



**Statement delivered by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan  
to the Conference on Disarmament  
2024 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies  
in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems 2<sup>nd</sup> session:  
26th August 2024  
General statement**

Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by thanking you and your team including ISU for the efforts in organizing this meeting. Please be assured of the full support of my delegation.

As emerging technologies continue to advance, the international community's interest in the military application of AI and other technologies and their impact is growing. This makes our discussions on LAWS increasingly important. It is of the utmost importance that we work towards clarifying the normative and operational framework pertaining to LAWS, while considering its relationship with existing international law, in particular international humanitarian law (IHL).

Military use of emerging technologies should be examined in a comprehensive manner, with a sufficient understanding of their risks and benefits, and taking into account both security and humanitarian considerations. Japan places importance on conducting the military use of emerging technologies in a responsible manner, maintaining the "human-

centric" principle and ensuring reliability and predictability. Japan also supports the view that the obligations of IHL apply to all weapon systems, including LAWS, that weapon systems must not be used if they are incapable of being used in compliance with IHL, and that other weapon systems should be subject to necessary restrictions to ensure compliance with IHL.

Mr. Chair,

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the LAWS GGE 2024, the Chair has shared a rolling text, which provides a meaningful foundation for our discussion. In order to formulate rules that are universal and effective, we need to accumulate solid results every year while looking ahead to the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference in 2026. We believe that the Chair's rolling text will support this objective. Japan strongly hopes that fruitful discussions will be held on the key agenda items in order to reach a consensus.

In international rule-making on LAWS, universality of rules is required for ensuring effectiveness. It is necessary for stakeholder states, including those with advanced technological capabilities, to participate in these discussions, and from this perspective, Japan strongly supports the continuation of the discussions under the CCW.

Mr. Chair,

Japan will spare no effort for the adoption of the report and reiterate our full support to the Chair. Japan will continue to actively and constructively participate in the discussion in order to contribute to achieving our goal in accordance with the mandate of the GGE on LAWS.

Thank you, Mr. Chair