

Written Commentary by the Delegations of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine, Uruguay, Calling for a Legally-Binding Instrument on Autonomous Weapon Systems

A new cycle has started for this Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). Our delegations are prepared to engage constructively and find common ground.

We reiterate our call to expeditiously address the risks and challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems, including in the following areas:

- Compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law;
- Ethical considerations, including implications on human dignity and the erosion of moral responsibility and accountability in the use of force; and
- Humanitarian considerations, non-proliferation, and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Our position regarding autonomous weapons systems is well established in the working paper numbered CCW/GGE.1/2021/WP.7 and the written commentary that we submitted during the cycle of meetings of the GGE in 2021.

We reaffirm that autonomous weapons systems require the development of legally binding rules and principles, including regulations and prohibitions on the development, production, possession, acquisition, deployment, transfer and use of autonomous weapon systems that cannot be used with meaningful human control or in compliance with international law.

Among the objectives and purposes of the Convention on the Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious Or To Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) is “to continue the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict.”

The mandate of this Group for 2022 is “to consider proposals and elaborate, by consensus, possible measures, including taking into account the example of existing protocols within the Convention” and other options, building upon previous recommendations and conclusions of the Group.

In this regard, we intend to submit a proposal that includes the following initial elements:

- Characterization of autonomous weapon systems;
- General commitments, including prohibitions and regulations;
- Meaningful human control; and
- Ethical considerations

We will elaborate this proposal on the basis of constructive engagement with all High Contractive Parties to this Convention, taking into account the commonalities among a broad spectrum of views and proposals, and guided by the objectives and purposes of this Convention and the mandate of this Group.