

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

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General exchange of views

Working paper

Submitted by Brazil *

The CCW is a key international instrument at the intersection of humanitarian law and disarmament. Over more than four decades, it has represented a major contribution to the reduction of unnecessary suffering and indiscriminate effects of weapons, both to civilians and combatants, and both in warfare and in post-conflict situations.

Beyond the need for the universalization of the CCW and its protocols, it is imperative that the Convention is preserved, fully complied with and further strengthened to ensure that it remains relevant in the face of constant technological advances in means and methods of warfare.

It is regrettable that, for the third year in a row, the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW was unable to hold substantive discussions due to procedural impasses. It is imperative that we find the political will to overcome these roadblocks and allow the Convention to resume its normal functioning.

This is especially crucial in view of the upcoming Seventh Review Conference of the CCW, to be held next year, an occasion in which our commitment to the Convention and to its full implementation and furtherance will be put to the test.

As in all other fora, Brazil welcomes continued dialogue and collaborative action. It is only by standing together, drawing from the collective strength of our diverse experiences and expertise, that we can fully address the enduring challenges posed to the CCW.

Turning to the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), Brazil remains actively engaged in the work of the CCW GGE on LAWS, which we had the honor of presiding in 2022-2023.

Brazil reiterates its commitment to achieving the objective of a legally-binding instrument that addresses the potentially profound consequences of these weapons to international humanitarian law, and we expect that the GGE will be able to respond to these legitimate expectations within the current multi-year mandate.

We are encouraged by the progress made by the GGE since last year, under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Robert In Den Bosch of the Netherlands. We regret that the Chair was unable to present an oral report to this session of the Meeting of High Contracting Parties, given its procedural nature. But we take note of the detailed Chair's Summary circulated after the September session of the GGE, in document CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.9.

* The present document was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent information.



Over the course of these two years, the GGE has managed to make remarkable advances on the fulfillment of its mandate to further consider and formulate a set of elements of an instrument to address lethal autonomous weapon systems.

The latest version of the "rolling text" offers a sound basis for negotiations towards that goal. It follows the widely supported "two-tier" approach, including prohibitions on some types of LAWS, and restrictions on the design and use of others. It also contains important elements related to the need to uphold and strengthen compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force involving LAWS. It develops and operationalizes the concept of 'context-appropriate human judgement and control', which is gaining broad support as a pivotal element towards ensuring compliance with IHL in the use of LAWS.

In view of this, at the September session of the GGE-LAWS, Brazil, together with Ireland, Norway and Switzerland, drafted a joint statement expressing support to the Chair's Rolling Text and to the need to move towards negotiations within the CCW. This joint statement will be circulated as a working paper of the present Meeting, having received the support of more than 40 High Contracting Parties to the Convention and of one Observer State.

The broad and cross-regional call made through the joint statement is evidence of the strong expectation that the discussions of the GGE-LAWS, which have been ongoing for more than a decade, will lead to substantive and meaningful outcomes towards the regulation of LAWS. This call should be heeded at the upcoming Review Conference of the CCW.
