

Courtesy translation

**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) - LAWS
Meeting of the High Contracting Parties
Geneva, 17 November 2022**

General statement under item 7 of the agenda

Mr Chairperson,

First of all, let me thank Ambassador Damico for his efforts and leadership in the GGE LAWS to highlight the points of convergence in our discussions. The last sessions of this group have been particularly fruitful, despite the difficulties to record the progress made. We are making progress on substance. No one can deny that.

In addition to the joint statement delivered by Germany on behalf of Finland, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway and my own country France, I would like to focus on three points in my national capacity.

First of all, France is convinced that, on the basis of the **two-tier approach**, a consensus can be reached. This approach appears today as a possible common denominator that should allow for the collective agreement of measures in this forum to ensure that the development and use of lethal weapon systems based on emerging technologies in the field of LAWS are in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

To guarantee this objective, we must then be able to count on **the commitment of all the High Contracting Parties in a constructive** and respectful spirit of the Convention, its objectives, and principles and, more generally, of the international norms on which international peace and security are based. France is convinced that, together, we can achieve tangible and concrete results. That is why we believe it is important to ensure that the GGE benefits from 20 working days in 2023. This will allow us to make further progress in identifying ways and means to ensure that the development and use of potential lethal weapons systems featuring autonomy are carried out in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm that, despite the challenges we face, **the CCW remains the appropriate forum to address the issue of LAWS**, as mentioned in the final declaration of the Sixth Review Conference. Indeed, this Convention has unique assets: no other forum is as universal; it includes among its High Contracting Parties the States with the most developed military capabilities; it brings together threefold political, military, and legal expertise; the UN Secretary General is the depositary; and it operates by consensus. No other forum offers equivalent guarantees of universality, expertise, and impartiality.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson./.