

3rd GGE on LAWS

Statement of the Delegation of POLAND

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the skillful way in which you have been leading us through these complex debates about LAWS.

I will try to very briefly address agenda item 6a and then agenda item 6d.

We believe that we should spare no effort to build further, common understanding of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. We do agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that we should avoid deep philosophical discussions in this matter.

Due to the ever-changing nature of emerging technologies, finding a proper definition of LAWS is at this stage a very challenging task. All proposed so far definitions of LAWS - including one proposed yesterday by the Russian Federation's, which seems to be very interesting proposal – show, however, that we need further clarification of our goals.

We think that two basic questions have not been sufficiently addressed so far, namely: *Do we want to define LAWS in order to ban them?* or *Do we want to create a broad definition of fully autonomous weapons systems and then determine to what extent a human control over specific functions of these systems is required?*

Poland is of the opinion that, at present, to make progress in our debate, there is a great need to focus on the level and key elements of human control over weapons systems.

Respecting the principles of IHL such as distinction, proportionality and precaution requires an appropriate level of human control and supervision over selecting and attacking targets and, primarily, an ability to intervene after activation and an ability to deactivate the system if necessary.

There is no doubt that legal responsibility for acts conducted by LAWS would always lie with a human in the chain of command.

Mr. Chairman,

Having a common characterization of LAWS, or at least, a set of the key characteristics, would be a prerequisite for seeking future policy options. Pointing to these options, Poland underlines the significance of application of “Article 36 review” as essential to determining whether the adoption of new technologies might cause any significant concern from a humanitarian perspective.

And finally, after identifying the constitutive elements of LAWS, we also see the opportunity to develop a political declaration affirming State Parties’ desire to maintain human control with regard to autonomous systems.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman