

16.11.2022

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

TOP „Consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) (CCW/GGE.1/2022/3) (agenda item 7). Under this item, the report of the Group of Governmental Experts will be presented. Delegations are invited to present their views on the Report and the way forward.“

16 November 15 – 18h, continued: 17 November 10 – 13h

#### **Joint Statement**

**by Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden.

First of all, we fully align ourselves with the statement that was / will be presented by the EU.

Allow me to convey our **gratitude to the chair** of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, Ambassador Damico, and his team. We welcome his leadership and tireless efforts to enable the group to move forward and to find common ground.

**Our countries appreciate the substantive exchanges the GGE had in 2022, like in 2020 and 2021.** They have advanced our common understanding, for instance with regard to the importance of human control over the use of force. They clearly demonstrated that a broad range of states see the need for a concrete outcome of the GGE and are willing to work towards this end, within the inclusive and expert forum of the CCW.

This was particularly the case during the GGE meeting in July, which considered a variety of **solid and constructive input papers submitted by a significant number of High Contracting Parties.**

The meeting demonstrated **that the two-tier approach, as advocated in our Joint Working Paper dated 13. July 2022, is gaining further traction, and that it contributed to achieving further convergence.** We see a clear potential for intensifying the efforts undertaken so far, and stand ready for further work in this regard.

**Against this background, we deeply regret that in 2022, despite all efforts, and like in 2021, the GGE was once again prevented from adopting a substantive report reflecting the level of its discussions.**

Therefore, our group attaches high importance to consenting a sufficient amount of meeting days to **continue and intensify the work of the GGE in 2023. In our view, the GGE should meet for at least 20 days, to allow enough time to discuss in depth and find consensus on normative formulations on this complex subject matter.** There is now a remarkable amount of substance on the table. We are convinced that the GGE will be able to achieve further convergence if granted sufficient time and room for discussion. It remains of utmost importance to us that the GGE achieves tangible results, and we call upon all its members to work constructively in this direction.

The **Joint Statement on LAWS** that was delivered during the meeting of the First Committee on 21 October and that was signed by 70 states including the members of our group was a valuable signal, indicating the largely shared agreement on the importance of the subject. Not only did it underscore the importance of addressing LAWS. It underscored that there is a lot of common ground, including on the necessity of appropriate human control, judgment and involvement, across the lifecycle of these weapons systems, in particular concerning the use of force. It raises hopes for further constructive cooperation.

Finally, allow me to stress our appreciation of **the participation of academia and civil society in the meetings of the GGE.** Their dedicated work and their contributions complement and enrich our work enormously.