16. In pursuit of its mandate, the Group affirmed that,

i. CCW offers an appropriate framework for dealing with the issue of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The Convention's modular and evolutionary character, the balance it seeks to strike between humanitarian considerations and military necessity as well as the opportunity it offers to engage multiple stakeholders make it an ideal platform for reaching a common understanding on this complex subject.

ii. International humanitarian law continues to apply fully to all weapons systems, including the potential development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems.

iii. Responsibility for the deployment of any weapon system in armed conflict remains with States. States must ensure accountability for lethal action by any weapon system used by the State's forces in armed conflict in accordance with applicable international law, in particular international humanitarian law. The human element in the use of lethal force should be further considered.

iv. Acknowledging the dual nature of technologies in the area of intelligent autonomous systems that continue to develop rapidly, the Group's efforts in the context of its mandate should not hamper progress in or access to civilian research and development and use of these technologies.

v. Given the pace of technology development and uncertainty regarding the pathways for the emergence of increased autonomy, there would be a need to keep potential military applications of related technologies under review in the context of the Group's work.

vi. Keeping in mind the discussion on the various dimensions of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems – technological, military, legal and ethical, there would be merit in focusing the next stage of the Group's discussions on the characterization of the systems under consideration in order to promote a common understanding on concepts and characteristics relevant to the objectives and purposes of the CCW.

vii. There is a need to further assess the aspects of human-machine interaction in the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the next stage of the Group's work.

viii. Further, there is need to continue the discussion in a focused and participative manner on possible options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention without prejudging policy outcomes and taking into account past, present and future proposals.

17. The Group therefore recommends that,

The Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons shall meet for a duration of ten days in 2018 in Geneva in accordance with Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (CCW/CONF.V/10), consistent with CCW/CONF.V/2.1

The Rules of Procedure of the Review Conference shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Group. The Group shall conduct its work and adopt its report by consensus which

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1 The schedule of meetings shall be decided in light of the financial situation.
shall be submitted to the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention. The widest possible participation of all High Contracting Parties is to be promoted in accordance with the goals of the CCW Sponsorship Programme.

18. At the final plenary meeting, the Group adopted its report as contained in document [To be completed] as orally amended, which is being issued as document [To be completed].