

# *China's Comments on the Working Recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS*

## **Overview**

1. Under the leadership of previous Chairpersons, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) conducted in-depth discussions and successfully formulated the *Eleven Guiding Principles* on LAWS. China believes that these Principles reflect the objectives and principles of the UN Charter, International Humanitarian Law and other universally recognized legal and ethical concepts, and provide basic guidance for the High Contracting Parties to regulate the military applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This achievement also shows clearly that the international community has both the will and the ability to address all possible issues caused by LAWS, and that the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is the appropriate framework to deal with LAWS-related issues.

2. China is of the view that the Eleven Guiding Principles lay a good foundation for further discussions by the GGE. The GGE should further discuss relevant issues such as definition, technology characteristics, military implications policy options. The GGE should also, make comprehensive assessment of the impacts of LAWS and further build up consensus with a view to adopting additional guiding principles step by step and negotiating on a legally-binding international instrument when conditions are ripe.

3. China holds that states may take further specific measures to implement these Principles within their existing legal and military regulatory regime and in line with their actual needs. These measures may include the development of industry norms, ethical declarations and action guidelines so as to strengthen guidance to and oversight of the development of related technologies. China encourages states to promote international exchanges and share best practices on a voluntary basis.

## **Recommendations on the 2021 GGE report**

4. China supports to extend the current mandate of the GGE by the Sixth CCW Review Conference so that in-depth discussions on the related issues could continue. China is in favour of establishing three working groups covering technology, military

and legal aspects respectively within the GGE, to make recommendations on relevant normative and operational framework by consensus.

5. In light of the previous discussions in recent years, and according to the 2019 GGE report, China proposed to add the following three new principles:

——*Enhancing the evaluation of emerging technologies.*

States should further enhance the evaluation of emerging technologies in the area of LAWS in light of the development of technologies, and promote communications and exchanges with international organizations, civil societies, research institutions and industry associations. Appropriate regulatory measures should be explored to avoid misuse and abuse of related technologies, and prevent them from becoming new tools and means of illegal activities and crimes.

——*Pursuing AI for good.*

States should foster innovation and take effective preventive measures to minimize harm to civilians posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS to ensure the objectives and purposes of humanitarianism.

——*Promoting international cooperation.*

International exchanges and cooperation should be encouraged to promote the peaceful use of emerging technologies, bridge technological gaps among states, and prevent the abuse of non-proliferation to erect obstacles to normal exchanges and cooperation in emerging technologies.

### **Best Operational Practices**

6. China pays high attention to the security and ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies. In July 2017, China released the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, which made some proposals on laws, regulations and ethical norms for the development of AI, including building a framework for the development of AI, formulating a code of conduct for product developers, and enhancing assessment of potential threats. In June 2019, the National Governance Committee for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence released the *Principles of New Generation Artificial Intelligence Governance-Responsible AI*, and put forward eight principles and guidelines for the responsible development of AI, including *Harmony and Human-friendly, Fairness and Justice, Inclusion and Sharing, Respect for Privacy, Safety and Controllability, Shared Responsibility, Openness and Collaboration, Agile Governance*. In July 2019, the Chinese Government established the National

Ethics Committee on Science and Technology, which will guide and regulate the dual-use application of science and technology including AI through legislation, law enforcement and review.

7. In addition, the Chinese academia, scientific research community and relevant associations have made active efforts in promoting self-discipline. *Chinese Young Scientists' Declaration on the Governance and Innovation of Artificial Intelligence*, *Six AI Principles* and *Beijing AI Principles* were released successively, which made it clear that the fundamental purposes of AI technologies should benefit all humankind and morality, dignity and human rights should be safeguarded. This fully demonstrates China's responsible approach to the global governance of AI in terms of ethics and morals.