Madame President,

First of all, let me join on congratulating you on your appointment as a Chair of the meeting and assure you of my delegations full support. I wish to align myself with the statement delivered by the European Union and make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Finland continues to stress the importance of the CCW. The convention forms an important part of the international disarmament machinery. It contributes significantly to the prevention and reduction of casualties around the world.

We value the work done in the context of the CCW in addressing the issue of IEDs. We welcome the agreement by the High Contracting Parties on a political declaration on this issue and we are looking forward to its final endorsement at the Fifth Review Conference.

It is important that the CCW lives up to the developments in the field of conventional arms and that way keep its relevance. Finland highly appreciated expert meeting discussions on LAWS (Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems) chaired by the distinguished Ambassador Biontino.

We strongly support the recommendations made by the expert group, including the establishment of a GGE (Group of Governmental Experts) under the auspices of the CCW. This would provide an opportunity to address further the critical questions concerning LAWS.

Finland highlights the importance of adhering to the rule of international humanitarian law in all situations and we see that IHL is fully applicable also in a situation where LAWS would be used as a means of warfare on the battleground.

We look forward the discussions during the Preparatory Committee and further during the Fifth Review Conference in December.

Thank you.