



# CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

## Statement to the Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties

Geneva

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I am speaking on behalf of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, the international coalition of 86 non-governmental organizations in 49 countries launch formed six years ago to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons, known here at CCW as lethal autonomous weapons systems.

The two meetings of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts this year covered significant ground, resulting in the report delivered today. The principles contained in that report affirm that “human responsibility for decisions on the use of weapon systems must be retained.” For us, this was the most significant take-away as it confirms what we have heard here over and over again since 2013.

The work this year showed us that states are able to negotiate here at the CCW on substantive matters and reach agreement. Yet the end result was simply a report and not the legally-binding instrument that we are calling for.

We remind you that public expectations are rising that states will take serious action to respond to the multiple, serious challenges posed by killer robots. Earlier this month at the Paris Peace Forum held to mark 100 years since the end of World War I, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres made a strong appeal for action, stating:

Imagine the consequences of an autonomous system that could, by itself, target and attack human beings. I call upon States to ban these weapons, which are politically unacceptable and morally repugnant.”

Today more than 70 country statements have referred to the need to continue deliberations here at the CCW next year on lethal autonomous weapons systems, with many proposals to focus on how to retain some form of human control over weapons systems and the use of force. Not a single state has opposed continuing this work. Many have proposed moving to create new international law. Austria, Brazil, and Chile [recommended states agree](#) “to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to ensure meaningful human control over the critical functions” of weapons systems.

Our growing campaign stands ready to support states keen to negotiate on a new ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over weapons systems and the use of force. There is an urgent need for bold leadership to address this imminent challenge before it is too late.