



Statement by Turkey

INFORMAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS 11 APRIL 2016

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset please allow me to add my voice to the others in congratulating you Mr. Ambassador, for your re-appointment as the Chairperson of the MXP on the Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. We would like to assure you of our full support. We also would like to thank you for the program of work and the food for thought paper you prepared and shared with delegations well in advance.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree that CCW is the right forum to address the matters related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. Accordingly, we support the work on the matter to be taken up within the scope of the Convention.

We believe that, as it has been the case for the great majority of disarmament and arms control tools the first step might be agreeing upon a complete and comprehensive definition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. In this context, we regard the session entitled “towards a working definition of LAWS” to be a good opportunity for finding a common ground.

In our opinion, prohibiting such systems before a broad agreement on a definition would not be pragmatic. In that regard, we consider that discussing terminologies like autonomous, fully autonomous and lethal autonomous might be useful.

We, as others, attach importance to the humanitarian aspect of the matter. Therefore, we support the notions like need for human control and accountability for such weapon systems. Nevertheless, taking into consideration that yet such weapon systems do not exist and we are working on an issue which is still hypothetical, we hesitate on the accuracy of a general prohibition pre-emptively.

Finally, we are of the opinion that current international law and international humanitarian law provide the necessary basis regarding possible development of LAWS, but yet again we do not disregard any need to study the sufficiency of them on this matter.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.