



UK Mission
Geneva

**CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
2022 MEETING OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE GROUP OF
GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS**

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

H.E. Mr Aidan Liddle, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 16 November 2022

The United Kingdom welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. We thank Ambassador Damico and his team for all their efforts during this session of the GGE, acknowledging the difficulties and obstructions that he faced during this session. We warmly welcome his announcement of his availability to chair the group in 2023.

Despite those obstructions – which were largely extraneous to our mandate – the GGE has made some progress in 2022. The group held substantive discussion across all aspects of the debate. The UK regrets the fact that the Chair was prevented from producing a report that fully represents the entirety of the good work undertaken by the GGE this year.

The UK looks forward to further meetings in 2023. The GGE now has a number of proposals before it, including two co-sponsored by the UK: a proposal for the elaboration of a document, or manual, that would constitute an authoritative and comprehensive statement of the application of International Humanitarian Law and agreed best practice; and the joint proposal on Principles and Good Practices on Emerging Technology in the area of LAWS. The group should be given sufficient time to allow full and comprehensive discussion of all of these proposals, in pursuance of its mandate to elaborate possible measures and other options related to the normative and operational framework governing these technologies. There is still much work to be done, particularly on important aspects such as the need to increase understanding of the concept of human involvement, and the ways in which systems with autonomy can be developed and used ethically, responsibly and in compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

Therefore, we recommend that the meeting of High Contracting Parties renew the mandate of the GGE in 2023, with 20 days of meetings in order to allow sufficient time for the appropriate consideration of the proposals before it. In the view of my delegation, 20 days is the minimum number required to do justice to a topic that is of concern to many.

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