

CCW-HCP Meeting –Statement by Germany to LAWS / Mandat of the GGE

We align ourselves with the statement of the EU.

The CCW's work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) has been extremely useful over the past years. We thank Ambassador Amandeep Gill for taking on the task of chairing the Group of Governmental experts for an additional year during 2018.

We strongly recommend extending the GGE into next year with two sessions of one week each in 2019 as this rhythm has proven to be productive this year and will be needed to make progress towards defining recommendations for policy options. We advocate a result-focused continuation of the GGE's work by identifying policy options and work towards an outcome document. We welcome the nomination of Mr Giorgiewski by the Eastern European Group as the new chair of the GGE and look forward to working with him.

As we have explained in our joint submission with France to the GGE last year we suggest taking the GGE forward with a political declaration, transparency measures, the creation of a CCW expert group on LAWS, and a code of conduct as a second step.

We strongly believe that we need to see tangible progress in working towards a joint outcome-document of the GGE-process such as a Political Declaration in 2019. The GGE's agenda should provide dedicated room for High Contracting Parties to present their preferred options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS as stipulated by the mandate.

As technology continues to make great leaps we need to make sure that the GGE delivers its recommendations in time in order to steer developments in the joint interest of all High Contracting Parties.