

European Union

Mr Chairman,

We would like to express our gratitude for leading the discussions on the important issue of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the framework of the CCW, **building on the wide ranging discussions ably chaired by France** in 2014.

We value highly the discussions held last year. They provided a good opportunity to exchange preliminary views and explore fundamental technical legal, ethical, sociological, operational and military aspects and helped to lay the ground for a better common understanding on this issue.

We believe, though, that a number of questions still remain and that this meeting will give us the opportunity to continue the debate and further enhance our **shared** understandings on these **emerging** weapons systems. We welcome the active support of civil society to this important discussion.

We thank you for your food-for-thought paper which can help us to **focus** our work this week. **We look forward to a comprehensive discussion** and we will contribute actively in order to be able to identify as much common ground as possible in order to move the discussion forward. Thank you