely underdeveloped but lackluster in its current level of development; an inadequate implementation of AI systems can prove faulty for all those involved in the changeover processes.

Central and South America may also be called Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). US policies highly influence the area and have been caught by the AI wave. Nations such as Argentina are using automated systems to spot organized crime activities and have succeeded in doing so. The implementation of such systems can have negative and positive implications. LAC is an entrepreneurial area, and these advancements can cause an arms race between the nations of LAC in the USA's backyard. The effect of Russia and China cannot be undermined either; the USA's most prominent rivals have created significant spheres of influence in the area, such as the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa



(BRICS). Their cyber competition with the US has reached alarming rates in the last few years, and their influence in the region cannot be undermined.

Additionally, implementing such systems in LAC could be difficult as the area does not currently have the industrial infrastructure to sustain such changes. Organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are innovating to find sustainable changeover methods for the area as advancements are approaching fast. Adequate change management is systematically necessary to ensure safe infrastructure changeover throughout LAC.

The unprecedented rise of AI, coupled with the increased competition in the region caused by the stirring of issues conducted by world powers, is a significant issue that has to be solved immediately. However, this competition can also prove beneficial for some of these nations. LAC is an area that has had many political and military disturbances in the past. The rise of AI in defense infrastructure could be an immediate solution to many nations' problems. Foreign intervention in crises ached in the area have been lingering issues, such as the Venezuelan economic crisis and their exploitation for oil or the UK's grasp on commonwealth nations and signs of weak independence efforts in LAC.

In conclusion, the rapid increase in the use of automation and AI will be crucial in altering the functions of traditional industries as the world order will shift towards the ones who can control AI and are not controlled by it. LAC is a region dominated by the world's major powers, and their independence from those powers depends on their ability to use AI in their industries as those same world powers begin to expand their control over Latin America's industries. Global collaboration is crucial in protecting the implementation of such systems to preserve peace within and around Latin America and to protect the nation's sovereignty.

## II. Involved Countries and Organizations

### The United States of America

The USA is the major player in the region. After years of pulling the strings in LAC, they continue demonstrating their power over their neighbors to the south. Their actions in their "backyard" have been widely recognized over the past decades. The USA, being the leader in AI development by far, has been developing AI-enhanced military and defense systems for an extended period. The USA has been defined as the Kickstarter of the autonomous weapons era (Hiebert, 2024) and is looking to spread it along its spheres of influence through such means. Another pillar of the USA's interest in the area is their production of autonomous systems. As the leader in autonomous weapon production, establishing its influence in the region is in the USA's best interest. The USA also faces some issues in the area as a prominent Russian ally,



Mexico, is its neighbor to the south, a nation that can refute the USA's expansion using AI. BRICS member Brazil is also a solid representative of Chinese and Russian views.

The USA views these opportunities as a means to establish its dominance of the region. The US sees this possible expansion as a way to increase its power over the region and decrease the influence of exterior powers in the area. Already, politically troubled nations such as Venezuela pose as battlegrounds for the USA and its rivals; the nations will aim to hold their influence over Venezuela.

The USA and some of its current and former political officials have made comments on this issue, and some are as follows:

Joseph R. Biden (Current President of the USA) issued an executive order in 2024 about standards made in AI advancement

"Develop standards, tools, and tests to help ensure that AI systems are safe, secure, and trustworthy" was a central topic in the president's executive order. This reflects the USA's stance that standards must be prioritized to make safe changeovers of infrastructure, especially regarding AI.

As mentioned in White House records, the former Trump administration (2016-2021) made agreements to create expansions within the AI industry. The administration also made advancements in AI in the government. Trump (The new president-elect) also has an infamous outlook on Latin America, which may slow advancements in AI within Latin America.

## Colombia

Colombia needs many of the technological benefits offered by AI in essential industries. The most important of which is the detailed and planned drug dealing operations going on in Colombia; the country has been riddled with organized crime for the past decades.

It will be in Colombia's best interest to endorse investments for their AI development programs as it could be one of the key ways to solve the most prominent issue the republic has faced. Organized crime and drug trafficking are issues that have recently been solved through the use of AI.

Since Colombia is a developing nation, they are just newly approaching the sector of AI. In recent years, the government of Colombia passed a law that would officially begin the development of AI through pre-set guidelines, marking the beginning of the national development of AI. This has broad implications for weapons and security systems that may be implemented nationwide. The bill is named Bill 059 of 2023, passed by the Colombian parliament.



## Brazil

Brazil is the principal actor in Latin America, and the lone BRICS member in the region could prove an ally or an enemy to US aims. Although a member of the Russia and China-led alliance, Brazil has recently moved closer to the US and its goals in the area. Brazil defines AI as a source of “national sovereignty” (Reuters, 2024) for their nation. This could lead to them becoming more autonomous from the reach of BRICS or the USA.

