

4th GGE on LAWS

Statement of the Delegation of POLAND

Agenda item 5(d)(brief) and 5(c)

Mr Chairman,

Thank you for providing informative paper regarding human element, however instead of detailed comments and trying to edit it we would like to make generic comments, actually to two of the provided papers. If you don't mind Mr Chairman, firstly, let me go back to the item 5(d) we discussed yesterday morning regarding other military applications. I will be brief, I promise.

(5d) The debate about potential military applications and opportunities often frames issues concerning autonomisation of weapon systems, rather than autonomy as a capability in general. Poland underlines that autonomous functioning may or may not involve weaponised systems.

For wider operational use of autonomised systems greater understanding is required and the innovative way in which systems with autonomous functioning can be used to support wide set of existing operational tasks. Potential new tasks (even not defined yet) may be possible using autonomy.

The reasons and specific benefits of autonomisation should be associated with a set of relevant risks and trade-offs, which can only be analysed in specific system-task context. How each of these benefits translates into military advantage depends on the particular system or task.

(5c) Keeping this in mind Poland underlines that commander will remain responsible for the actions of subordinated personnel and autonomised machines. In certain cases designers are responsible as well - in designing phase in particular and potentially in learning phase. This should serve as a natural limit to the scope and reach of autonomous functioning. A sound principle for decision-makers and designers is to always ensure an option of

scalable level of human control, depending on the military context and the level of defined risk.

As Poland stated previously, closer and regulated examination of existing and emerging autonomised defence systems may provide useful insights to what assigned level of human control may be considered acceptable, and under which circumstances from legal and ethical standpoints.

I thank you, Mr Chairman