



**Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt
at the Meeting of Experts on lethal autonomous weapons
13-16 May 2014**

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Geneva**

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you on assuming this important task as the Chair of the first meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapons under the Convention on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and assure you of our full cooperation and support. I would also like to thank the Secretariat of the CCW for their efforts in organizing this important meeting.

Mr. Chair,

International attention to the subject of lethal autonomous Robots (LARs) has grown rapidly over the past year. Such weapons have generated widespread concern about their implications, nondiscriminatory effect, disproportionality, and lack of both responsibility and accountability of their use.

At present, there is no treaty body that governs military robotics, unmanned platforms, or other related technologies. Yet, there is the overarching laws governing military conflicts including instruments of International Humanitarian Law. Thus, with developments in robotics and related technologies, the need to take action on LARs is urgent and timely. Experiences have shown that it is best to ban a weapon system that is deemed excessively injurious or has an indiscriminate effect before it is being deployed than afterwards. And the CCW has indeed been successful in achieving this undertaking with blinding lasers and undetectable fragments.

We hope that this informal meeting of experts on this issue works as an eye-opener on a very important and challenging development in the course of weaponry research and development and the relevant considerations in this regard, particularly with reference to the issue of the possible ramifications on the value of human lives, the calculation of the cost of war, as well as the possibility of the acquisition of this weapon by terrorist and organized crime networks. This should lead to a prohibition on acquisition, research and development, testing, deployment, transfer and use.

Until such result is achieved, we support calls to pose a moratorium on the development of such lethal technology in order to allow serious and meaningful international engagement with this issue. As military robotics gain more and more autonomy, the ethical questions involved will become even more complex. It might be too late after robotics have been fully developed to work on an appropriate response.

Egypt reiterates that technology should not overtake humanity. The potential and existing development of LARs raises many concerns on their compliance with international humanitarian and human rights laws. Such issues need to be fully addressed.

Thank you.

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