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LAWS Meeting of Experts  
General Statement of Turkey  
13 April 2015

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I would like to congratulate you and your team for the comprehensive preparations for this meeting. Let me also thank you for the food for thought paper you provided us. It raises many pertinent questions that would help us to deepen our understanding of a complex and multifaceted aspects related to lethal autonomous weapons systems.

The CCW provides for a balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations. Therefore it is an appropriate forum for discussion as mandated by 2014 MSP.

The discussions that took place last year have revealed that lethal autonomous weapons systems do not yet exist. How international humanitarian law and international human rights law would apply to lethal autonomous systems will need to be addressed while the technology develops.

Establishing a common understanding among states would need considerable efforts. It would be fair to say we still have more questions than answers at this stage.

Therefore, we look forward to hearing from delegations, academics and civil society in this discussion to allow us further understand the technical issues, characteristics of LAWS, legal and overarching issues, as you defined it.

Thank you.