Thank you, Mr. Chair,

In addition to the statement delivered by the European Union, I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia is pleased that progress has been made this year, although the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) had to operate under severe time constraints, with only seven days allocated for this year’s meetings. In this regard we thank Mr Gjorgjinski for his leadership and we appreciate his innovative approach in form of informal meetings, so that the work of the GGE on LAWS could move forward.

Slovenia supports the continuation of work of GGE also in 2020 and 2021 with the aim to achieve further substantive progress on areas presented in the report of the GGE, namely further developing and elaborating guiding principles, considering legal,
technological and military aspects and the interaction between them, all with the aim to develop normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.

Slovenia supports the proposal set out in the document for a GGE meeting in duration of 15 days in 2020 and in 2021. We view the costs to be reasonable and appropriate. In this regard, we once again urge all States which have not done so, to settle their financial obligations as soon as possible. The payment of annual assessed contributions in time and in full is of utmost importance in order to ensure the continuation of this important work.

We reiterate our position of the necessity of preserving human control and control over artificial intelligence in all phases of LAWS operation and its use. Responsibility for the use and consequences of improper use of LAWS can be borne solely by its owner or its user.

Slovenia believes that the CCW remains the most appropriate format to regulate the development and use of LAWS. As the first step we could support adopting a Political Declaration on this important matter.

Thank you, Mr. Chair