

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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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

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 Brazil, Belgium, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland on behalf of Angola, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Uruguay *

1. The present working paper is submitted on behalf of the following 42 High-Contracting Parties: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Observer States Kiribati and Thailand also associate themselves to this working paper.
2. Our delegations thank the Chair of the GGE, his team, and the Friends of the Chair for producing the latest revision of the rolling text, on the basis of the extensive and thorough discussions held during the two sessions of the GGE this year, in March and September, and in the informal consultations conducted in June.
3. During these discussions, many delegations have made valuable contributions aimed at clarifying details and strengthening the core elements of the text. The text has benefitted from the engagement and expert insights of the ICRC and non-governmental organisations.
4. We believe it is important at this stage to record our view that, while the rolling text remains a work in progress, it is a sufficient basis to fulfil the mandate of this GGE in its current form.
5. The text contains a coherent and well-structured set of elements of an instrument to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems.

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



6. It takes into account the example of existing Protocols under the Convention. It builds upon past recommendations and conclusions of the GGE on LAWS, and draws on expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects.
 7. It follows the widely supported “two-tier” approach, including prohibitions on some types of LAWS, and restrictions on the design and use of others.
 8. The text 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.
 9. In this regard, we note the growing convergence around the concept of ‘context-appropriate human judgement and control’ as a key principle in this regard.
 10. In summary, while our delegations are prepared to keep working on the rolling text in order to further improve it, the rolling text contains a set of elements that we consider as sufficient basis for negotiations of an instrument on lethal autonomous weapon systems.
 11. We are fully prepared to continue working with delegations in order to further refine and improve the text, with the fulfilment of our mandate as our constant guiding objective.
 12. Given the constructive character of our discussions thus far, we are convinced that any remaining differences can be resolved until the end of our mandate. After that, we believe that any further outstanding issues can and should be addressed in the context of subsequent negotiations on an instrument.
 13. We remain convinced of the need for urgent action on this issue, as has been articulated by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC, among others, and reaffirmed in the Pact for the Future.
 14. We are therefore ready to move ahead towards negotiations within the CCW on the basis of the rolling text, and we invite all High Contracting Parties to support this goal.
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