Thank you very much Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you Mr. President to hold today’s opportunity to exchange and expand our views on the new and emerging technologies. Japan appreciates highly the initiatives which promote substantive discussion in this forum. I would also like to extend my heartfelt welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Belgium, and I look forward to cooperating closely with you, especially during your CD Presidency next year 2021. I would also like to thank all of the panelists for their informative and inspiring presentations, which add depth and perspective to our discussion.

Japan values our work in the Subsidiary Body 5 during the 2018 session of the CD. This forum enabled us to exchange our views regarding emerging issues, such as the potential for scientific and technological developments to produce new weapons, cyber security, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for weapons. We also valued the presentations made by experts in the course of the Subsidiary Body’s activities.

Regarding cyber and artificial intelligence, we are pleased that our joint efforts have resulted in the discussions that are currently unfolding in the relevant framework of the United Nations and the CCW. Japan is actively
participating in these discussions.

Today, science and technology as well as their application to the military purposes are evolving at breakneck speed as Dr. Rickli of GCSP has eloquently described in his presentation. It’s now difficult to overstate the impact of technological innovations not only on our economic and social lives, but also on security issues. For the CD, in order to better prepare for future specific discussions, it is of great value to understand accurately scientific and technological progress, the current state of their application and the risks associated therewith in order to promote common understanding on these crucial matters. In that sense, Japan appreciates highly today's opportunity to hear from you, the experts, and to exchange our views on these subjects.

Mr. President,

In the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, there are a wide range of technological areas that could be one day a subject of our future discussions. Japan considers that the following three points are relevant and merit special consideration, no matter which area we shall discuss.

The first point is the applicability of the existing international law and international norms.

From the perspective of Japan, which emphasizes always the rule of law in the international community, it is imperative to comply with the international law and the international humanitarian law, especially when it comes to a use of force, including new weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, an improved transparency, strengthened confidence-building measures and a better communication between the countries concerned are of great value. In this
regard, I would like to reaffirm the importance of enhancing domestic implementation of international humanitarian law through, among other things, *the weapons review* prescribed in Article 36 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The second point is the dual-use nature of technology.

As many examples illustrate, and as Ms. Dwan of UNIDIR has eloquently stressed, in the field of outer space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence, many emerging technologies have both civilian and potential military applications. While emerging technologies may have significant military and security implications, the benefits of these emerging technologies to the economy and society are immeasurable. Therefore, it is advisable not to impose unreasonable restrictions on the development of useful technology in the name of arms control. Here, the key is how to strike an optimal balance between these two different requirements.

Third, the multiplicity of stakeholders. As is evident in the AI and cyber domains, private actors are playing a greater role in technological innovations that may have major security implications. Therefore, in order to conduct a meaningful discussion, the participation from multiple layers of stakeholders are even more desirable. In the same vein, inputs from the experts are most welcome from both government and private sectors.

Finally, Mr. President,

Based on these points, let me underline the importance of promoting future-oriented discussion on emerging technologies and their impact. Japan is confident that the CD is a suitable venue for such discussions. Japan hopes that substantial discussions will progress in the CD by narrowing
down the themes based on a common understanding among member States, while avoiding duplication with other tracks.

I thank you Mr. President.