



## **STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA – GGE LAWS, Geneva, August 2018**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CCW offers a flexible way to respond to new developments in weapons technologies and supports the implementation of an essential part of International Humanitarian Law, which contributes to preventing and reducing the suffering of both civilians and combatants.

We believe that CCW is an appropriate format to consider the matters related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). In this connection, we support continued deliberations on this issue in the current open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE).

We, as many other countries, believe that LAWS raise a number of ethical, legal, moral and technical, as well as international peace and security related questions, which should be thoroughly deliberated and examined. The development of modern technologies for military purposes must not jeopardize the implementation of the International Humanitarian Law, which is a historical achievement of the 20th century and needs to be further developed/adapted to changing circumstances, particularly regarding the developments in means and methods of warfare.

Our basic position and preliminary views regarding the development and application of the LAWS are as follows:

- In view of the rapid development of advanced technology, a complete moratorium on LAWS does not seem to be feasible. Therefore, in our view, the countries would need to commit to certain restrictions regarding the continued use of LAWS. As a consequence, this may also impose certain restrictions on further development of this technology and regulate the responsibility of owners and users of LAWS.

- We advocate the development of Autonomous Weapons Systems under strictly defined conditions, namely: (i) it is carried out under the control of state actors; (ii) it will advance the development and progress of civilian technologies to the benefit of humanity; (iii) it will benefit global security and stability; and (iv) the technological progress using artificial intelligence will improve military efficiency, make data processing more accurate and targeting more effective , with fewer casualties and damage and consequently result in a higher level of respect for international humanitarian law.

- We believe that artificial intelligence can serve to support the military decision-making process and contribute to certain advantages, but cannot in any way substitute it.

- It is necessary, in our view, to preserve the autonomy of human control over artificial intelligence, with the possibility of human intervention in all phases of LAWS operation.

- We also believe that there is a need for accurate regulation of procedures and conditions under which such systems can be used. Moreover, it is necessary to ensure that the autonomy of the implementation of an attack cannot allow for the independent choice of objectives. Furthermore, it has to be possible to influence the functioning of the system, if it would happen to be operating outside the acceptable use of force.

- The responsibility for the use and consequences of improper use of LAWS should be borne by its owner or user.

- In our view, the International Community should regulate the development and use of the LAWS, preferably within the framework of the CCW Convention, for example, by adopting a new additional protocol.

Thank you Mr. President.