

Travel grant for journalists to travel to New York and cover UN talks on regulating Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, 12-13 May 2025

Lex International Fund, hosted by the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, is pleased to announce a series of travel grants to support talented journalists in covering UN talks on the regulation of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, taking place 12-13 May, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, NY.

Humanity currently stands at a crossroads, as “killer robots” are no longer science fiction. Lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), weapons systems that can decide who lives and who dies without human control, are rapidly making their way to the battlefield as the use of artificial intelligence makes it increasingly easier for weapons to be programmed to choose and attack targets independently, without human intervention.

As these technologies develop rapidly, their military use currently remains unregulated, raising profound legal, humanitarian, technological, and ethical concerns. In response, the international community has decided to hold urgent talks at the United Nations in New York in an effort to regulate lethal autonomous weapons systems before it is too late.

While the talks themselves will be closed to the media, journalists will be able to obtain full access to the UN Headquarters, where they can cover press conferences, side events, and discussions happening on the sidelines. The consultations are expected to draw government representatives, diplomats, experts, and advocacy groups from around the world, providing ample opportunity for interviews and in-depth reporting.

Events available for journalists to attend in and around the UN include:

- Press conferences and media briefings on the meeting to be held in the UN Headquarters building
- An immersive drone experience simulating autonomous weapons hosted by the Future of Life Institute
- Side events hosted by governments and/or civil society

A full list of available events and details will be provided to successful applicants as plans solidify.

This pivotal gathering will shape the future of killer robot regulations and will be a key moment in the global conversation. With states debating how to regulate these emerging military technologies, this will be a must-cover event for journalists interested in covering AI, defense, human rights, and

global security policy, allowing them to gain insight into the negotiations and broader implications for international security and AI governance.

What the grant entails:

Successful applicants will be awarded a grant to cover travel (economy class flights), accommodation, and other costs related to traveling to New York to cover this meeting. Journalists will be responsible for securing their own media accreditation, access to the UN, and any other administrative responsibilities necessary to cover this event.

Who can apply:

We are offering travel grants to support journalists who:

- Are eager to cover diplomatic efforts on the military use of AI and regulation of autonomous weapons systems
- Have a proven track record of writing for major news outlets or platforms with significant readership
- Are committed to producing high-quality, impactful journalism on autonomous weapons systems, AI and militarism, and related topics
- **Before submitting an application, please ensure that the media outlet you represent complies with the requirements as outlined [here](#) on by UN's Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, and [here](#) in the media advisory for this specific event.**

How to apply:

To apply, please provide the following:

- A description of the proposed project in no more than 250 words
- A budget, including a basic breakdown of costs
- A portfolio or links to relevant work

Please send your application to info@lexinternational.org with the subject line "LAWS UN Talks Travel Grant Application" no later than Monday, April 14th.