

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Over the past few days, we have heard with interest the broad range of views expressed by experts and delegations. We would like to thank you for this opportunity to enhance and enrich our discussion on LAWS.

During the discussions, delegations have made use of various phrases referring to the appropriate degree of human involvement in respect to LAWS. Several States mentioned the phrase "meaningful human control". Several other States did not express support for this phrase. Some of them thought that it was too vague, and the alternative phrasing "appropriate levels of human judgment" was suggested. We have also noted, that even those who did choose to use the phrase "meaningful human control", had different understandings of its meaning. Some of its proponents had in mind human control or oversight of each targeting action in real-time, while others thought that, at least from a perspective of ensuring compliance with IHL, the preset by a human of certain limitations on the way a lethal autonomous system would operate, may also amount to meaningful human control.

In our view, it is safe to assume that human judgment will be an integral part of any process to introduce LAWS, and will be applied throughout the various phases of research, development, programming, testing, review, approval, and decision to employ them. LAWS will not actually be making decisions or exercising judgment by themselves, but will operate as designed and programmed by humans.

Humans who intend to develop and employ a lethal autonomous weapon system, are responsible to do so in a way that ensures the system's operation in accordance with the rules of IHL. In this regard, the context – referring to the specific system and the specific scenario of use – is of utmost importance. The characteristics and capabilities of each system must be adapted to the complexity of its intended environment of use. Where deemed necessary, the system's operation would be limited by, for example, restricting the system's operation to a specific perimeter, during a limited timeframe, against specific types of targets, to conduct specific kinds of tasks, or other such limitations which are all set by a human. Likewise, for example, if necessary, a system could be programmed to refrain from action when facing complexities it cannot resolve.

The Israeli delegation is looking forward to further deliberations on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.