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Press Release

The weaponization of cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence are posing challenges from political, legal, and ethical standpoints -Says Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

Islamabad, 24 November

The weaponization of cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence (AI), especially the deployment and the use of lethal Autonomous Weapon systems (LAWS) and increasing digitization of warfare are posing challenges from political, legal, normative, and ethical standpoints. And demands our collective attention and concerted efforts to establish norms, regulations, and safeguards says Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, in the keynote address on the third day of the international workshop on international security hosted by the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva. Notable statesmen, think tank professionals, academics, foreign policy experts and students participated in the workshop.

He noted that the AI-cyber-nexus and the development of artificial intelligence augment offensive cyber capabilities have heightened the risks of unintended military escalation consequently it is demanding a vigilant consideration.

The Foreign Secretary said that Pakistan acknowledges the dual nature of these technologies, and the challenges unregulated military uses pose to global and regional security. As a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan is strongly committed to addressing these challenges. Pakistan emphasizes the need for international cooperation to develop a legally binding framework governing the responsible uses of cyberspace and artificial technologies. And Pakistan believes in a rule based international order promoting transparency accountability and the protection of critical civilian infrastructure.

In this regard, Pakistan is actively engaging the international community on multilateral forums in promoting dialogue and cooperation at the regional and global levels to address cyber threats and mitigate the risks associated with the military applications of artificial intelligence. Pakistan also advocates the adoption of an inclusive approach that involves all stakeholders

including governments private sector, academia, and civil society to collectively develop strategies for a safe secure stable open cyberspace for all.

He also highlighted that Pakistan strongly supports the principle of fair, unconditional, and equitable access to new and emerging technologies for all countries. And firmly opposes the imposition of undue restrictions on access to these emerging technologies. Pakistan contends that such restrictions, in the name of security, could consign development of developing nations in the realms of science and technology. Consequently, it would create yet another layer of discrimination between the developed and developing countries. Thus, it is our conviction that unrestricted access is an inalienable right of the developing countries and crucial for fostering global scientific progress and technological development.

In addition to Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi's remarks, UNIDIR's senior researcher Dongyoun Cho said that many ethical issues emanate from data as it is a main driver of recent advancements in AI. It can produce ethical and humanitarian problems as it can be incomplete, low-quality, and incorrect or false.

While concluding the three days international workshop CISS executive director Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi said that technological advancements are profoundly influencing all aspects of life, particularly shaping our understanding of security. It underscores the importance of comprehending the challenges presented by these new frontiers in technology. This acknowledgment likely calls for a proactive and informed response to navigate the evolving landscape created by these technological changes.