Gracias, Embajadora Chan, viceministro Guillermot, por la oportunidad de hablar aquí hoy.

I’m Max Tegmark, a professor who’s been doing AI research for many years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. My key message to you today is to not underestimate the speed of technological progress, and to develop rules before it’s too late.

Artificial intelligence will soon become the most powerful technology ever developed. It will become either the best or the worst thing ever to happen for humanity – depending on how wisely we regulate it. AI can help us do ever more tasks – but how much power should we cede to AI?

Do we want to replace all police officers and judges by machines? I vote no. Do we want to replace all diplomats and politicians by machines? I vote no. Should we cede the power to decide to kill people to machines? Of course not: our civilization should be run by humans, for humans.

I want to praise Costa Rica for showing such extraordinary leadership in keeping humanity in charge. 4 years ago, Costa Rica hosted an influential lunch discussion of autonomous weapons in New York, building the momentum that we’re experiencing today. Many of you will meet again in Luxembourg in two months time, and I look forward to seeing which government will pick up the baton thereafter to drive this process toward fruition. Costa Rica has shown today that the majority need not be held hostage by a small minority.

I urge the European observers in this room to draw inspiration from the Latin American and Caribbean unity and leadership. This Costa Rican initiative, today’s communiqué, and Brazil’s leadership of the GGE are all testament to this.

France, The Netherlands, and Switzerland have recently developed national positions on autonomous weapons but the European position - in contrast to that of this region - remains too fragmented. I’d urge those in the room without a national position to soon put pen to paper and develop one.

We all know that a treaty is inevitable, because humanity doesn’t want to lose control of its future to machines. The question is whether states will join the majority in the process of shaping this treaty, or remain stuck on the sidelines.

¡Pura vida!