

Mr. Chairperson,

We think that the presentations and discussions this week have been valuable and have contributed to improving our common understanding of the many and complex issues related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

But many of the issues that were raised deserve further consideration. Also many questions remain.

We therefore see great value in continuing our discussions and will support a new mandate to that effect during the CCW meeting in November.

More in particular we think future discussions could focus on 3 topics in particular:

1. we should continue to focus our discussions on the human role, including on meaningful human control and work towards a common understanding;
2. command and control issues are an important part of meaningful human control and could be looked at in greater detail;
3. we also see value to further discuss the idea of a peer review process on Article 36.

Furthermore we should continue to identify the defining elements of LAWS. We see this as an essential step to take the process further. However, it should not be used to slow us down.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, let me once again underline that the issue of LAWS remains of great interest to the Netherlands. As we have stated in our opening statement, together with the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, relevant partners of civil society and academia we have only started our quest for a better understanding of this complex topic. The discussions in the context of the CCW are of great value in this endeavour.