

**The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons:
Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems**

13 – 17 April 2015, Geneva

DENMARK

General statement by Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup,
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Thank you, Mr Chairman, and warm thanks for organizing this meeting and the very dynamic and thorough preparations for it. This creates the best possible foundation for bringing our discussions forward. Your comprehensive and rich "Food-for-thought"-paper poses a very wide range of precise and relevant questions. From almost poetic expressions, referring to "fear, hate, honour, dignity, compassion, and love" to the technical and judicial definitions we need to develop to ensure that the international community can seek common ground.

No Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems have been developed yet. This should not, however, induce in us a sense of complacency: The last decades of rapid technological developments have all the power to convince us that the cutting edge technology of today is utterly old school tomorrow. We warmly welcome that the international community strives to meet future technological possibilities with adequate answers.

While we cannot have the full understanding of the technical possibilities and constraints of any future LAWS yet, we do have a framework that govern the actions of states, also if and when they would choose to set in motion any such future LAWS. International humanitarian law is applicable also in that case.

Mr Chairman, in your excellent "Food-for-thought"-paper you raise the question of "meaningful human control". While today we cannot define what the exact implications of this is, as we do not see the characteristics of any specific LAWS yet, it is at the very core of our discussions.

And we must be guided by these two principles: All use of force – including the use of autonomous weapon systems - must be in compliance with international humanitarian law, i.e. the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack. And all use of force must remain under "meaningful human control".

We look very much forward to this week's discussions and thank you once again, Mr Chairman, for your diligent work and leadership.

