

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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English only

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Item 7 and 8 of the provisional agenda

General exchange of views**Update by the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)
related to emerging technologies in the area of
lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)**

Working paper

Submitted by Japan *

I. General exchange of views

1. Japan would like to express our gratitude to the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this meeting. We attach great importance to the CCW, which is a multilateral framework to examine prohibitions, restrictions and regulations on conventional weapons from various perspectives, including security, technical, military and legal considerations, including International Humanitarian Law.
2. Japan will continue to actively contribute to the universalization of the CCW, and the development and implementation of international rules under the CCW.
3. In the current extremely severe security environment, the importance of pursuing the balance between security and humanitarian considerations is increasing. Even in such circumstances, non-compliance with international law, including the UN Charter and International Humanitarian Law, should be strictly pursued.
4. In the GGE LAWS, substantial discussions based on the rolling text are progressing, building on past outcomes with a view towards gaining consensus. It is important to persistently form effective rules under the CCW in order to ensure universal implementation and strengthening of International Humanitarian Law. Japan will continue to actively and constructively contribute to the discussions within the GGE LAWS to fulfill its mandate.
5. Additionally, we should demonstrate the international community's commitment to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and promote practical and realistic efforts to mitigate harm. In this regard, we welcome the second international conference of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) to be held in Costa Rica next week. Continuous consideration of responses to the threats posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) is also a key issue to which Japan attaches great importance.
6. Japan is a major donor in the field of mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) action. Japan currently holds the Presidency of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and will continue to play an active role in mine action.

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



7. Finally, strengthening the financial foundation of the convention is one of the most important issues for its stable operation. Japan strongly hopes that all States Parties will fulfill their financial obligations under the CCW.

II. Update by the Chair of GGE related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS

8. Japan would like to express our gratitude for the leadership of H.E. Robert in den Bosch, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament, as the Chair of the GGE LAWS.

9. Japan is convinced that the GGE LAWS plays a vital role in fostering a common understanding of and developing international rules on LAWS.

10. Japan will continue to actively contribute to the discussions to clarify the normative and operational frameworks related to LAWS, taking into account security and humanitarian perspectives, sparing no effort in forming effective rules in order to fulfil the mandate of the current GGE LAWS ahead of the CCW Review Conference in 2026.
