

17/04/15 AM



CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CCW Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

Geneva, 17 April 2015

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for the very focused way in which you led our discussions during the course of this week.

Croatia is of the view that the CCW is indeed a proper forum to continue deliberations on LAWS. In the last four and a half days we have listened to a number of views and positions from delegations on the relevant issues concerning AWS and on the way forward, particularly today. We would like to reiterate our position that fundamental questions of life and death cannot be assigned to armed autonomous weapons systems.

Given the complexity of the subject we are dealing with, Croatia is in favor of establishing a Group of Governmental Experts to lead the way forward (in exploring the issue of LAWS). However, efforts conducted by this possible GGE might not prove sufficient to assure that humanity retains firm control over its own fate. Thus, the possibility of (creating) a future legally-binding instrument which will set clear rules on the issue of weaponized autonomous systems should not be left completely out of sight.

Finally, Croatia acknowledges valuable contribution by the variety of civil society organizations to our discussions.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.