STATEMENT AT THE CCW/GGE

InterAgency Institute

March, 2024.
Thank you Mr Chair,

The InterAgency Institute appreciates the opportunity to discuss the proposed substantive topics for the meeting. First, we'll discuss risk mitigation. Then, we'll talk about the importance of meaningful human control. Finally, we'll end with a call for action.

Mr Chair,

LAWS are shifting the current paradigm of violent armed conflict. As an organization composed by people from the Global South, the InterAgency Institute highlights the expansion of AI programs in countries of the West Global North has happened in parallel with the political tensions and political distances between the Global South and the Global North. Such a trend may accelerate differences, reducing the capacity to defuse crises and disputes of interests. Thus, the dynamics reinforce the differences in participation in the international system. Some may know Amara’s Law. It says we overestimate the short-term impact of a technology, but underestimate its long term effect. We urge careful consideration: supporting the creation of these technologies today might lead to their use in ways that could affect your own communities adversely in the future.
Mr Chair,

Values, as conceptual tools, help us sort and rank scenarios. They are embedded in technologies. Only functional requirements will not be enough for compliance with IHL, for the principles of limitation, military necessity and discrimination between combatants and non-combatants are not inherently embedded in algorithms. Therefore, for meaningful human control to be established, and IHL respected, we must reject technology agnostic approaches. We agree with the working paper submitted by the Brazilian delegation on the necessity of establishing limits on targets, duration, geographical scope, and scale of operations; adding the necessity to prohibit autonomous engagement. We would like to see this reflected in a legally binding instrument.

Mr Chair,

As a think tank composed mostly of native Portuguese speakers, the InterAgency Institute calls on the Portuguese speaking countries to take leadership on this topic. We would like to thank the Brazilian Ambassador Flávio D’amico for its role chairing this conference during the last years and acknowledge that the shortcomings of the CCW happened despite his great diplomatic abilities and skillful mediation of the negotiations. We celebrate the efforts made by Cabo Verde through sponsoring the draft resolution on LAWS, that led to the General Assembly resolution 78/241. It was a step towards a legally binding instrument.

I thank you.