

**Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the
Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which
May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious
or to Have Indiscriminate Effects**

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**Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies
in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons System**

Geneva, 2–6 March and 31 August–4 September 2026

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report

**Report of the 2024-2025-2026 sessions of the Group of
Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the
Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems***

I. Introduction

1. The 2023 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (hereinafter “the Convention”), held in Geneva from 15 to 17 November 2023, decided, as contained in its final report (CCW/MSP/2023/7, paragraph 20):

- “That the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems established by Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference as contained in document CCW/CONF.V/10, adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document CCW/CONF.V/2, is to continue, to strengthen the Convention. In the context of the objectives and purpose of the Convention, the Group is to further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, taking into account the example of existing Protocols within the Convention, proposals presented by High Contracting Parties and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group, and bringing in expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects.
- The rules of procedure of the Sixth Review Conference shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Group.
- The Group shall conduct its work and adopt its report by consensus and shall submit a report to the Seventh Review Conference. The Group should complete its work as soon as possible, preferably before the end of 2025, and the Chair of the Group will update the annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties on the work of the Group. The widest possible participation of all High Contracting Parties is to be promoted in accordance with the goals of the CCW Sponsorship Program. The Group will meet for 10 days every year.
- The Group will be chaired by a representative of the Eastern European Group.”

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

2. The Eastern European Group (EEG) decided to forego its right to chair the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) (hereinafter “the Group”). The High Contracting Parties endorsed through a written silence procedure Ambassador Robert in den Bosch, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament, nominated by the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) as Chairperson of the Group.

3. In 2024, as decided by the 2023 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2023/7, paragraph 24), the Group met for a duration of 10 days, from 4 to 8 March, and from 26 to 30 August in Geneva. The Chairperson organized informal meetings on 7 February, 7 May, 17 May, 6 June, 7 June, and 14 November.

4. In 2025, as decided by the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 28), the Group met for a duration of 10 days, from 3 to 7 March, and from 1 to 5 September in Geneva. The Chairperson organized informal meetings on 21 January, 27 January, 30 January, 5 February, 28 May, 4 June, 12 June, and 17 June.

5. In 2026, as decided by the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2025/8, paragraph 19), the Group met for a duration of 10 days, from 2 to 6 March and from 31 August to 4 September in Geneva. The Chairperson organized informal meetings on 26 January, 28 January, 30 January, 19 June, 22 June, 24 June, 14 August, 18 August, and 25 August.

II. Organization and work of the Group of Governmental Experts

6. On Monday, 4 March 2024, the first 2024 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, delivered a video statement. At the same meeting, the Group adopted its agenda (CCW/GGE.1/2024/1/Rev.1), and confirmed the Rules of Procedure, as adopted by the Sixth Review Conference (CCW/CONF.VI/11). The first 2024 session was closed on Friday, 8 March 2024.

7. The second 2024 session took place from 26 to 30 August 2024. On Monday, 26 August 2024, the second 2024 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The second 2024 session was closed on Friday, 30 August 2024.

8. On Monday, 3 March 2025, the first 2025 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, delivered a video statement. At the same meeting, the Group adopted its agenda (CCW/GGE.1/2025/1), and confirmed the Rules of Procedure, as adopted by the Sixth Review Conference (CCW/CONF.VI/11). The first session was closed on Friday, 7 March 2025.

9. The second 2025 session took place from 1 to 5 September 2025. On Monday, 1 September 2025, the second 2025 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The second 2025 session was closed on Friday, 5 September 2025.

10. On Monday, 2 March 2026, the first 2026 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, delivered a video statement. At the same meeting, the Group adopted its agenda (CCW/GGE.1/2026/1), and confirmed the Rules of Procedure, as adopted by the Sixth Review Conference (CCW/CONF.VI/11). The first session was closed on Friday, 6 March 2026.

11. The second 2026 session took place from 31 August to 4 September 2026. On Monday, 31 August 2026, the second 2026 session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu delivered a video statement. The second 2026 session was closed on Friday, 4 September 2026.

12. Ms. Tania Bañuelos Mejía, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the 2024 sessions of the Group. Mr. Jeroen Klok, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the first 2025 session of the Group. Ms. Nora Allgaier, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit served as Secretary of the second 2025 session and the 2026 sessions of the Group. Ms. Sophie Guillermin-Golet, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Juliana Helou-van der Berg, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, and Mr. Clement Bailly, Associate Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, served in the Secretariat at the sessions of the Group.

13. Delegations of the following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

14. Delegations of the following Signatory States to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Egypt and Nigeria.

15. Delegations of the following States not party to the Convention participated as observers in the work of the Group: Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Fiji, Gambia, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Samoa, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

16. The representatives of the European Union, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) participated in the work of the Group.

17. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the work of the Group: Advocacy for Human Rights and Justice, African Center for Humanitarian Intervention, African Space Autonomy & Sustainability Project, Amnesty International, Article 36, Asociación para Políticas Públicas, CCACBWA Lagos, Center for Civilians in Conflict, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders, Cultural Youth Movement Education Foundation, Femmes Engagées à consolider la Paix et l'Assainissement pour le Développement, Future of Life Institute, Global AI Youth Network, Green Environment Organisation, Horn Afrik News Agency for Human Rights, Human Flag Association, Human Rights Watch, INHR, Initiative for African Youth Advancement Advocacy and Empowerment, Institute for Global Negotiation, InterAgency Institute, International Committee for Robot Arms Control, International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative, Lex International, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Medienstadt Leipzig, Middle East Treaty Organization, Norwegian Peace Association, Norwegian People's Aid, One Goal Initiative for Governance, Partners for Transparency, PAX, PEACEMOMO, Peru Por El Desarme, Privacy International, PROTECTION, Quaker United Nations Office, Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo, Saferworld, SEHLAC Network, SPADO, Stop Killer Robots, Stop Killer Robots Hungarian Activist Network, StratComms.Studio, The Civil Affairs Institute, The Civilian Agenda, The Network of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in North Africa, Transparency International, Virtual Planet Africa, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and World Council of Churches.

18. The representatives of the following entities also participated in the work of the Group: Aachen University, Asia-Pacific Institute for Law and Security, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Hinckley Institute, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle Wittenberg, Nanyang Technological University, Peace Research Institute Oslo, S. Rajaratnam, School for International Training, School of International Studies, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Takushoku University, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, University General Gutierrez Mellado, University Lyon 2, University of Basel, University of Cambridge, University of Konstanz, University of Nottingham, University of Queensland, University of Siegen, University of Southern Denmark, University of Stockholm, and Utrecht University.

19. In accordance with its agendas and mandate, the Group considered the following agenda item:

“5. Further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, taking into account the example of existing Protocols within the Convention, proposals presented by High Contracting Parties and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group, and bringing in expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects.”

20. Discussion on agenda item 5 took place at the plenary meetings of the Group from 4 to 8 March 2024, from 26 to 30 August 2024, from 3 to 7 March 2025, from 1 to 5 September 2025, from 2 to 6 March 2026 and from 31 August to 2 September 2026. The Group also addressed any other business under agenda item 6 on 8 March 2024, 30 August 2024, 7 March 2025, 5 September 2025, 6 March 2025 and 3 September 2026. From 3 to 4 September 2026 the Group considered its draft final report under agenda item 7.

21. The Group considered the oral and written proposals, including those submitted as working papers and listed in Annex I of this report. The Group expressed appreciation for the contributions of the High Contracting Parties, civil society, academia and industry.

III. Conclusions

22. The Group recalled the decision of the 2023 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention that the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems established by Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference as contained in document CCW/CONF.V/10, adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document CCW/CONF.V/2, is to continue, to strengthen the Convention.

23. Under agenda item 5 and in accordance with its mandate and in the context of the objectives and purpose of the Convention, the Group considered and formulated, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, contained in paragraphs 25 to 44 of the “Conclusions” section of this report.

24. The Group took into account the example of existing Protocols within the Convention, proposals presented by High Contracting Parties and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group, and bringing in expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects.

25. Within the scope of the application of the CCW, a lethal autonomous weapon system can be characterized as a combination of one or more weapons and technological components operating together, that is capable of identifying, selecting, and engaging a target in a way that results in loss of life, without intervention by a human being operating the system.

(a) The fact that a human being programs or otherwise determines a set of potential targets or characteristics thereof does not exclude the system from this characterization. A

system is not included in this characterization when the personnel planning, deciding upon, or carrying out the attack determine the specific target or specific group of targets and the timing of the attack.

(b) The fact that a LAWS can be used in a way that does not result in loss of life, such as to damage or destroy objects or to cause injury, does not exclude it from this characterization.

(c) The above is without prejudice to any future understanding and the potential modification of this characterization, as well as the exclusion or inclusion of certain types of systems.

26. The right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.

27. IHL applies to armed conflict, whether international or non-international, and governs the use of all weapons, means and methods of warfare, those of the past, those of the present, and those of the future, including those incorporating emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.

28. IHL imposes obligations on States, parties to armed conflict, and individuals, not on machines.

29. IHL applies fully to the development and use of LAWS.

30. In cases not covered by the CCW and its annexed Protocols or by other international agreements, the civilian population and the combatants at all times remain under the protection and authority of the principles of international law, derived from established custom, from the principles of humanity, and from the dictates of public conscience.

31. LAWS must not be used if they are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, or if they are inherently indiscriminate, or are otherwise incapable of being used in accordance with the requirements and principles of IHL.

32. Attacks involving the use of LAWS must not be directed against the civilian population as such, as well as civilian objects and individual civilians protected under IHL.

33. LAWS must only be used in accordance with international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and requirements of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack.

34. To uphold compliance with international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and requirements of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, control and human judgement with regard to LAWS are needed. Human beings exercise such control directly or indirectly, including through measures taken before and/or during the use of LAWS. Regardless of how control is exercised, human beings need to exercise judgement to determine those measures necessary to ensure compliance with applicable IHL, including the principles and requirements of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, and to implement such measures in practice. In doing this, a range of factors need to be considered, including the operational context and the characteristics and capabilities of the weapon system.