Brazil may view these opportunities as opportunities to establish its solid regional leadership. Their connection to the USA and Russia could affect Brazil’s overall aims for the issue and could directly affect their decisions.

Brazil has also made significant propositions regarding AI investments and has been vocal about them. The nation’s outlook on the issue and its goals of expanding its influence within the area could be motivating forces for added competition with other countries.

The Brazilian Congress has had discussions about the malicious use of AI. However, Brazil has often stated during Jair Bolsanaro’s rule that AI is how Brazil can impose its strength over LAC.

## Mexico

The same goes for Mexico. Organized crime and developed Cartels are the biggest threats to domestic peace all over Colombia. The nation’s well-being can be protected if available AI systems are implemented. Unlike Colombia, Mexico also deals with mass immigration from its northern border; an AI or autonomous system could be the key to providing optimal border control for the nation’s police force.

It will be in Mexico’s interest to accelerate the development of AI in the region, as border control will be necessary. This may align with US intentions as both nations will most likely aim for the same goals regarding controlling the borders.

As stated by UN sources, Mexico does not have a national plan for AI or autonomous systems.



### III. Focused Overview of the Issue

#### The History of AI

AI was born with the introduction of the “Turing Machine” idea. Alan Turing dreamed of a machine that could think and act like a human. The accomplished mathematician is, after all, renowned as the father of computer science and as the man who pioneered the breaking of the enigma cipher. His theoretical, philosophical, and somewhat abstract idea was later turned into an actual, less abstract notion. With the introduction of AI in 1955, the beginning of AI was marked.

Nowadays, AI is being implemented in all industries in many nations around the globe. However, implementing AI in Latin America is slower than in other regions. LAC is a relatively less wealthy region than other regions that can produce sophisticated AI systems. The systems that can be made are much weaker and less refined than those in more affluent nations, as there is a lack of funding and investments.

#### The Economic Situation of the Region

There are geographical reasons for the region's less wealthy nature overall. One is previous colonialism that has hurt the entire area.



Picture 1: The Map of LAC



This region has been economically damaged by centuries of colonialism, which has decreased welfare all around. Therefore, the region needs a boost in industries fueled by foreign investments. However, such investments have to be made with care. A sudden boom may lead to issues caused by incompatible changeover methods.

Therefore, the talk of AI or autonomous weapons in the area is a much larger issue. Such autonomous systems may cause power vacuums in the area due to the region's weak nature. Autonomous systems will naturally be critical in providing security for many nations and people. Still, they will also tip the scales in favor of the more powerful nations of the region being backed by the USA.

### Ramifications of US Interests

The USA is the principal actor in the region. As the strongest nation on the planet and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leader, the USA dictates most of the weapons shipments worldwide. LAC is commonly defined as the USA's backyard, and the nation's influence in the region cannot be understated. As the number one manufacturer of autonomous weapons, the USA will dictate the implementation of newer AI-led weapons all around the region.

The USA may also aim to use the autonomous systems to their benefit; the immense amounts of data collected by the mentioned autonomous weapons could aid the USA in articulating the nation's safety according to their self-interest. Especially with BRICS presence in the area, the USA will aim to implement new systems by possibly restricting the nations' autonomy.

Below is an example of the USA's developed weapons systems. The most advanced military drone on the planet, it may be used for surveillance that LAC nations may need. Still, it also feeds intelligence directly to the US and, therefore, can be used by the USA to gain data that may be used maliciously when considering their interests.

Brazil is a principal BRICS member and is the strongest Latin American nation. The USA, therefore, has a conflict of interests with Brazil and BRICS. The US will naturally aim to protect its sovereignty and thereby jeopardize the independence of neighboring nations.

In conclusion, the inclusion of US interests within the issue will increase tension in the area, resulting in even less autonomy for the nations present in the issue. Increased US interest means increased BRICS interest, which would turn LAC into a medium for a cold war between two united blocs. The manufacturing of new autonomous US weapons has to be conducted in good faith so that LAC will prosper into an autonomous region.



Picture 2: The USA's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

As seen above, the USA manufactures some of the most sophisticated autonomous equipment on the planet and could be a significant threat to many LAC nations. These systems could also benefit the security systems of nations that suffer from increased crime rates and immigration problems, two issues that preside all over the region.

### Ramifications of the Implementation of Autonomous Systems

First and foremost, such an implementation of systems will have to be controlled throughout the entire process, as AI systems are ones that even the developers of the systems cannot fully comprehend. The developers create the networks through which AI behaves. However, even the best developers are unaware of the neural networks' behavior. Hence, not only can the systems be used with malicious intentions, but in the future, they can also be dangerous otherwise.

Therefore, many conventions have been adopted, and resolutions have been passed. The UN has aimed to solve any issue that may result from the implementation of the weapons. The resolutions detail benchmarks for how and where such systems should be implemented. However, the strongest nations that have already utilized such weapons have not fully abided by them and have been adamant about refusing this reality. One of them is the US; the leading world powers have been more independent recently.





Also, summits and meetings such as the Summit on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy have been held to discuss the possible ways of correctly implementing such systems that will cause the least amount of ramifications.

In conclusion, implementing autonomous systems is not only costly but may also prove dangerous in certain circumstances. As time passes, nations become overly tempted by the production of newer systems but forget the ethical consequences that come with the production of such systems. As previously stated, benchmarks have been placed, and limitations have been created, but to no avail.

### The Needs of LAC Nations in Security

Although these systems are shown to be dangerous, that does not mean they should be ignored altogether; quite the opposite is true: such systems have to be implemented in areas such as LAC to protect the autonomy of nations. Many examples could be provided for this outlook on the issue.



Picture 3: Depicting Organized Crime in Mexico

One of the leading examples is organized crime. The most evident case is the one in Mexico, where organized crime gangs control land and trade. AI systems could monitor such units to benefit the nation's overall state of security, which has deteriorated substantially due to the increasing crime and violence caused by the gangs as mentioned above.



Picture 4: Colombia's Former Drug Lord in Captivity.

Such technologies could also be used in the surveillance of the drug trade, which is a rising issue in the entirety of LAC and has been one for an extended period. Surveillance systems are vital parts of national security and must be implemented correctly to not only imprison and capture the correct people but also prevent wrongful imprisonments.

In general, a more robust surveillance system will fully contribute to overall national security and will be crucial in protecting the rights of the people.

### The Needs of LAC Nations in Defense

Defense is an issue that has been discussed thoroughly but needs more elaboration. LAC is an area dominated by US influence but has hints of BRICS influence led by the growing world power Brazil and the already capable Mexico, which is not a member but a close ally.

Such systems can prove to benefit these nations as they will be able to gain autonomy against the USA. However, using such defense systems will come with limitations and ramifications. Since the region cannot produce such sophisticated systems, they will most likely gather the systems from other world powers. This will lead to a decrease in autonomy and limit the nation's ability to retain its self-interests in defense issues that may interest them.



These nations will, therefore, have to collaborate if they want to provide newer and more advanced weapons without being monitored constantly. Hence, the need for outside assistance will decrease more and more as LAC nations begin to work together on such issues.

## IV. Key Vocabulary

### Artificial Intelligence:

A digital computer or computer-controlled robot can perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from experience. AI is central to the issue and is the leading cause of the actual issue at hand.

### Autonomous Systems:

An agent or system comprised of a machine being driven or controlled by some form of autonomy. An autonomous system constantly interacts with humans. Autonomous systems are crucial as such systems are central to the agenda item and are essential for delegates to comprehend.

### Autonomy:

The ability to perform complex tasks with substantially reduced human intervention for increasingly extended periods, sometimes at remote distances. Autonomy is also significant as the word provides a base for defining the term autonomous systems.

### Commission:

A group of people who have been formally chosen to discover information about a problem or examine the reasons why the problem exists. Commissions, as aforementioned, have been employed previously to solve the issue at hand. Some commissions have already been created on the issue and are actively working to provide solutions.

## V. Important Events & Chronology

Date	Event
31/8/1955	The term AI was coined and used in a lecture for the first time, excluding Turing's definition of such a notion. John McCarthy, a professor at Dartmouth College, officially used



	<p>the term in one of his lectures. Paving the way for what is known as AI, though AI taught at universities was vastly different from what is being discussed today, was a foundational piece for it.</p>
December 1955	<p>“The Logic Theorist,” universally recognized as the first AI program, is introduced. This marks the beginning of AI.</p>
10/10/1980	<p>The Convention on Certain Weapons (CCW) was introduced, signed, and ratified by a majority of the UN. This is one of the first introductions of a general rule for using certain weapons with differing implications. Such “certain” weapons may also be ones that may be easily enabled through the use of AI and may threaten the well-being of humans all around.</p>
February 2023	<p>The first ever REAIM is held, and the use of weapons is discussed in the context of the possibilities of AI-based weapons.</p>
12/10/2023	<p>The first UN resolution on the weaponized use of autonomous systems is introduced. Such algorithmic designs are considered lethal and are restricted by the UN. Some countries abide by it. However, defiance is also typical.</p>
11/03/2024	<p>The first UN resolution on the implementation of AI worldwide is introduced; it regards any field and industry in which AI can be implemented</p>
8/2/2024	<p>The Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) details the first session on GGE on LAWS in 2024. The most important committee is determining the factors that influence the use of autonomous weapons.</p>
30/7/2024	<p>The parliament of Brazil passed a bill that authorizes an AI investment of 4 billion USD. This marks one of the most significant advancements in AI made by a Latin American nation. This is one of the most important investments ever</p>



	made by a Latin American nation focused on producing AI systems.
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## VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

Resolution A/78/L.49 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/065/92/pdf/n2406592.pdf>

This resolution refers to the use and implementation of AI worldwide. It ensures the safe implementation of AI in all fields. It can especially be necessary for security as the ethical issue of AI implementation is security has recently become an important issue.

