

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANUPAM RAY AT GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE AREA OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS –
GENEVA March 10, 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to complement you on the manner on which you have conducted the discussions of the Group. We in BRICS are proud of you. You have been an excellent Commodore of our convoy.

My delegation particularly appreciates your summaries on the subjects on the indicative timetable that have prefaced our discussions.

The constructive spirit of this meeting in current circumstances is testament to the relevance of multilateral processes and institutions.

My delegation approached this meeting with a view to identifying areas of convergence as well as differences. The intention has been to work on moving convergence towards consensus while giving thought to differences where there are significant divergences.

There are a number of areas where convergence is evident. There are some where consensus might be possible. We are prepared to work on furthering the common understandings on these areas of agreement. We consider this to be one of the very positive outcomes of this group which validate the importance of situating discussions on this subject in this forum.

We note that the convergences - and divergences - are along two tracks. They relate to substance as well to the shape of possible operative and normative frameworks that could be considered for elaboration.

It is the view of my delegation that consideration has been intensified. There have been very engaged discussions on matters of substance and there has been positive movement. We are not however certain that we have, at this stage, a critical mass of agreement on substance to elaborate a framework.

Our views on the contents of the report of this GGE that we are required to consider at the next meeting are similar to those expressed by my distinguished colleague the Ambassador of Japan.

We believe that divergences should be faithfully recorded. This is the basis for further understanding, and where possible, narrowing of differences.

I would not like to recount our specific positions on the issues that have been discussed but would like to echo the remarks of His Excellency of Ambassador of Japan about the necessity of identifying where a greater understanding of technology and its evolution are required.

There are issues such as human machine interaction and the human element which are on the frontiers of science and technology. There have been many excellent papers and proposals that

address these issues. My delegation requires more time to further its understanding of the implications of many of these proposals which are themselves evolving. These require to be routed through an inter-agency processes that bring in technological, military, operational and legal views. They would need to take on board the views of stakeholders such as businesses and research institutions that are working on these emerging technologies. India also has a tradition of consulting the public. All of this needs to be accomplished, as we pointed out during the meeting of CCW High Contracting Parties, within the realities of capacity and of understanding of technology.

We are unable to commit that we will be make up our minds on the searching questions that you have asked as well as the contents of the proposals in a compressed time frame. My delegation appreciates your willingness to conduct an intersessional process but is not certain that it will be add additional value to the discussions already conducted at this meeting. We have views similar to that expressed by my distinguished colleague from the United States on this issue. However, we do see the merit in the proposal of the Russian Federation about early consideration of a report.

I would like to support the comment of my distinguished colleague from the Republic of Korea to be cautious about a tendency to speculate and that of my Israeli colleague to be constructive and realistic.

Public opinion would not like us to be hurried in the consideration of such important topics on which understanding is evolving.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reiterate in closing that we believe that we are in safe hands and believe that you are the best person to guide the discussions of the group towards a positive and result -oriented outcome.
