

**MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS IN THE
USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE
DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE
INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)
Geneva, 21 - 23 November 2018**

Statement of Egypt

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of the Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the field of lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS)

Geneva, 21 November 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

First, allow me to thank Ambassador Gill for the presentation and to express our sincere appreciation for all the strenuous efforts that he conducted to produce this report.

Egypt fully associates itself with the statement made by the Non-aligned movement and would like to make some remarks on its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman

The Rapid technological developments led to revolutionary transformations in means and methods of warfare, unfortunately, these developments pose significant challenges and outpace our capacity to fully grasp their implications. The destructive impact of these transformations in the military arena have inevitably increased the suffering of the civilian population as well as combatants. For this reason, the convention on certain conventional weapons (CCW) was and is still perceived as the instrument that could enable the international community to protect civilians and combatants, while reaffirming the principles of international law in cases that are not covered by this convention.

Mr. Chairman

The Mandate of GGE on LAWS as stipulated in decision (1) of the fifth review conference of the convention stems from the agreed recommendations that were adopted in the third informal meeting of experts (2016) to explore and agree on possible recommendations on options related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. Clearly, the mandate is broad and could encompass under its framework current weapons systems in the area of LAWS.

Mr. chairman

Egypt is of the view that the agreement on a working definition for LAWS would clearly pave the way forward and help determine the scope of any legally-binding instrument towards the prohibition of, *inter alia*, the development and manufacture of such weapon systems. The CCW has been successful in previously achieving similar outcome by negotiating and adopting a protocol prohibiting blinding lasers. Nevertheless, until this outcome is achieved, we call for a self-imposed moratorium on the development and manufacture of such weapon systems without impediments or constraints on the use and transfer of the relevant emerging technologies for peaceful and civilian purposes. We strongly reiterate our position that technology should be solely dedicated for the prosperity and progress of humankind.

We Look forward to participating actively and constructively in the GGE meetings next year, with the aim of producing concrete policy recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,