



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 II - Application of IHL*

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

The application of international humanitarian law to LAWS lies at the core of our discussions and represents one of the most relevant aspects to be addressed by the future instrument.

In our view, existing international law—particularly the rules of IHL governing the choice of means and methods of warfare, as well as the specific treaties and customary rules prohibiting or restricting certain weapons—fully applies to new weaponry.

Our delegation has no comments on paragraphs 1 to 4; in our view, they are solid. Regarding paragraph 5, we note that the new formulation removes the definition of “*context-appropriate human judgment and control*”, replacing it with a closing clause that draws the Geneva Conventions. This revised formulation relies on the notion that, even in cases not explicitly provided for by the CCW, the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience always apply.

Although our delegation fully supports the concept of “*context-appropriate human judgment and control*”, we understand the rationale for your decision to further elaborate on this notion in Section III and remove it from this part of the text, limiting the reference to recalling the applicable IHL principles. We are ready to support you in this approach.

Thank you, Chair.