



**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)**

**26 August 2024**

**General Statement**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our discussions over the past decade on lethal autonomous weapons have been thorough. Ten years into this discussion, we face a stark reality. While we deliberate and debate, the technology is not waiting for our consensus. As such, our GGE swims against the tide.

Technology is rapidly advancing and is being deployed on battle fields and conflict as we speak. The longer we delay, the further ahead this technology strides leaving us gasping with its consequences.

The UN Secretary-General's report on LAWS, reaffirms the urgent need to preserve human control over the use of force and urged us to fulfill the mandate as soon as possible.

This urgency is not a mere rhetoric. Each day without a legally binding instrument brings us closer to a future where LAWS become the norm—a future where machines, not human judgment determines the nature of warfare.

**Chair,**

We have a three-year mandate to draft elements of an instrument and have been encouraged to complete our work by end 2025.

While we made a promising start, your rolling text is a good basis for our consultations this week. We commend you for this and for ably steering the work of this GGE.

Pakistan supports development of a new CCW Protocol on LAWS spelling out prohibitions and regulations to ensure compliance with the IHL and consistency with the objectives and purposes of the CCW.

The humanitarian, legal, ethical and security dimensions must always remain integrated in a meaningful manner in the work of the GGE including in selection of its topics.

Building on our previous contributions, Pakistan has submitted a new working paper documented as GGE.1/2024/WP.7. This document proposes elements of an international legal instrument on LAWS.

We will highlight some element of it during our consultations this week as our inputs to your rolling text.

**Finally Mr. Chair,**

The decisions we make, or we fail to make in our GGE, will shape the legacy we leave for generations. Let us proceed with the weight of this responsibility. Let us resolve to act swiftly.

**Thank you**

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