

POLAND
MX LAWS
13.04.2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The European Union statement has been made also on behalf of Poland. Let me make a few additional points in my national capacity.

First of all, I would like to thank you and your team for your leadership in preparing this meeting. Your efforts to ensure inclusiveness, transparency and balance, including in substance, geographical representation and gender, are highly valued and appreciated by my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of LAWS is a complex one, and can be approached from different angles. Let me make two general observations on our approach.

First, we believe that at this stage of the discussion, the CCW remains to be an appropriate forum to try to reach a common understanding of the main elements of this problem and possible ways forward. From our perspective, focused, fact-based discussion, held in the context of the objectives of the CCW, will help us to reach such understanding. The words we use and the way we describe complex phenomena, and especially interconnections and interdependencies of the complex systems, can significantly influence our perceptions and assessments of such systems. This applies also to LAWS. In that regard, we find your food-for-thought paper to be a useful tool to help us keep our discussion focused.

Second, discussion about LAWS has to include the questions related to technological development. Generally speaking, technology in itself is neither good nor bad. What matters is how it is applied and used. The same technology can be used in life-saving systems, including in military sphere or in lethal weapons. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we are glad that part of our discussion will be devoted to the dual use issues and clarification of relationships between civilian and military domains in developing autonomous systems. There is already a lot of expertise and good practices in other areas of scientific and technological development, where issues of differentiation between civilian and military applications had to be dealt with. This expertise may also be relevant for our considerations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and we look forward to interesting discussion.