China’s Comments on the “Eleven Guiding Principles” on LAWS

1. The current “Eleven Guiding Principles” are positive results of arduous discussions, and reflect the consensus of all parties concerned. These principles are also the expression of the rationale enshrined in the UN Charter, International Humanitarian Law and other universally recognized legal and ethical concepts, and therefore could serve as basic guidelines for countries to regulate the military applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This achievement also shows clearly that the international community has both the will and the ability to address all possible issues caused by LAWS, and that the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is the appropriate framework to deal with LAWS-related issues.

2. China is of the view that the “Eleven Guiding Principles” has laid a useful foundation for GGE’s further discussions. This hard-won achievement should be cherished and not advisable to reopen for discussion. In the future, parties concerned may add new guiding principles on the basis of consensus and in line with the development of AI technologies. Meanwhile, the GGE should continue to discuss definition, technologies, military applications, policy options and other related issues according to the mandate of the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention with a view to negotiating a legally binding international instrument when conditions are ripe.

3. As for the operationalizing of the principles, countries may take further specific measures to implement them within their existing legal and military regulatory regime in line with the requirements of these Principles. These measures may include the development of industry norms, ethical declarations and guideline for action so as to strengthen guidance to and oversight of the development of related technologies. China encourages countries to actively conduct international exchanges and share best practices on a voluntary basis.

4. China pays high attention to the security and ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies. In July 2017, China released the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, which made some proposals on laws, regulations and ethical norms for the development of AI, including building a framework for the development of AI, formulating a code of conduct for product developers, and enhancing assessment of potential threats. In June 2019, the National Governance Committee for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence put forward eight principles and guidelines for the responsible development of development of AI, including Harmony and Human-friendly, Fairness and Justice, Inclusion and Sharing, Respect for Privacy, Safety and Controllability, Shared Responsibility, Openness and Collaboration, Agile Governance. In July 2019, the Chinese government
established the National Ethics Committee on Science and Technology, which will guide and regulate the dual-use application of science and technology including AI through legislation, law enforcement and review.

Besides, the Chinese academia, scientific research community and relevant associations have also made active efforts in promoting self-discipline. “Chinese Young Scientists’ Declaration on the Governance and Innovation of Artificial Intelligence”, “Six AI Principles”, “Beijing AI Principles”, “Shanghai Initiative for the Safe Development of Artificial Intelligence” were released successively, which made it clear that the fundamental purpose of AI technologies should be to benefit mankind and the moral principles, dignity and human rights of all mankind and the moral principles, dignity and human rights of all mankind should be safeguarded. This fully demonstrates China’s responsible approach to participate in ethics building in the global governance of AI.

5. China will continue to participate in the GGE work on LAWS in an active and constructive manner, and to share China’s policies and best practices in order to make positive contributions to properly solving the concerns caused by LAWS.