Agenda item (A): An exploration of the potential challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems to International Humanitarian Law.

- Canada supports the creation of a compendium of best practices for improving compliance with international law regarding legal weapons reviews.

- We intend to participate fully in such exchanges of these best practices.

- In discussing the potential challenges posed by emerging LAWS technologies, we should consider greater integration of gender considerations.

DND/CAF’s Legal Weapons Review Process

- Canada conducts legal reviews of new weapons, means, and methods of warfare that are being contemplated for study, development, acquisition, or adoption by the Department of Defence.
and the Canadian Armed Forces to ensure their compliance with international law.

- As part of this weapons review, several factors are considered:

  A) Whether the possession or employment of the weapon could violate a rule of conventional or customary international law applicable to Canada;

  B) Whether the weapon is of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering;

  C) Whether the weapon is capable of being used discriminatingly;

  D) Whether the weapon is intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term, and severe damage to the natural environment; and,

  E) Whether there are any foreseeable developments in the law of armed conflict that may affect the future legality of the weapon.

- This review informs decision makers on the potential legal risks, challenges, and concerns regarding the use of a particular means or method of warfare, and can determine whether – and in what circumstances – a certain capability could lawfully be deployed.
• *(DND research)* In addition, Canada is currently studying frameworks to identify ethical implications of weapons that include AI components. Canada hopes to find consistent, meaningful methods of discovering ethical issues early in the development cycle of emerging technologies.