Resolution A/C.1/78/L.56 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n23/302/66/pdf/n2330266.pdf>

A resolution referring to the lethal use of algorithms. It limits the ability of producers of such technologies to use the systems in ways that may cause mass harm. It limits the military outreach of autonomous weapons and sets a benchmark for what should and should not be.

### CCW

This convention outlines the legal use of weapons in defense. Though it is insufficient to cover the use of AI, it explains the rules that govern the use of certain weapons. The treaty was ratified by most of the UN and is internationally recognized as the treaty that decides the legality of the use of various weapons in warfare.

### GGE on LAWS

This is a crucial agreement on the use of autonomous weapons in warfare. Once again, this sets a bar for the use of autonomous weapons. The agreement's success is yet to be determined as autonomous weapons have yet to be integrated fully into armies. However, until now, using weapons such as drones has been relatively secure.

### REAIM

This, though not a convention, is a frequent summit that discusses the extent to which such weapons should be implemented. With the recent calls for the restriction of LAWS by the UN Secretary-General, this summit has become crucial in making decisions regarding the topic. The fact



that the UN Secretary-General has made such a call shows that the summit may not be as successful as deemed or supposed.

## VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Not many attempts have been made to implement autonomous systems in LAC, so there have been minimal attempts at solving the issue.

However, there have been more general attempts at solving the overuse of autonomous weapons. The GGE on LAWS is a vital example; however, whether the failed attempt has not yet been determined.

One specific attempt was the signing of the CCW. The CCW convention aimed to be legally binding among all UN members. However, nations with already prominent AI-based weaponry infrastructure and systems have rejected the reality that there must be agreements to control the extent to which such weapons are produced. This has led to a stage in negotiations that cannot improve; no nation can improve on the agreements as the most prominent world powers have rejected the realities that come with it.

Antonio Guterres' call for a ban on such weapons is also a failed attempt at solving the issue, as no countries have indeed implemented any measures implied by the call.

The European Parliament (EP), a branch of the European community, has also called for a ban on such lethal autonomous weapons. Their attempts at doing so, obviously, were not recognized either, as Guterres' calls were not recognized either.

Additionally, the failure to define the term "meaningful human control" by the GGE and CCW were the reason for which the issue arose.

Such a newly arising issue naturally has had minimal solution attempts. Past attempts could be listed as past resolutions and conventions; however, none have failed yet, as none directly affect LAC.

## VIII. Possible Solutions

Some possible solutions may include:

Investments made by funds that directly enforce a robust AI infrastructure in LAC. The current weak infrastructure needs a strong backbone, and building infrastructure through UN aid could be the first and foremost solution.



The formation of a newer, possibly more LAC-oriented commission on the use of LAWS. This summit would focus more on the area's specific issue rather than the entire world. Hence, it creates a force that will control any issue.

A new UN resolution has to be focused on the region at hand. Possibly creating a more adapted solution to the issue. This has to include the major world powers as LAC has become a battleground between the USA and BRICS.

Limitations are being put on the effect and involvement of foreign powers within the region. The involvement of outside powers will make no sense since LAC nations will aim to advance security systems.

The introduction of cheaper autonomous systems through technological advancements in the field. The systems, this way, will be much easier to implement in and around Latin America, which otherwise is not the wealthiest of regions.

## IX. Useful Links

<https://www.britannica.com/science/history-of-artificial-intelligence>

The link includes a history of AI. If any delegate wishes to learn more technical information, they can search more of Turing's works or papers

<https://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/artificial-intelligence-can-contribute-transforming-development-models-latin-america>

Direct effect of AI on development in LAC

<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/ai/>

A look at the past. Explanations from the former government of the current president-elect, Donald Trump

<https://brazilian.report/power/2023/12/13/electoral-use-of-ai-rattles-political-world/>

Article regarding the political use of AI in Brazil's elections

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/brazil-proposes-4-billion-ai-investment-plan-2024-07-30/#:~:text=Brazil%2C%20the%20largest%20economy%20in,AI%20tools%20from%20other%20countries.>

Brazil's new plan for AI investments



<https://www.uschamber.com/international/ai-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-fostering-innovation-with-safety-and-trust>

A detailed article regarding the region at hand, written from the American perspective





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