



**CCW Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
Geneva (April 13 – 17, 2015)**

**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me first of all congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your chairmanship of this important meeting and assure you of my delegation's support.

Let me also express our appreciation and gratitude for all the work you have done, and for the tireless efforts you have deployed, in order to lay the ground for a successful outcome of this second informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons.

Italy aligns itself to the statement previously delivered by the European Union/
~~that the European Union will delivered.~~

The discussions held last year provided a good opportunity to exchange views and explore the multiple aspects which characterize this matter in order to facilitate the search of a common understanding on this delicate issue.

We appreciate your approach aiming at building on the positive outcomes and fruitful discussions already had under the Chairmanship of the French Permanent Representative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him as well.

We attach a great importance to this exercise and I assure you that you can rely on the full cooperation of Italy in carrying on your task.

We are convinced that the CCW is the most appropriate framework in which discussions about LAWS can be held. This framework has proved to be an effective

instrument not only to address the concerns posed by existing armaments, but also to prevent the development of new types of weapons that would be unacceptable under the International Humanitarian Law principles.

Mr. Chairman,

We share the view that the aim to create the conditions of a common understanding on this matter should be the added value of this exercise in the framework of the CCW scopes and objectives.

In this prospect, we strongly appreciated the comprehensive food-for thought paper you circulated for this meeting that we consider a most valuable contribution.

We hope that it will allow us to advance substantially in the identification of issues that need to be addressed with reference to LAWS.

Among them we agree to have further focused discussions on the issues concerning the definition of LAWS; on the crucial question of dual-use technology and the challenges regarding increasingly complex technology in the military sphere, as well as on the issues concerning the guarantee and full respect for international humanitarian law in the development, acquisition and deployment of increasingly complex weapon systems.

We are aware that it will be not so easy to imagine that we could find suitable answers to all these questions during this week.

However, I am confident that, also thanks to your vision and leadership, further details and more concrete elements will emerge, which will allow us to better identify this phenomenon and convey to our relevant national authorities more substantial elements to guide and direct our policies in this regard.

Before concluding, allow me to underline that the additional expertise and knowledge that academic and research institutions, think-tanks, and NGOs can bring on the LAWS issue, would certainly have a positive impact on our work. We therefore support the continued participation of civil society in this debate, in accordance with the CCW rules of procedure.

Thank you.