

Statement by iPRAW on Human Control

The International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons (Twitter [@iPRAW_org](#)), delivered by Paula Köhler (Twitter [@_paulakoehler](#)) on March 11th, 2022

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the floor.

We highly appreciate the engaging and rich discussions that have been taking place this morning. Despite initial difficulties regarding procedural questions at the beginning of this week, it turned out that there is significant interest in moving the discussion forward on a substantive level regarding the normative and operational framework in the area of LAWS.

Various proposals are now on the table with different focus points. It is iPRAW's observation that, even though the proposals have conceptual differences to varying degrees, looking at them from an impartial position, one recognizes that there are substantial similarities and points of convergence. The centrality of the role humans must play with regard to LAWS is common to all proposals that have been forwarded thus far. However, we could also observe that some proposals are formulated rather cautiously with regard to the human element, while other proposals emphasize that human control or judgement should be the cornerstone of any future regulatory framework.

After years of having observed the discussion within the GGE, iPRAW takes the view that it is now time to move forward instead of limiting our endeavors to already agreed language or semantic redundancies. iPRAW has always supported the term "human control". However, various other terms could be used instead, provided that the gist remains the same. Thus, the crucial question regarding our debate is how to operationalize and implement sufficient human-machine interaction.

As outlined by SIPRI and the ICRC, limits on the types of targets and the operational environment as well as sufficient safeguards for human-machine interaction are options that should be taken into consideration when contemplating the type and degree of human involvement in case LAWS are deployed. The time is not only running out in this forum but also globally to come up with a solution for the various challenges posed by fast-evolving LAWS.

Thank you, Chair.