



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS 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**

Geneva, 25 – 29 March 2019

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons by H.E. Mr. Jorge Valero,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

Agenda Item 5 (e): “Possible options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention without prejudging policy outcomes and taking into account past, present and future proposals

Geneva, 15 March 2019

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 Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW).
2. The NAM Group congratulates Mr. Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski, Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of North Macedonia, on his election as Chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). The Group is confident that you will be able to guide our work effectively towards a substantive consensus outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Group would like to re-emphasize the position of the Heads of State or Government of NAM States Parties to the 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.



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4. The Group would further recall its position on this matter recently affirmed at the NAM Ministerial meeting held in Baku in April 2018.
5. The NAM Group is of the view that 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.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The NAM Group welcomes the outcome of the GGE last year ably chaired by a representative of NAM, in particular the ten “Possible Guiding Principles” and the identification of possible options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by LAWS.
7. The NAM Group subscribes to the view expressed in paragraph 47 of the report of the 2018 GGE, contained in document CCW/GGE.1/2018/3, which states that “new legally-binding provisions [are] necessary for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. Such provisions could encompass measures mentioned above, including a comprehensive ban, prohibitions and restrictions of the type already seen within the CCW framework, or a positive requirement for maintaining human control over the critical functions of a weapons system.”
8. 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.
9. The NAM Group recognizes that the debate on autonomous weapons has continued to intensify in recent years and has included lawyers, ethicist, 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.



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10. The meetings of the GGE held in 2017 and 2018 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.
11. The NAM Group is of the view that we need to pursue a legally binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on LAWS. This should be reflected in the Conclusions of the Report of the GGE.

Mr. Chairman,

12. States Parties have attained a sufficient degree of common understanding on the various aspects of LAWS. Whilst weapon 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.
13. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention looks forward to participate in a constructive and active manner in the GGE meetings this year which should produce concrete policy recommendations, including elements of a legally binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on LAWS.
14. The Group stands ready to engage constructively with you and other States Parties in the fulfilment of the mandate of this GGE.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.