Statement by India: Further consideration of the human element in the use of lethal force; aspects of human machine interaction in the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

Tuesday, 26 March 2019 – 15:00 -18:00

Mr Chairperson,

- Relationship between human operator and machine, as also the level of human involvement in use of force, is of vital importance. **Human control must be maintained over all weapon systems and the same should be applicable in the context of LAWS also. Maintaining human control during its entire life cycle including over critical functions is essential.**

- From a military perspective, **full autonomy for LAWS, with no communication link or control, contradicts the basic operational tenets of decision making based on situational awareness and operational control by the commander**. Hence, "human control" in the deployment and activation stage is essential for weapon selection, deployment, target selection/ attack, which would also help establish accountability, as highlighted in my intervention, earlier.

- While human in the loop is ideal, quick reaction systems may need to be governed by at least human on the loop. The features of such an interface are required, is a matter of detail, that merits further discussion among member states.

- Challenges concerning reliability, predictability and fool proof communications with the human operator, including **inherent risks of interference and system/ machine failures, would have to be also considered.**

- In line with what Germany said, any engineering system, including weapon systems need to be modelled and have logic than based on only statistical inputs. In this regard, challenges concerning reliability and predictability is of vital importance. Additionally, fool-proof communications with the human operator, including inherent risks of interference and system/machine failure, would have to be factored and accounted for.

Thank You Chair.