



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva

**Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on
Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**

2-6 March 2026

Section III – Prohibitions and Regulations

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for your work on another relevant section of this rolling text, which incorporates principles already recognized by the GGE in the Guiding Principles and reiterates the application of IHL rules and principles to LAWS.

With regard to **paragraph 4**, we have previously suggested that the language should align as closely as possible with Article 51, paragraph 4, of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, including references that acknowledge the fact that anticipating all effects is not always possible—particularly those unforeseen or unforeseeable effects linked to exogenous causes. In our view, the current wording referring to manufacture, acquisition, stockpiling, and use in training lacks some clarity and could, to a certain extent, constrain technological research, as raised by others before me. Considering the formulations contained in Section II and subsequently in paragraph 6, paragraph 5, in our view, could be removed without the loss of any substantive content from the document, but we stand ready to consider alternative language proposals. Para 6, which contains the notion of “*context-appropriate human judgment and control*”, is of utmost importance to our delegation and we support the current language. In previous sessions of the GGE we elaborated at

length on this concept and we are ready to further engage in this meeting to bridge divergences that still remain among delegations.

Turning to **paragraph 7**, the wording of the new sub-paragraph A focuses on the responsible chain of command and control, which determines and evaluates, on the basis of a legal assessment, the effects of a target identification, selection and engagement, taking into account the operational context. Unlike the previous version, this wording makes only limited reference to ethical considerations. For our delegation, this text is acceptable; however, if this represents a concern for other delegations, we are ready to agree to include the phrase “*considering relevant ethical perspectives,*” drawing inspiration from the Guiding Principles.

We support the new sub-paragraph B, which establishes the responsibility of the relevant entity to anticipate and control any effects produced by LAWS, and introduces several measures to ensure such control. We also support sub-paragraph C, which requires human intervention in the event of significant changes to mission parameters, thereby limiting the use of strong AI systems—those capable of self-learning after activation and automatically modifying mission parameters set by humans. Paragraph E, however, would appear superfluous, as the same concept is already referenced in Box III, point 1.

Thank you, Chair.