

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE CCW
MEETING ON THE WAY FORWARD ON DISCUSSIONS
LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS-17 APRIL, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chair

The Ghanaian delegation is very well informed about the subject of lethal autonomous weapons systems this week.

We have heard very technical explanations and have also had the opportunity to consider their potential impact on the existing IHL and IHRL.

Our ultimate objective as States remains the preservation of human dignity and respect for basic sanctity of humanity at all times and most, especially, during armed conflicts. The laws of war must in this regard remain at the forefront of all our efforts and ahead of technological developments. Technology must not be allowed to overtake our commitment to these goals.

We join the recommendation made by other delegations that Member States commit to engage in discussions that should enable us establish a weapons review mechanism to ensure the prevalence of transparency and enable the international community monitor weapon developments. This must constitute a part of an overall drive towards the promulgation of a convention that regulates and proscribes the production of those weapons that cannot meet the basic standards set for us by the IHL and IHRL.

In conclusion, Ghana welcomes the proposal by

Germany as the way forward, which should enable further discussions and narrowing of our understanding of this very technical subject. We also need to consider by the next meeting a mandate to commence negotiations on the promulgation of the afore-mentioned Convention.

I thank you, Sir.