Check against delivery.

Thank you Chair,

- For Norway, a fundamental starting point in a discussion about possible options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, is that all weapons systems must be able to be used in a manner consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- Moreover, weapons systems that cannot be used within the limitations set by international humanitarian law, are to be considered prohibited.
- A key question then becomes whether existing international regulation of the development and use of the weapons systems in question, provide sufficient guidance to ensure that no weapon system will ever detect, select and/or engage targets without adequate, meaningful or necessary human judgement and control. This question would, in our view, merit further consideration.

Mr. Chair

- We note that there is still no agreed definition of 'lethal autonomous weapons systems'. It is therefore difficult to make an a priori assessment of whether such systems could be legally employed or not.
- However, we remain skeptical of whether a weapon system acting with full autonomy, meaning that it is able to select and/or attack targets without adequate, meaningful or necessary human judgement and control, would be able to operate within the limitations set by international law.
- Norway has not yet concluded whether the challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS would warrant the development of a new international instrument. Nor have we concluded on the most appropriate form of any new instrument, should it be considered necessary.
- We stress, however, that the development and use of new military technologies, including autonomous technologies for military purposes, do not take place in a legal vacuum.
- We therefore see merit in further discussion and information sharing on how existing regulation, including national Article 36 processes, can be best implemented to ensure that no weapon system is used in violation of international law, in particular international humanitarian law.
- We have also taken note of the various proposals to develop a new international instrument to regulate the development and use of LAWS. We welcome with particular interest the German-French proposal to develop a political declaration.
- In so far as a political declaration could capture the emerging consensus around the notion that humans should always maintain adequate, meaningful or necessary control over the critical functions of weapons systems, it could, in our view, be a useful step forward and a possible 'compromise' between those states that hold that existing regulation is sufficient, and those states that would prefer to start negotiations on a legally-binding instrument.

I thank you, Chair.