

National Statement by Germany

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

Geneva, 16 to 18 November 2022

Mr Chair,

- **In my national capacity, I would like to make some points complementing the statement given by the group of eight states supporting the two-tier approach (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden).**
- **First of all, Germany fully aligns itself with the statement that was presented by the EU.**
- **During this year's meetings of the GGE on LAWS, Germany tried to be very flexible in the spirit of constructiveness and compromise.**
- **We would have very much appreciated a final report that reflects what we perceive as growing convergence around the two-tier approach: The idea that lethal autonomous weapons systems operating completely outside human control and thus incapable of being used in accordance with IHL are *ipso facto* prohibited and should not be developed or used. And that all other weapons systems featuring autonomy should be regulated in order to ensure their use within a framework of human control.**
- **Germany welcomed the draft final report proposed by the chair of the GGE, Ambassador Damico, and we would, again, like to thank him and his team for their efforts. We were very disappointed that the GGE – as in 2021 - was not able to consent a text that does justice to the work of the group.**
- **With regard to the way forward it is of utmost importance to us that the GGE intensifies its efforts in order to achieve tangible results.**
- **Against that background, we welcome the attempts to work constructively towards an effective outcome, such as the Joint Statement by 70 states at the First Committee's meeting in October – mentioning, inter alia, the growing convergence on the basis of the two-tier approach.**

- In our view, it is crucial that the GGE will be given at least 20 days of meeting time in 2023 in order to consider the various proposals that were submitted this year and to make substantial progress.
- It is important that the GGE continue its efforts based on a solid, focused and ambitious mandate - both for the CCW, as the relevant international forum in this regard that brings together the relevant expertise and stakeholders, to deliver results, *and* because of the urgency that stems from the pace of technological progress and the potential risks associated with it -
- Germany remains committed to pursuing our efforts in the GGE towards an outcome that reflects the necessity of compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, taking into account relevant ethical considerations.
- This will require that *all* High Contracting Parties show the necessary willingness to compromise to underline that consensus means to advance our common interest in upholding the norms of IHL while technology advances. We owe it to ourselves and to this Forum