Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

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

Finland stresses the importance of the CCW, and we continue to support the Convention and its Protocols in words and deeds. On Monday, I had the pleasure to preside over the 13th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V. I am truly grateful for the trust emplaced on Finland and I thank those delegations, which took part, for their cooperation in promoting this life saving instrument.

Like others, I would also like to congratulate Benin for joining Protocols 5 and AP-2.

Mr. Chairperson,

On Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems, we hope that progress could be made in the GGE towards the clarification, consideration and development of an effective and comprehensive normative and operational framework for LAWS. This is an ambitious target, but one which Finland will fully strive for.
The Guiding Principles, which have been agreed by all 125 States in the GGE, are an excellent platform on which States can now begin building a practical outcome. This would allow for shifting the GGE into more of a negotiating gear with a clear aim to achieve tangible and lasting gains from the GGE in the CCW Review Conference in 2021.

This aim was also emphasized at the UNGA High-Level Week in New York in September, when our Foreign Minister presented the “Declaration by the Alliance for Multilateralism on LAWS” on behalf of the Alliance.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is undisputed that any weapon system, whether one with autonomous features or not, must be used in accordance with International Humanitarian Law. Let me be absolutely clear - humans must always be responsible for decisions of life and death. This decision can never be transferred to a machine. Also from an ethical perspective, human control over a weapon is required to a level that preserves human agency and upholds moral responsibility in decisions to use force.

Finland emphasizes the need for all States to conduct rigorous legal weapons reviews before any new weapon is developed or deployed into use. Article 36 of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions is an excellent tool in this regard and we call on all countries not yet party to it to join as soon as possible.

The notion of autonomy in weapon systems is an exceptionally complex and multifaceted topic and cannot directly be compared with other arms control processes of recent years. It is for this reason that we need
at least **30 days** of meetings during 2020-2021. For Finland, the Geneva GGE is the “**only game in town**”.

Finally, I would like to thank UNODA’s Geneva branch for their hard work in assisting the Convention under exceptional circumstances and we welcome the beneficial contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society and academia into the work of the CCW.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

***