



of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, though this declaration has been criticised for being vague (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The primary regulatory forum for LAWs is the CCW, part of the UN system. As this group works based on consensus, states opposing LAW regulation can effectively veto regulation negotiations (Stop Killer Robots, 2024). Thus, the CCW is restricted by the regressive beliefs of a small group of states (Qerimi, 2023). Supporters of bans, regulations and restrictions for autonomous weapons systems are unable to make progress within this forum.

With traditional multilateral fora not currently an effective avenue to regulate LAWs, alternative options for small states include acting as norm entrepreneurs and attempting to regulate LAWs externally to the CCW. Small states are labelled as weak actors in the international system due to their limited resources and hard power (Thorhallsson, 2019). However, Ingebritsen (2002) highlights the power that small states can hold in constructing global norms, defined as "established practices, codes of conduct, and standards of acceptable



have been destroyed (Cluster Munition Coalition, 2024). Even non-signatories have altered their behaviour in response to these treaties, demonstrating the treaties' major normative power. The USA, for example, has had a land-mine policy under Democratic party presidents similar to that of the Ottawa Treaty, excepting the use of landmines in the Korean Peninsula ("New U.S. anti-personnel landmine", 2022). Creating a convention on LAWs in a similar way to ones made for cluster munitions and land-mines could also present small states with the





O'Brien, T. (2009). *New Zealand Institute of International Affairs*.

Petrova, M. H. (2016). Rhetorical entrapment and normative enticement: How the United Kingdom turned from spoiler into champion of the cluster munition ban. 387–399. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqv013>

Qerimi, Q. (2023). Controlling lethal autonomous weapons systems: A typology of the position of states. 105854. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2023.105854>

Rutherford, K. (2004, March 17). [Paper Presentation]. International Studies Association Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada.

Stop Killer Robots. (2024). <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/stop-killer-robots-looks-forward-to-un-general-assembly-as-ccw-conferences-to-stall/>

Thorhallsson, B. (2019). Small states and the changing global order: What small state theory can offer New Zealand foreign policymaking. In A. -M. Brady (Ed.), (pp. 379-395). Springer.

United Nations. (2018). [Press Release]. <https://press.un.org/en/2018/sgsm19332.doc.htm>

United Nations. (2023). <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf>

van den Boogard, J. (2024). *OpinioJuris*. <https://opiniojuris.org/2024/03/04/warning-obstacles-ahead-the-regulation-of-autonomous-weapons-systems-in-the-gge-laws/>