



Association for Aid and Relief (AAR Japan) statement by Yukie Osa

To the Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of Experts

Geneva, Switzerland

May 13, 2014

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) is a Japanese humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization with operations in 15 countries in Asia and Africa, as well as in Tohoku area which was severely attacked by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

After we experienced 3.11, interest has increased in developing disaster response robots in Japan. We admit that a robot is sometimes an ideal substitute for human, but it is not the case on the battlefield. If we could have stopped the development of atom bombs, the tragedy in Hiroshima and Nagasaki would have never happened. There surely is a weapon that we should make a pre-emptive and comprehensive ban the development, production and use. We believe that lethal autonomous weapons are one of those weapons, which would not meet the requirements of international humanitarian and human rights law.

AAR Japan is a co-founder of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and member of its leadership steering committee. This is our third time working with international civil society to address a weapons challenge, after landmines and cluster munitions. In November 2013, we conducted outreach in Tokyo during a visit by Dr. Peter Asaro, vice chair of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), another co-founder of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

This is not only a political or military issue, but a humanitarian one which the civil society as a whole has to undertake. We welcome that governments have started to consider this issue in the CCW, and believe this is only the beginning of the multilateral work needed to ensure there is always human control over targeting and attack decisions. Also, we urge all nations to develop and articulate their national policy on this urgent matter that concerns all of us.

Thank you.