Key elements for meaningful human control over individual attacks

Consideration of the form and nature of human control considered necessary is the most useful starting point for discussions on this issue

International humanitarian law provides a framework that should be understood as requiring human judgment and control over individual “attacks”, as a unit of legal management and tactical action.

Without recognizing a requirement for human control, human legal judgment may be diluted to the point of being meaningless, as a result of the concept of “an attack” being interpreted more and more broadly.
Agreeing the key elements of human control should be the primary focus of work by the international community.

Key elements of human control:
- Predictable, reliable and transparent technology.
- Accurate information for the user on the outcome sought, the technology, and the context of use.
- Timely human judgment and action, and a potential for timely intervention.
- Accountability to a certain standard.

Approach to working definitions:
‘Lethal autonomous weapons systems’ (LAWS) are weapons systems with elements of autonomy operating without meaningful human control.