

## **National Statement by Germany**

Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts  
on “Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)  
Geneva, 6 to 10 March 2023

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Agenda item 5: Intensify the consideration of proposals and elaborate, by consensus, possible measures, including taking into account the example of existing protocols within the Convention, and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, and bringing in expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects

*General statements and presentation of proposals*

Mr Chair,  
Excellencies, colleagues,

- **First of all, allow me to underline Germany’s appreciation for the valuable efforts that you, Mr. Chairman, and your team undertook in preparing this year’s meetings of our group, including by conducting a round of informal consultations on 20 February.**
- **In our view, and as stated by many delegations, this year’s meeting of our group is of key importance:**
- **The group has made considerable progress in discussing issues of substance in the past years. Germany highly appreciates the numerous proposals that have been submitted so far. It is indispensable that the group now agrees upon a substantial outcome document that reflects these substantial developments.**
- **In our view, our intense work in the past years enabled us to collect consensual elements with regard to legal, military and technological aspects for a framework that serves our common objective, which is to guarantee IHL-compatibility of all future weapons systems. As a result, we note that significant convergence has emerged, namely general support for the two-tier approach.**

- We see that this approach is still gaining traction, and we very much welcome the fact that a group of by now eleven countries including Germany explicitly promotes the two-tier approach, while many others are supporting such a concept.
- We therefore encourage the GGE to intensify its discussions on essential substantial topics this week with a view to agreeing upon an outcome document that reflects the following:
  - First, a commitment by the High Contracting Parties not to develop, produce, acquire, deploy or use fully autonomous lethal weapons systems operating completely outside human control – thereby outlawing fully autonomous weapons systems.
  - Second, the need for the High Contracting Parties to agree on positive commitments for weapons systems with autonomous functions. Specifically, lethal weapons systems featuring autonomy must only be developed, produced, acquired, modified, deployed and used only if compliance with international law is ensured and appropriate human control is maintained throughout the whole life-cycle of the system and is guaranteed by specific, concrete provisions.
- In our view, an effective regulation that takes widely shared norms into account and is based upon broad participation of all stakeholders is of utmost importance.
- We therefore welcome the emerging international momentum to intensify the discussions about LAWS at the international level. The Joint Statement supported by 70 states at the UN General Assembly's First Committee last year as well as the REAIM conference on "Responsible AI in the Military Domain" organized by the Netherlands and the "Conference on the social and humanitarian impact of Autonomous Weapons" in Costa Rica were clear signals: The international community acknowledges the importance of issues related to the military use of AI and specifically LAWS and wants to see progress in the CCW in this field.

- **It is against this background that we strongly encourage all members of this group to engage in discussions in a constructive spirit and with a view to reaching agreement on a substantive outcome document.**