



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
Geneva**

**Remarks by Ambassador Tahir Andrabi, Director General of Arms Control
and Disarmament of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan at the meeting
of Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous
Weapons Systems (LAWS)
04 March 2024
General Statement**

Mr. Chair,

We have been deliberating upon various facets of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) for over ten years.

In this past decade, our understanding of the technical, legal, humanitarian, ethical and security dimensions of these weapon systems has increased resulting in varying degree of convergence, for instance, in the shape of guiding principles adopted in 2019 and the overwhelming support for the two-tier approach.

However, our discussions have yet to yield a set of agreed rules, and legal norms, while the development of LAWS on the ground continues apace.

We believe that our efforts in the CCW should continue with an aim to develop international rules through a new Protocol. Such a Protocol would need to clearly spell out prohibitions and regulations governing autonomous weapon systems to ensure compliance with the International Humanitarian Law and consistency with the objectives and purposes of the CCW. In this context, we would like to draw attention to a proposal submitted by Pakistan last year in March in the CCW on an “International Legal Instrument on LAWS”.

Mr. Chair,

Our new mandate, when compared with previous years, is more outcome-driven and result-oriented. It is, therefore, essential that our work in the GGE reflects this progression. Our success in this GGE will also help demonstrate the efficacy and relevance of the CCW as the venue for this topic.

The task before us is a profound responsibility and an urgent necessity. The decisions we make, or fail to make, will shape the legacy we leave for generations to come. Let us proceed with the weight of this responsibility and a resolve to act swiftly.

We trust that all delegations would do their part in enabling the GGE to develop a meaningful normative framework that responds to all challenges and concerns associated with LAWS.

Thank you
