Mister Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

We welcome the work that was accomplished by this year’s GGE on LAWS under the very constructive and efficient North Macedonian chairmanship. Important new substance was added in our discussions on each of the three thematic clusters. Likewise the GGE managed to advance the discussion on possible policy options as stipulated by the mandate of the group.

Germany therefore fully endorses the expanded list of guiding principles as agreed by the GGE in August. The guiding principles contain important policy recommendations in aspects that are fundamental to the development and use of autonomous functions in future weapons
systems. They will serve as an important reference document for policy-makers and practitioners in the legal, military, scientific and industrial domain. The guiding principles have evolved through the work of the GGE and are now ready for adoption.

Germany also welcomes the recommendations of the GGE report on the way forward and stands ready to contribute actively to the development of aspects of the normative and operational framework on LAWS for consideration by High Contracting Parties at the 2021 Review Conference.

As technological progress will allow for the inclusion of an increasing range of autonomous functions in weapons systems it is high time for the CCW to focus its energy on such a normative and operational framework to ensure that fully autonomous lethal weapons systems working completely outside human control will never become a reality in future warfare.

In light of the tasks ahead of the GGE Germany supports allocating 15 working days in each year for a total of 30 working days in the run-up to the 2021 Review Conference. We believe this is the time required to allow the GGE to work out the necessary ethical, legal, military and technical input for a comprehensive normative and operational framework.

Thank you, Mister Chair.