



**Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA,  
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the  
Conference on Disarmament  
2023 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the  
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Agenda 5, Topic 4: Responsibility and accountability**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson, for giving me the floor

As for the topic of responsibility and accountability, we have quite a solid basis in terms of the agreed principles. First of all, as you have already quoted, Guiding Principle b of 2019 states “Human responsibility for decisions on the use of weapons systems must be retained since accountability cannot be transferred to machines. This should be considered across the entire life cycle of the weapons system”. And also our agreed principles was extended last year thanks to your able Chairmanship which was crystalized in paragraph 19 of the GGE Report last year which states “Every internationally wrongful act of a State, including those potentially involving weapons systems based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS entails international responsibility of that State, in accordance with international law. In addition, States must comply with international humanitarian law. Humans responsible for the planning and conducting of attacks must comply with international humanitarian law”.

This agreed language of the past documents provide a fairly solid basis for further developing the principles in this field and to operationalize them we believe that identification of good practices would help us develop our

common understanding in how to ensure such human responsibility and accountability as well as state accountability.

That is why Article 6 of the Draft Articles on AWS that Japan co-sponsors together with Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States describes regulatory measures within the state's general framework for the implementation of the IHL to ensure human accountability and human responsibility. These measures include, among others: first dissemination of and training on IHL; second, domestic law under which the state can hold its personnel accountable; third, a responsible under which operations are conducted; fourth, international mechanisms for the reporting of incidents that may involve violations of IHL; fifth, investigations or other reviews of such incidents; sixth, corrective actions including accountability for personnel, as appropriate.

I think that these good practices may provide good food for thought for further discussions on this matter and I appreciate this occasion.

Thank you very much.