Mr. Chair,

[Taking the floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you for your accession to the chairmanship of our meeting, and assure you of our full support.]

I would like to thank the Chair of the GGE, Mr. Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski of North Macedonia for having steered our work in the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems to a substantial result. We also thank him for the presentation of the report a moment ago.

The GGE based its work on the ten guiding principles of 2018, identified an additional eleventh principle and recommended in its final report their endorsement by this Meeting of the HCP.

The elaboration of these principles by the GGE is a positive development as would be their endorsement by the HCP later this week. They represent a much needed signal that the CCW is moving beyond mere discussions. They also represent an important consolidation of basic understandings among HCP, notably:

- On the applicability of IHL to the potential development and use of LAWS
- On ensuring accountability and the retention of human responsibility
- On the human-machine interaction, or
- On the need for risk assessments and mitigation measures.

The principles can also provide guidance for future work in the CCW as HCP will explore and hopefully agree on recommendations to address both benefits and challenges associated with LAWS.

Mr. Chair
One key point for this Meeting of the HCP is to agree on the mandate and parameters for future work. We welcome the fact that we are planning to adopt a programme of work running over two consecutive years, which will ensure continuity in our efforts.

In this context, Switzerland would have wished not only for a stronger but also for a more specific **mandate clarifying where we expect to land**. Last August, the negotiations on that part of the GGE’s report were challenging, indicating how far away the HCPs are from having a shared view of the deliverables for the 2021 CCW Review Conference.

In this context, we fully share the recommendations that, going forward, we should notably consider and clarify the framework applying to LAWS. In the course of doing so, elements may need to be further developed, so that a notion should be retained in the mandate for future work. **In view of the different considerations expressed on this aspect**, we could consider our mandate could rely on a formulation such as “consider and clarify the normative and operational framework applying to LAWS, and where necessary and appropriate consider its further development.” In addition we should continue to study and develop (further) practical measures, in particular with a view to ensure compliance with international law.

Mr. Chair,

Another open parameter of importance to our delegation is the duration of the meetings over the next two years. Our position is guided by the relevance and complexity of the issue at hand, as well as the diverging views on the way forward. This is why Switzerland is of the view that the GGE 2020/2021 should benefit from an allocation of **30 days**. I wish to put on record (once more) our dissatisfaction that, as a consequence of the limited number of days available in the formal GGE setting, the Group had to undertake its work in an informal setting.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to these considerations directly linked to our deliberations this week, let me reiterate that Switzerland is of the view that the CCW should work towards a political declaration which would not only affirm key principles and capture shared understandings but would also provide guidance on the way forward. In addition, **Furthermore, we remain convinced that, going forward, should continue to studying and developing (further) practical measures, in particular with a view to ensure compliance with international law, should be a key consideration in addressing LAWS.**

I thank you for your attention.