35. Relevant measures include, inter alia:

(a) That LAWS are operated under a responsible chain of human command and control;

(b) Limiting the scale of the operation, types of targets, duration, and geographical scope, as appropriate;

(c) Measures to intervene in the operation of LAWS, to the extent possible or feasible, including to deactivate or neutralize LAWS in a timely manner.

36. In accordance with States' obligations under applicable international law, in the study, development, acquisition, or adoption of a new LAWS, determination must be made whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by international law. In this context, the voluntary exchange of relevant practices between States is encouraged,

bearing in mind national security considerations and commercial restrictions on proprietary information.

37. During the design, development, testing, and deployment of LAWS, the risks, inter alia, of civilian casualties, as well as precautions to help minimize the risk of incidental loss of life, injuries to civilians and damage to civilian objects must be considered. Other types of risks should be considered, as appropriate, including but not limited to the risk of unintended engagements, risk of loss of control of the system, risk of proliferation, and risk of acquisition by terrorist groups.

38. In order to mitigate the risks related to LAWS, including those related to the implementation of applicable IHL, States should ensure that the capabilities and limitations of LAWS, in their expected use and their anticipated effects in different circumstances, can be understood by:

(a) Conducting testing and evaluation, including adequately realistic simulations, to assess how the LAWS will perform in the expected operational environment;

(b) Ensuring appropriate guidance, training, and instructions for relevant personnel, including those who bear responsibility in the chain of human command and control.

39. In order to mitigate the risks related to LAWS, including those related to the implementation of applicable IHL, States should implement measures to prevent and mitigate:

(a) unintended bias in the functioning of LAWS, including bias in data sets and artificial intelligence models, and other technological components;

(b) automation bias in the use of LAWS.

40. States, parties to armed conflict, and individuals remain at all times responsible under applicable international law for their decisions with regard to the use of LAWS. This should be considered across the entire life cycle of the weapon system.

41. States must take measures to ensure individual accountability for the use of LAWS, in accordance with their obligations under IHL, including through the operation of such systems within a responsible chain of human command and control, since accountability cannot be transferred to machines.

42. States should promote human responsibility and accountability in the use of LAWS and mitigate the risk of unintended engagements. They may do so through, inter alia:

(a) Understandable human-machine interfaces;

(b) Guidance and instructions (e.g. rules of engagement, policies, doctrine, and procedures), consistent with applicable IHL, for personnel regarding the use of LAWS;

(c) Training of personnel to understand such guidance and instructions and the capabilities and limitations of the autonomous functions of LAWS in the anticipated circumstances of their use.

43. States must take measures necessary to prevent and suppress violations of their obligations under international law applicable in armed conflict, relating to the use of LAWS under their jurisdiction.

44. States are encouraged to ensure that effective internal mechanisms for addressing incidents involving their use of LAWS, that may involve violations of applicable IHL, are established.

IV. Recommendations

45. The Group recommends that:

(a) High Contracting Parties, at the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention to be held on 16-20 November 2026, consider and endorse the set of elements of an

instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, as contained in paragraphs 25 to 44 in section “Conclusions” of this report, without prejudice to the result of future discussions;

(b) The Seventh Review Conference of the Convention decides by consensus on the possible modalities of the future work of the Group.

V. Adoption of the report

46. On 4 September 2026, the Group adopted its final report as contained in CCW/GGE.1/2026/CRP.1/Rev.2, as orally amended, to be issued as document CCW/GGE.1/2026/3.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
2024 sessions	
CCW/GGE.1/2024/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/GGE.1/2024/1/Rev.1	Revised provisional agenda
CCW/GGE.1/2024/2	Provisional programme of work
CCW/GGE.1/2024/INF.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.1 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Brazil
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.2 [English and Russian only]	Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.3 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Norway
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.4 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Austria
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.5 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Ireland, Mexico and Panama
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.6 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.7 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Pakistan
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.8 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Japan
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.9 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Australia
CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.10 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Australia, Canada, Estonia, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
CCWGGE.1/2024/WP.11 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2024/INF.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants
2025 sessions	
CCW/GGE.1/2025/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/GGE.1/2025/2	Provisional programme of work

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.1 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.2 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Brazil
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.3 [English only]	Working paper submitted by India
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.4 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.5 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Czechia
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.6 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the United States of America
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.7 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Australia, Canada, Czechia, Estonia, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.8 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
CCW/GGE.1/2025/WP.9 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2025/INF.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants
2026 sessions	
CCW/GGE.1/2026/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/GGE.1/2026/2	Provisional programme of work
CCW/GGE.1/2026/3	Report of the 2024-2025-2026 sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.1 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Egypt
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.2 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.3 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Human Flag Association
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.4 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.5 [English only]	Working paper submitted by Türkiye
CCW/GGE.1/2026/WP.6 [English only]	Working paper submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE.1/2026/INF.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants
