Thank you Chair. **Congratulations on your appointment** in this role and we **look forward to working** with you this week.

Increasingly we are seeing weapons systems with autonomous functions being **developed and used in ongoing conflicts** that are being used as **testbeds** for these technologies. This is **extremely concerning** in the absence of clear rules and limits that **specifically apply** to these weapons. Especially as developers and users are **pushing the limits** of what is acceptable under **legal and ethical** norms.

This demonstrates the **urgent need to develop a legal instrument** related to these weapons. In the recent years we have seen positive developments including the call of the **UN Secretary General and the ICRC** for a legal instrument by 2026. Also there are now over a **100 states** calling for a legal instrument.

We have seen **Latin American and the Caribbean** declarations both calling for a legal instrument, as well as the meetings in **Luxembourg** and the **Philippines** on this issue. **Looking ahead** there will be a **ECOWAS** conference in **Sierra Leone**, as well as a **meeting of states in Austria**. These meetings are **extremely important to demonstrate states desire** to develop a new norm and **moving the issue forward**.

Over the **last two year** we are seeing increasing **convergence of views on possible elements of a normative framework**. The majority of states agree that **rules and limits are** needed. These states see the need for a combination of **prohibitions and regulations**, and that **human control and judgement** should be central in a regulatory framework. This **progress on content** does not always find its way into reports, so we must find **other ways to demonstrate** this **increasing convergence** of views. We call on states to **make this shared understanding more explicit**, for example through joint working papers and statements.

Based on these commonalities we believe we can **further develop possible elements** of a normative framework. If we start from the position that we need to ensure the user is able to make a **legal and moral judgement** regarding the **effects of an attack**, as well as being **accountable** for any violations of legal and moral norms. Based on this we can develop three positive obligations:
• The user should have a functional understanding of how the weapons system works, specifically what will trigger an application of force.

• The user should have sufficient understanding of the context where the weapons system will be deployed. For example, the presence of civilians and civilian structures.

• The human user must be able to limit the functioning of the weapon system. For example they should be able to limit in the duration and geographical area of operation as well as the number of engagements and the type of targets than can be engaged.

Autonomous weapons systems where this is not possible should be prohibited as their use cannot comply with legal and ethical norms.

Furthermore autonomous weapons systems that target people must be prohibited for legal and ethical reasons.

• There is a risk of protected persons being targeted when autonomous weapons systems are used because peoples’ status under the law is fluid.

• Using target profiles that can trigger an application force based on predetermined simplified representations of people is dehumanizing. The process removes the value we place on human life.

• We therefor we thank Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Panama and UNIDIR for organizing a side event on Fixing Gender Glitches in AI.

Over the last few years the discussions at the GGE have been useful in policy development. As mentioned we have seen increasing shared understanding of key elements of a normative framework. At the same time we have all seen the difficulty of coming to a concrete normative outcome. We do believe that the GGE continues to be a useful forum to make progress on this issue. However the forum where we develop a normative framework is less important than the need to urgently develop an instrument. Therefor we call on states to be open to work in all for a to develop a treaty as soon as possible.