



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)

Geneva, 21 - 23 November 2018

General Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of the Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the field of lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS)

Geneva, 21 November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
2. We thank the Ambassador Gill for the presentation of the report.

Mr. Chairman,

3. On behalf of NAM, I reiterate the Group's position contained in our intervention delivered this morning during the general exchange of views.
4. The Group would like to re-emphasize the position of the Heads of State or Government of NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols as reflected in the Final Document adopted at the XVII Summit of the NAM, which took place in September 2016, in Margarita Island, Venezuela.
5. The Group would further recall its position on this matter recently affirmed at the NAM Ministerial meeting held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in April 2018.



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



6. The NAM Group is of the view that Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) raise a number of ethical, legal, moral and technical, as well as international peace and security related questions which should be thoroughly deliberated and examined in the context of conformity to international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law with the aim of identifying concrete policy options for dealing with them.
7. During the 2018 Sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts, the NAM Group engaged actively and constructively, including by presenting a Working Paper. Also we commend the manner in which the GGE was Chaired by a NAM representative, His Excellency, Ambassador Amandeep Singh Gill.
8. We acknowledge the recommendations included in the report. Furthermore, the NAM supports the continuation of the work of the Open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.
9. The NAM States Parties and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) welcome the outcome of the GGE. In 2019, NAM looks forward to making progress towards the development of concrete policy recommendations including elements of a legally binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on LAWS. NAM expects this to be reflected in a strengthened mandate for the 2019 GGE on LAWS.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Regarding different proposals on a political declaration, code of conduct and other voluntary measures, including weapons review process, as well as the establishment of a Committee of Experts, NAM believes that these measures cannot be a substitute for the objective of concluding a legally binding instrument.
11. The Group of NAM recognizes that the debate on autonomous weapons has continued to intensify in recent years and has included lawyers, ethicists, human rights advocates, scientists and diplomats and others, and there have been mounting expressions of concerns about how these weapons can change warfare. Hence, NAM believes that the discussions shall always be held in an open, transparent and universal participatory nature. This will guarantee that the High Contracting Parties and the international community can be part of the evolution of this debate.



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



12. The first and second session of the GGE held in April and August demonstrated that while there are still divergences between the positions of member states, some areas of convergence are also emerging. NAM is pleased that a general sense has developed among High Contracting Parties that all weapons, including those with autonomous functions, must remain under the direct control and supervision of humans at all times, and must comply with international law including International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. These core elements must be an integral part of the legally binding instrument on LAWS. In this regard, pending the conclusion of a legally binding instrument, NAM calls upon all States to declare moratoria on the further development and use of LAWS.

Mr. Chairman,

13. States Parties have attained a sufficient degree of common understanding on the various aspects of such weapons. Whilst weapons systems with Artificial Intelligence and increasingly autonomous functions are fast becoming a reality, we have not been able to resolve the host of legal, ethical and security concerns associated with them.

14. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention looks forward to participating constructively and actively in the GGE meetings next year to produce concrete policy recommendations in pursuit of a legally binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on LAWS.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.