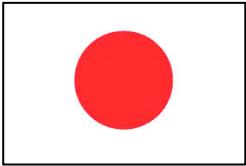


**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro**  
**Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**  
**Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament**  
**25 May 2023**

Madam President,

With the accelerating developments of emerging technologies, the discussion on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) is becoming increasingly important, as the international community's interest in the military use of AI and other emerging technologies and their impact continues to grow. It is truly significant that the Group of Governmental Experts adopted, thanks to the able Chairpersonship of Ambassador Damico of Brazil, a report containing substantive progress last week, in accordance with its mandate.

The report reflects what is called two-tier approach, which provides that (1), as the first tier, “weapons systems based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS must not be used if they are incapable of being used in compliance with IHL,” and that (2) as the second tier, “control with regard to weapon systems based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS is needed to uphold compliance with international law, in particular IHL, including the principles and requirements of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack”. The second tier part also indicates several concrete measures to be taken to that purport. This consensus report captures tangible added-value, reaffirming the utility and



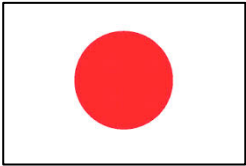
relevance of the Group for our collective efforts toward a normative and operational framework for LAWS.

The GGE decided to leave the deliberation on the next mandate to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW to be held at the end of this year. Japan subscribes to an incremental approach and strongly hopes that the Meeting could adopt an adequate new mandate so that the GGE can build upon this year's valuable progress next year. We believe that the GGE will continue to be the most pertinent venue for fostering international rule-making on LAWS.

Madam President,

Newly emerging technologies are bringing about both benefits and risks at the same time. Military application of these emerging technologies may lead to a new dimension within multilateral arms control efforts. We consider that we are facing the following three challenges that are prevalent across such emerging technologies, which may eventually require fresh thinking beyond the traditional approach of arms control.

First, engaging various stakeholders matters. Developments of new technologies, such as those related to AI, outer space, and cyberspace, are mainly driven by the private sector. On the other hand, those technologies tend to have dual-use nature, which poses potential security concerns. Therefore, it is imperative to engage the industrial sector actors creating these technologies in discussions on how to deal with security concerns arising from them.

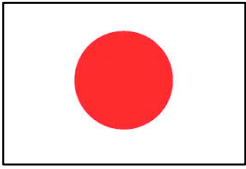


Second, while rapid technological changes have huge impacts on our societies and economies, the international governance of new technologies has not necessarily kept pace. In order to agilely fill these gaps, it will be more effective, in the majority of cases, to first address these newly emerging issues by forging political arrangements or commitments, as they tend to be more flexible and more adaptable to changing circumstances than legally binding instruments. As history shows, such efforts will eventually constitute a useful basis for forging legally binding instruments on the issues concerned. At the same time, since existing international law continues to provide us with good guidance even in the new circumstances created by the emerging technologies, we should also continue to rely upon and be bound by them as far as applicable.

Third, the impact of newly emerging technologies, like AI, is profoundly far-reaching across a wide range of areas and activities of our societies. With this in mind, responses by the international community to concerns posed by emerging technologies tend to be multi-faceted and engender several parallel tracks driven by different points of view, including that of arms control. In order to retain consistency among these simultaneous efforts, it is of great value to share overarching guidance and mutually reinforcing architecture.

Madam President,

The issue of AI was also taken up at the G7 Summit held in Hiroshima, Japan, last week. Allow me to share with the Conference the results of the



discussion on this topic, as this issue is also pertinent to the challenges that I have mentioned.

In the “G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué,” the G7 leaders commit to further advancing multi-stakeholder approaches to the development of standards for AI, respectful of legally binding frameworks, and recognize the importance of procedures that advance transparency, openness, fair processes, impartiality, privacy and inclusiveness to promote responsible AI. In this context, they confirmed the necessity of governance for generative AI and immersive technologies based on the values of the G7. And, they agreed that they would have their ministers in charge discuss issues related to generative AI such as governance, safeguard of intellectual property rights including copy rights, promotion of transparency, response to foreign information manipulation, including disinformation, and responsible utilization of these technologies. This process is called the “Hiroshima AI process,” and the G7 leaders asked their ministers to report the results before the end of this year.

I thank you, Madam President, for your kind attention.

(END)