



23 April 2014

The Permanent Representatives
of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW
Signatory States and States not party
Geneva

Excellency,

Pursuant to the decision of the 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), there will be an informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) from 13 to 16 May 2014 at the United Nations in Geneva. The mandate for the Meeting of Experts is the following:

"...Chairperson will convene in 2014 a four-day informal Meeting of Experts, from 13 to 16 May 2014, to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention. He will, under his own responsibility, submit a report to the 2014 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, objectively reflecting the discussions held."

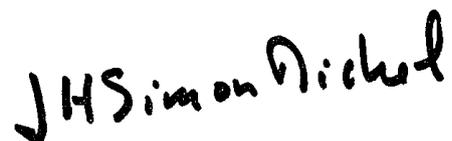
I very much look forward to welcoming you to the Meeting of Experts. Please find attached a provisional agenda. It is provided in order to help you to prepare for this meeting.

It will be the first time that the issue of LAWS will be addressed within the CCW and I encourage all delegations to participate actively in the discussions.

In terms of structure, the Meeting of Experts will commence with a general exchange and then there will be sessions on the technical issues, ethics, legal aspects, operation and military aspects, wrap-up and conclusion. Each thematic session will begin with kick-start presentations by experts. Delegations will have then the opportunity to pose questions and comments to the experts, and to make interventions. If your delegation is planning on making an intervention please inform either myself or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to the deadline of Thursday 1 May for submitting registrations and delegation lists to the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "JH Simon Michel". The letters are connected and written in a cursive style.

Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France
to the Conference on Disarmament