Submission of Greece for the Report of the Secretary General on Lethal autonomous weapons systems (resolution 78/241)

The incorporation and use of emerging and disruptive technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning into weapon systems pose serious political, legal, moral and ethical concerns. From a political point of view, the development and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) may diminish the threshold of engagement in armed conflicts, influencing relevant decisions.

The compliance of fully Autonomous Weapon Systems with International Humanitarian Law remains dubious. In particular, their compliance with fundamental principles and requirements of international humanitarian law, such as, the principles and requirements of target distinction, proportionality and precautions at the evolving environment of a battlefield raises serious concerns.

Greece supports the two-tier approach expressed by many countries during the deliberations of the GGE on LAWS in Geneva.

In light of the above, we would like to reiterate that Greece strongly believes that the CCW remains the appropriate forum to continue discussing the prohibitions and restrictions of use of Conventional
Weapons including LAWS. The CCW ensures the necessary balance between humanitarian concerns and military necessity.

Greece welcomes last year’s progress on the issue, including UNGA Resolution on “Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems” (A/RES/78/241, 22.12.2023), the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, the work of the Group of Governmental Experts in Geneva as well as the broad participation in the recent International Conference on “Autonomous Weapons Systems” in Vienna (29-30.04.2024).

Additionally, the rapid technological evolution of Artificial Intelligence remains an issue of paramount concern for our country.

Greece supports that the military use of AI must fully comply with applicable international law, in particular with International Humanitarian Law and its core principles and requirements, such as the principles and requirements of distinction proportionality and precautions, as well as with International Human Rights Law.

Greece will actively participate in the deliberations for further addressing this complex issue and in the shaping of an international instrument that will ensure that autonomous weapons systems are in full respect of international humanitarian law.