

Austria
by Ambassador

Mr President,

Austria expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the organisation and conduct of this timely and rich meeting. Our conclusions of these four days of stimulating presentations and discussions is as follows:

Not everything that is technically possible should be developed. There are boundaries that have to be respected deriving from international law and ethics.

Over the last days a considerable number of delegations have expressed the same position that we hold: Weapons systems without meaningful human control are in contravention to international humanitarian law. We see this a real achievement of our meeting that opens up a promising avenue for the further consideration of the laws issue.

As an interim measure Austria calls on all currently engaged in the development of such weapon systems to freeze these programmes and those deliberating to start such development not to do so.

This meeting can only be a beginning. We have to continue discussions on LAWS in the framework of the CCW, as well as in other relevant international fora, with the participation of all stakeholders, not least civil society.

Thank you, Mr. President.

