



**Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA,  
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the  
Conference on Disarmament  
2023 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the  
Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: first session  
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Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairpersonship once again this year and also thanking you and the CCW ISU for the efforts in organizing this meeting. Please be assured of the full support of my delegation.

With the ongoing development of emerging technologies, the international community's interest in the military use of the Artificial Intelligence and other technologies and in their impact continues to grow, which has made our discussions on LAWS even more important. Japan will continue to actively and constructively participate in international rule-making efforts in order to develop a clear normative and operational framework for LAWS. We reiterate our full support and cooperation for the Chair's efforts leading to the formation of universal rules on this crucial issue.

Despite bewildering complexity surrounding the discussions on LAWS and the embittered conditions in which those discussions took place in recent years, it is significant that the High Contracting Parties have persistently committed themselves to the discussions on LAWS within this group even after the endorsement of the guiding principles in 2019. Through our

discussions over the last two years, a new consensus has been formed in substance. Or, at least, a number of topics was identified as being susceptible of such a consensus. It is extremely important that this year's GGE adopt a report that consolidates these points.

On the other hand, we have to admit that the divergence of views among the High Contracting Parties still remains in those areas which are particularly marked by the complexity of debate. It is therefore necessary to realistically determine the areas where consensus can be reached, taking into consideration the time constraints within this short 10-day session.

Mr. Chairperson,

A number of countries submitted meaningful proposals at last year's GGE. We welcome such diverse inputs as they enhance the quality of our discussions. We were also impressed by the Austrian-led initiative at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly last year leading to a Joint Statement on LAWS endorsed by 70 countries. This was a remarkable achievement in terms of consensus-building efforts as these 70 countries include those countries who subscribe to different proposals at the GGE last year. While building on such past efforts, we believe the current GGE should concentrate on carefully analyzing each proposal and identifying elements of consensus.

For the preparation of the GGE report this year, it is important to focus on the commonalities among the proposals in terms of their substances, rather than their binding nature. Even among the countries of different positions, a great degree of common understanding has been fostered on many key issues including application of international humanitarian law, responsibility and

accountability of states and humans, the utility of weapons reviews, and risk mitigation measures.

A rapid development of emerging technologies has made it imperative to make a quick response to the requests for rule-making on weapon systems using these technologies in the area of LAWS. Last year, Japan, together with Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, submitted the "Principles and Good Practices on Emerging Technologies in the Area of LAWS" (P&GP) proposal, containing guidelines and good practices that can withstand practical operation. The purpose of this proposal was to promote concrete discussions on the application of International Humanitarian Law to LAWS as well as on other key issues.

In addition, we are to submit a revised version of the P&GP (Draft articles on autonomous weapon systems – prohibitions and other regulatory measures on the basis of international humanitarian law (“IHL”)) to this session of the GGE. Japan is of the view that a pragmatic approach, with which the P&GP is infused, facilitates consensus building efforts in the discussion of this group. As such, we do not consider (Draft articles on autonomous weapon systems – prohibitions and other regulatory measures on the basis of international humanitarian law (“IHL”)) to be the end of discussions on this subject. Rather, we believe that (Draft articles on autonomous weapon systems – prohibitions and other regulatory measures on the basis of international humanitarian law (“IHL”)) can be used as a springboard to further develop discussions to examine whether there are any deficiencies in the existing rules and how to compensate for deficiencies if any, and that such discussions will contribute to advancing discussions in areas where a consensus has not yet been formed, such as the characteristics

of LAWS.

We are confident that the GGE will continue to play a central role in fostering a common understanding on LAWS and serve as a venue for international rule-making. Forming rules by consensus in the CCW, a disarmament framework in which 126 countries, including key stakeholders, participate, is the key to ensuring the effectiveness of the rules. Japan strongly hopes that constructive discussions will be held this year that will contribute to the adoption of a substantive report within this GGE.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.