

**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)**
(21-23 November 2018)

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

Statement by Pakistan

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 welcome the fact that the discussion on LAWS has graduated from informal expert meetings to formal consideration under a dedicated Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). We participated actively in the GGE meetings held thus far.

While my delegation was hoping for a more ambitious outcome from the GGE, we were pleased that the High Contracting Parties managed to agree on identifying “emerging commonalities, conclusions and recommendations”, including a list of “possible guiding principles”. We support the renewal of the GGE’s mandate for another year and support a meeting next year of 10 days’ duration. We hope that the GGE would increase its focus in the next stage on the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by LAWS.

Mr. Chairman,

The following four 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 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.

Mr. Chairman,

We would continue to engage constructively with other delegations in the GGE next year in order to hold focused discussions for arriving at robust recommendations on options for dealing with LAWS, in accordance with the GGE's mandate, as well as 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.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman