



CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CCW Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

Geneva, 16 May 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

After four days of very intensive deliberations on the issue of LAWS under your knowledgeable stewardship, allow us to summarize our views in five short points.

- Croatia does not intend to have any weapons systems that take away the decision on life and death from humans. Fully autonomous weapons are not and will not be a part of our military and defense doctrine since we perceive them as being contrary to our comprehension of fundamental bases of the international humanitarian law.
- We are therefore appealing to the international community that it is vital to maintain human control over the decision to kill another human being. This conviction is not exclusively attached to any specific nation or international stakeholder; rather it is a question of firm belief that even in times of war humanity should preserve those rights that are deeply rooted in our common being – the right to life and the right to dignity.
- Notwithstanding the necessity for our civilization to develop and evolve in technological sense - a progress which has irrefutably made our everyday life much more comfortable and easier in so many ways - it is still in our view necessary to maintain the principle of human control over machines.
- Croatia, as some other High Contracting Parties and civil society stakeholders, is therefore of the opinion that the principle of meaningful human control should be seen as a fundamental part of the international humanitarian law.
- Finally, let us congratulate France once again for the excellent organization of this meeting. Also, we would like to commend various organizations of civil society, NGOs and representatives of academia provided our discussions with much needed depth and substance.
- In the end, Croatia would be in favor of the continuation of talks on this issue under the CCW framework.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.