



OPENING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CCW Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

Geneva, 13 May 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by commending you for convening this important Meeting and to thank you and your team, notably the Secretariat and the CCW ISU, for the excellent preparation of this event. The delegation of Croatia wishes to assure you of our full cooperation and support to your work.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we all know, the adoption of the CCW was based on a desire to enhance the actual protection against the effects caused by certain specific weapons. This remains the aim and purpose of the CCW to this day; thus making it an essential instrument of the international humanitarian law. We therefore invite all High Contracting Parties to the CCW to remain committed to the implementation of this Convention and its Protocols.

CCW was always seen as a forum for open-minded discussions and exchange of views on disarmament issues at the multilateral level. Since we all agree that human suffering resulting from an armed conflict cannot and must not leave the international community indifferent, we would like to call upon all High Contracting Parties to use this unique opportunity of having a number of globally renowned LAWS experts among us and to give their contribution in this week's discussions.

To conclude Mr. Chairperson, our community should ensure that CCW will continue to demonstrate its relevance as a key instrument of international humanitarian law. We believe that weapons that could have a significant humanitarian impact, such as LAWS, should be of a direct concern to CCW State Parties and that is why we deeply appreciate efforts you have undertaken to ensure this forum leads the way in discussions on this important matter.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.