Mister Chair,
Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment to chair this important conference.

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Additionally, I would like to highlight some key issues from a German point of view.

Germany welcomes the constructive work that has been accomplished this year in the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS. By putting the expanded list of eleven guiding principles forward for endorsement by High Contracting Parties the GGE has managed to deliver a tangible output designed to have a real world impact on policy-making, legislation and on future developments in the military, industrial and scientific field.

Germany will continue its efforts and contribute substantively to the elaboration of aspects of a normative and operative framework until 2021 as recommended in the GGE report. As the military application of autonomous functions is making rapid
strides we feel it is high time for the GGE to move into this new phase of work with a clear focus on producing normative and operative results.

We are concerned about reports of the use of incendiary weapons in recent conflicts and call upon all states to accede to Protocol III of the CCW. We regret that Protocol III issues were removed from the CCW agenda and we request to have them back next year.

Germany welcomes any progress within the CCW and accompanying consultations in addressing the humanitarian risks posed by Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM). We would encourage and welcome further exchange between High Contracting Parties on the issue of MOTAPM. Two aspects could make a real difference. Those are detectability and lifespan limitations.

Germany welcomes the increasing commitment of a high number of States in different fora to the urgent issue of Explosive Weapons with wide area effects in urban areas. We welcome that the operational approach Germany has developed, which aims at strengthening compliance with existing rules of international humanitarian law, inter alia through the development and sharing of military best practices, has found wide acceptance. We are hoping that the discussion about this important issue will gain momentum also within the framework of the CCW. We will deliver a statement with further details on the best practice approach under agenda item 9 “emerging issues”.

Thank you, Mister Chair.