**Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous**

**Weapons Systems 2021 Session**

**Agenda 5(e) Possible options for addressing the humanit**a**rian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention without prejudging policy outcomes and taking into account past, present and future proposals**

**5 August 2021**

Japan is keenly aware that LAWS is an urgent issue that the international community is currently facing. We believe this group is in a good position to present a meaningful outcome document based on discussions conducted in order for us to show the way how to address this pressing challenge. This document should be the compilation of element that the High Contracting Parties can agree on at this moment, and should not exclude any measures in the future.

Japan deems the 11 Guiding Principles as a very important outcome of the GGE and it is most important that High Contracting Parties implement them. High Contracting Parties were also voluntarily working to produce commentaries on the Guiding Principles which was constructive in terms of a better implementation of these Guiding Principles.

The LAWS GGE discussions, particularly those on the agreed 11 Guiding Principles, we could reaffirm relevant existing legal norms for implementation, explore how to protect civilians and civilian objects, and develop discussion on how to ensure appropriate development and operation of new weapons systems comply with international legal obligations, particularly international humanitarian law. Constructive engagements of all parties enabled such substantial discussions. Japan believes it is most appropriate at this stage to continue such discussion.

With this in mind, Japan, in collaboration with the US, Australia, Canada and the UK, has presented a joint discussion paper which identifies potential areas for further GGE consensus recommendations, building upon the four elements, namely: application of IHL, human responsibility, human-machine interaction and weapons reviews.