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Statement by Mr. Asaf Segev

Arms Control Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal
Autonomous Weapons Systems

Human Element in the use of lethal force
(Agenda item 5 c)

United Nations, Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor during this year's GGE, let me start by congratulating you, upon the assumption of the chairmanship of the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), convened under the CCW.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the preparatory work done prior to this meeting to include the 'food for thought' non-paper provided. In our preparation to the GGE, my delegation found the Program of Work to be useful and valuable for our aim of further developing the discussions.

Please allow me to elaborate on our viewpoint regarding some of the questions presented under agenda item 5 (b) focusing on the human – machine interaction:

With regards to the type and degree of appropriate human involvement needed to ensure compliance with IHL, Israel would initially state that human judgment will always be an integral part of any process regarding LAWS, and will be applied throughout their life-cycle. The 2018 GGE assisted us in structuring our discussions and illustrated that it is important to look at the entire life cycle of the weapon system, rather than focusing only on a limited slice of the process. This is reflected in the 'Possible Guiding Principles' 21 (b). We suggest continuing our discussions based on that notion.

We therefore reiterate that human judgment would be demonstrated within the development and acquisition process of LAWS as well as the operational planning and deployment of LAWS.

Humans will always be in charge of any process to develop and acquire LAWS, including the various phases of the research, development, programming, testing, technical and legal review, and approval of such systems. During these phases, humans will determine how LAWS will operate. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the humans involved that the system's use will be lawful.

As with any other weapon, the persons involved would take into account the operational scenarios, environments and circumstances in which the weapon is intended to be employed, and during development they must ensure that the algorithms and technical capabilities of the weapon make it suitable for use in these circumstances. This applies also to the legal aspect. Thus, it should be ensured that, under the circumstances in which the weapon is intended to be used, and in the way it would be authorized to be used, its future employment would comply with the Laws of Armed Conflict. As any other weapon, LAWS could be authorized for use subject to limitations and conditions.



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The human who makes the decision to use the weapon is responsible that the use would comply with the Laws of Armed Conflict. If deemed necessary in order to meet the legal requirements, the human should limit the system's operation by, for example, restricting the system's operation to a specific perimeter or during a limited timeframe.

To conclude, Israel believes our discussions here in the GGE, serve to promote a deeper understanding of human- machine interaction relating to LAWS.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.