**Statement delivered by Ambassador Ogasawara
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems 2021 Session
Agenda 5(c) Further consideration of the human element in the use of lethal force; aspects of human-machine interaction in the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies in the area of LAWS
4 August 2021**

Weapons systems based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS should enable commanders and operators to comply with international humanitarian law by avoiding unintended attacks, and minimizing harm on civilians and civilian objects. Within the human-machine interaction during the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, it is important to ensure that commanders and operators are fully aware of and sufficiently trained in the relevant technologies, weapons systems, and international humanitarian law.

Obligations of international humanitarian law are imposed on humans, not machines. A sufficient level of human involvement is essential to ensure that autonomous weapons systems can be used in compliance with international law, especially international humanitarian law. As we stated in our commentary on the 11 Guiding Principles submitted last year, it is indispensable that a lethal autonomous weapons system be accompanied with meaningful human control by securing proper operation and be operated by persons with sufficient information on such weapons systems.

Human-machine interfaces within weapons systems based upon the emerging technologies in the area of LAWS should provide sufficient information that is clear enough to help commanders and operators make appropriate decisions in the event of an attack. Our deliberation should be guided to clarify how human-machine interactions can ensure that commanders and operators can easily understand the procedures and workings related to any weapons systems involving emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.