Geneva, November 13th 2019

MSP to CCW, GGE LAWS

Statement of the Polish Delegation

Thank you Mr Chairman,

We are convinced that work on LAWS will be carried forward in 2020 by the Group of Governmental Experts in line with GGE Report’s recommendations, including adoption of agreed eleven Guiding Principles, which provide a proper basis for further deliberations.

The discussion on LAWS should be conducted in the most inclusive manner, taking into account different perspectives in the context of LAWS. We should also focus on their dual-use nature and proliferation risks they may pose. It is also important to differentiate between autonomy and automation of a given system.

We see merit in preparing political declaration that would encourage CCW State Parties’ to regulate development, testing and use of LAWS with assigned levels of human control. Closer examination of existing and emerging weapon systems may provide useful insights regarding what level of autonomy and human control may be considered acceptable or unacceptable, and under which circumstances, from a legal and ethical standpoint.

Such declaration could also help us determine if a given autonomous weapon system is developed and used in compliance with the relevant legal principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Within the legal aspects of LAWS we underline the significance and application of legal reviews of new weapons in accordance with article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions to ensure compliance of these weapons systems with international humanitarian law.

I thank you.