



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

Statement by Ambassador Kahlil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), Geneva 13-15 November 2019

Agenda item 8: Consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). We have some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Pakistan views the introduction of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) with great concern due to their legal, ethical and humanitarian dimensions as well as their serious impact on international and regional peace, security and stability.

We have participated actively in all meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS. While my delegation was hoping for a more ambitious outcome from the GGE, we were pleased that some incremental progress was achieved. We support the renewal of the GGE with a strengthened mandate and with an adequate duration of its meetings that corresponds to its envisaged work over the next two years.

Mr. Chairman,

The following five key areas, in our view, should guide further work on the issue of LAWS:

First, LAWS are a unique and novel class of weapons that have given rise to multi-faceted concerns. These need to be addressed multilaterally. National regulations and responses such as national weapons reviews etc. are not sufficient. International regulations are needed.

Second, human control and responsibility on the use of weapons with autonomous functions has been deemed as essential. The need now is to ascertain the scope and extent of human control that would satisfy all concerns related to the humanitarian, security and ethical dimensions of LAWS.

Third, while it has been established that weapons with autonomous functions must comply with International Law including International Humanitarian Law, we now need to determine whether autonomous machines are capable of being programmed to ensure such compliance. And if yes, what are the means and measures necessary for doing so.

Fourth, we need to identify the key attributes that would characterize a given weapon system as LAWS. This should be a technical and policy-neutral process, and not a political issue. Characterization of LAWS should be pursued as a matter of priority, without prejudice to the regulatory response, to arrive at a simple working definition of LAWS.

Fifth, the issue of LAWS does not only have legal, ethical and technical dimensions, but also carries serious implications for regional and global security. This aspect needs to be adequately addressed in the next phase of discussions. The developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) need to be appropriately regulated in all its dimensions. They should not outpace the evolution of regulations governing them.

Mr. Chairman,

We would continue to engage constructively with other delegations in the GGE over the next two years in order to hold focused discussions for arriving at robust recommendations on concrete options for dealing with LAWS, including on elements of a legally binding instrument stipulating appropriate prohibitions and regulations, as called for by NAM. We look forward to a policy-level and result-oriented discussion in the GGE. As noted by my delegation during the general exchange of views, the process launched within the CCW can only be sustained if it is result-oriented and seen to be heeding the concerns of all States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman
