

Though the ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control is a great idea for the general welfare and safety of humanity, the ban will ultimately fail due the difficulty in enforcing it.

One difficulty is that autonomous weapons constitute a great strategic advantage for any country that possesses it. For instance, if a singular country develops a nuclear weapon, then other countries will feel the need to also develop these weapons out of an interest in self-defense and national security, triggering an arms race as seen in the Cold War. Similarly, if a nation were to develop offensive autonomous weapons, other countries would also race to create these weapons to protect themselves from possible attack or invasion.

Another difficulty is that international bodies such as the United Nations do not have the necessary means to strictly enforce the rules laid out by the international community with meaningful consequences. For instance, the Paris Climate Accords was an agreement made by the international community to reduce carbon emissions, but no international body was able to enforce the United States to stay in agreement. The United States faced some backlash for leaving, but no tangible consequences were observed.

Similarly, the international community could try to use economic sanctions against countries that violate the ban on autonomous weapons. However, that may not be effective as many countries are not willing to sacrifice their economic benefits and trade relations. The sanctions may also not be enough to inhibit weapons development. For instance, countless sanctions against North Korea by the United States have not slowed down North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.

If a country is determined to create autonomous weapons, today's economic sanction policies and international organizations alone may not be enough to inhibit its autonomous weapons development.