

## **Advanced Version**

### **Recommendations to the 2016 Review Conference**

#### **Submitted by the Chairperson of the Informal Meeting of Experts**

1. The 2016 Informal Meeting of Experts, in accordance with its mandate, discussed in detail questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). The proceedings, building on the respective meetings of 2014 and 2015, covered specifically the areas of Mapping Autonomy; a Working Definition; International Humanitarian Law, including weapons reviews in the context of LAWS; Human Rights and Ethical Issues as well as Security Issues.

2. These discussions were conducted in a holistic manner centered on the principles and rules of applicable International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law. There was a general understanding that:

(a) a state will bear the legal and political responsibility and establish accountability for action by any weapon system used by the state's forces in accordance with applicable International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law;

(b) views on appropriate human involvement with regard to lethal force and the issue of delegation of its use are of critical importance to the further consideration of LAWS amongst the High Contracting Parties and should be the subject of further consideration;

(c) civil society organizations, industry, researchers and scientific organizations should continue to play an important role in exploring the prospective issue in accordance with the established procedural rules of the CCW;

(d) the discussion on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS is one of the priorities for the CCW and should be continued, while not prejudging discussions in other relevant fora.

3. The Informal Meeting of Experts recommends that the 2016 Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons may decide to establish an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in accordance with established practice. The GGE should meet for an appropriate period of time starting in 2017 to explore and agree on possible recommendations on options related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, taking into account all proposals – past, present and future. The GGE should concentrate on technical and expert work in its first part and report on its progress to the 2017 Meeting of High Contracting Parties. The GGE shall conduct its work and adopt its report by consensus which shall be submitted to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. The Rules of Procedure of the Review Conference shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the GGE. The widest possible participation of all High Contracting parties is to be promoted in accordance with the goals of the CCW Sponsorship Programme.

4. The GGE in establishing its programme of work, taking into account different perspectives in the context of LAWS and recognising the potential development and deployment of these systems should consider, *inter alia*, the following questions:

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<sup>1</sup> This meeting recommends the Fifth Review Conference to take a decision on the specific timeframe of the meetings of the GGE after due consultations.

- identification of characteristics and elaboration of a working definition of LAWS;
- application of, and compliance with, the relevant legal principles and rules of International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, in the context of LAWS.

Further consideration should be given, inter alia, to the following questions:

- compliance with International Human Rights Law, when applicable;
- legal and political responsibility and accountability;
- ethical and moral questions;
- effects on regional and global security and stability;
- effects on the threshold for armed conflicts;
- risk of an arms race;
- military value and risks;
- proliferation risks, including to and by non-state actors;
- risks posed by cyber operations in relation to LAWS.