

PRESENTATION



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Technological Challenges for Building Defense and Security in the Global South

Contemporary technological transformations are profoundly reshaping the nature of defense, security, and international strategic relations.

Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber defense, dual-use technologies, digital platforms, new command-and-control architectures, advanced surveillance systems, and transformations in logistical and production chains have become central elements in understanding state capabilities and the emerging configurations of international power.

In the Global South, these transformations acquire particular characteristics. The incorporation of emerging technologies takes place in an environment marked by economic asymmetries, technological dependence, concentration of innovation, vulnerabilities in supply chains, and unequal national capacities for research, development, and production. In this context, technological capability is no longer merely an operational matter; it has become directly connected to debates on strategic autonomy, sovereignty, development, and international positioning.

The third 2026 Thematic Dossier of InterAção, entitled “Technological Challenges for Building Defense and Security in the Global South,” seeks to critically examine these transformations by bringing together theoretical, empirical, and comparative contributions on the relationships among technology, defense, security, and power. The studies included in this dossier engage with fundamental issues in the contemporary debate: technological autonomy; the defense industry and defense production chains; artificial intelligence applied to decision-making processes; cybersecurity and hybrid warfare; military logistics; South–South scientific and technological cooperation; governance of dual-use technologies; algorithmic risks; technology transfer; and the impacts of emerging technologies on national defense policies and international security.

At the same time, the dossier seeks to broaden the debate beyond perspectives traditionally produced in the major technological and strategic centers of the international system. Thinking about technology from the Global South also means questioning structures of dependence, hierarchies of knowledge, and the asymmetries that condition the production, access, and use of contemporary technologies.

In this regard, decolonial perspectives and critical epistemologies become particularly relevant for understanding not only which technologies are incorporated, but also who produces them, who establishes their standards, who controls their data, who defines their rules, and which power relations are reproduced through them.

Through this dossier, InterAção reaffirms its commitment to the production and international circulation of scientific knowledge, encouraging interdisciplinary and critical approaches to some of the major contemporary challenges in International Relations, Defense, and Security. More than witnessing a technological transformation, we are confronted with a transformation of power itself.

Autorship

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