

**Irish General Statement at the CCW informal consultations on Lethal Autonomous Weapons – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr. Chairman,

- At the outset, I wish to thank you for not only promoting the holding of these consultations, but also for the preparation of a very comprehensive programme of presentations and discussions on the subject of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The range of issues to be addressed in these sessions is an indication of both the challenging, substantive issues which we must consider and the level of interest throughout the international community which this week's consultations reflect.
- I would also like to thank, in advance, those individuals who will make presentations during the various sessions to help lead our considerations.
- In particular, I look forward to the presentation by the International Committee of the Red Cross later this morning. I note that the press statement they issued yesterday focussed on the importance of 'human control over the use of force' and this seems to me to be a very sensible focus for these consultations and for whatever subsequent action we decide to take to build on these consultations. The definition of control, of course, is important in itself, in the context of ensuring that control is effective and not merely nominal.
- Although outside the scope of the CCW, the potential use and abuse of autonomous weapons beyond the battlefield, in law-enforcement for instance, is also deserving of consideration.
- In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me again congratulate you for putting together what promises to be a strong set of presentations and debates this week. It reflects the need, established in Preambular Paragraph 8 of the Convention, 'to continue the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict'.

Thank you.

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