



**Statement by Zambia during the informal meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapons system held in Geneva from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**

Thank you chair,

In the first place I would like to join others in thanking you for the able manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of this this Second experts meeting on the subject of lethal autonomous weapons systems and the food for thought paper which guided the expert's presentations in greater detail. I also wish to thank the experts for their valuable presentations and the interventions by various delegations which has indeed deepened our understanding on the subject. Further it will be insensitive to leave out the civil society groups whose contributions and message on possible development and use of autonomous weapons systems is very clear.

Chair, Based on the presentations and interventions which we have heard this week, it is clear that there are diverging views regarding the development and use of autonomous weapons. This suggests a possibility of further discussions that may take the current form or indeed as suggested in the summary that you presented to this meeting this morning. While the later could be a possible means, broad membership would be important to get as many views as possible. In this regard Zambia supports the views highlighted by other delegations for mobilization of financial resources that would enable participation of as many states as possible especially those from developing countries. This will enable common understanding of the nature and characteristics of such weapons and their likely impact on peace and security.

With regard to the relation between lethal autonomous weapons system and human rights, my delegations supports calls by other delegations that to delegate the decision to decide over life and death to machines, will be against human rights. To this effect, while the CCW framework remains the appropriate forum to debate this subject the

cooperation between the CCW and the Human Rights Council is therefore inevitable. The discussion in a forum of this nature restricts our thinking to more technical issues rather than consideration of ethical and moral issues. We stand to benefit more a lot more from a forum that is inclusive considering the multidisciplinary nature of the subject.

Zambia also takes note of the challenges the increasing degree of autonomy would present to International Humanitarian Law and therefore would not advocate for any such weapons systems that would water down the aspects of responsibility and accountability in armed conflict. Our focus should instead be on strengthening such norms.

My delegation therefore welcomes further discussions on the subject but wish to reiterate that such discussions should rather be inclusive. It is therefore important that during the Meeting of States Parties in November, a decision on how we should proceed on this subject should be made.

I thank you.