CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Report on Activities

Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties
Geneva
11-15 November 2013

About this report

This report on activities describes outreach by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots at meetings of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) held at the United Nations in Geneva during the week of 11 November 2013. It contains summary analysis of extracts from national statements and from notes of country interventions, which are annexed. The report lists the outreach undertaken by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in the lead-up to and during the CCW meeting. A list of media coverage relating to the report can be found in Annex II.

This report was prepared by Campaign to Stop Killer Robots coordinator Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch with the assistance of Bonnie Docherty of Human Rights Watch and Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic as well as her students Ben Bastomski and Lara Berlin, and Mia Gandenberger and Bea Fihn at WILPF's Reaching Critical Will Project.

For more information please see the campaign's website www.stopkillerrobots.org and its photographs on Flickr: http://bit.ly/1i6v2lt.

Washington DC
4 March 2014

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I. Overview

1. Mandate

The decision by the Convention on Conventional Weapons to take on killer robots is contained in Paragraph 32 of the final report of the meeting adopted by consensus on Friday, 15 November:

> The Meeting declared that the Chairperson will convene in 2014 a four-day informal Meeting of Experts, from 13 to 16 May 2014, to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention. He will, under his own responsibility, submit a report to the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, objectively reflecting the discussions held.[1]

The draft mandate was introduced at the beginning of the week during informal consultations.[2] As described below during the week of CCW meetings, a total of 35 nation expressed their views on lethal autonomous weapons systems, including 15 nations for the first time: Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Ghana, Holy See, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Madagascar, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine.

2. Lead-up

Killer robots were first discussed by nations in a multilateral setting on 30 May 2013, when the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Professor Christof Heyns presented his report on lethal autonomous robots to the Human Rights Council. A total of 20 nations provided their views on the challenge and a number—Brazil, France, Pakistan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States—used the occasion to call for lethal autonomous robots to be addressed by the Convention on Conventional Weapons.[3]

On 3 September, representatives from more than 20 nations attended a lunchtime seminar on fully autonomous weapons systems convened by France in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva.[4] The seminar was chaired by the Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel, who said he had decided to convene the seminar to check the level of interest in addressing the issue ahead of the CCW's 2013 meeting, which he would be chairing.

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[1] See Final Report of the Convention on Conventional Weapons 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2013/10) available at: http://bit.ly/1jRKxvj

[2] "The Chair will convene in 2014 a [three] day informal Meeting of Experts, from [XX] to [YY] 2014, to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems."

[3] Algeria, Argentina (for GRULAC, the Latin American and Caribbean Group of 33 states), Austria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and US. There were also statements by the European Union (comprised of 27 states) and by Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (56 states). See: http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/2013/05/nations-to-debate-killer-robots-at-un/

[4] Representatives attended from Australia, Austria, Benin, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and the US. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots was present as were representatives from UN agencies and international organizations. See: http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/2013/09/france-seminar/

During October, nations expressed support for work in the CCW during their statements to the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security in New York. At the outset of First Committee, on 8 October, France said that the issue of lethal autonomous robots should be clarified and discussed by "an appropriate disarmament forum," thereby signaling its intent to propose a mandate of work in the Convention on Conventional Weapons. The 16 nations that spoke on the matter included nine nations who made their first public statement on the matter: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa.[5]

In total, from 30 May 2013 until the conclusion of the CCW meeting on 15 November 2013, 44 states have spoken publicly for the first time on fully autonomous weapons: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States.

2. Informal consultations (11 Nov.)

The first discussion on killer robots at the Convention on Conventional Weapons took place on Monday, 11 November, when the chair-designate of the 2013 meeting of high contracting parties, French Ambassador Simon-Michel, convened an hour-long session of "informal consultations" to present his proposed mandate on lethal autonomous weapons systems.

Ambassador Simon-Michel read his invitation to the consultations, which the proposed mandate language was based on. He described the challenge of lethal autonomous weapons systems as a "difficult debate" because it raises various issues, including "ethical, legal, operational, and technical matters." He laid out the process that has been undertaken to secure support for the draft mandate, which he described as providing "an overall picture … to explore the different aspects and problems in detail."

A total of 18 nations spoke in the discussion that followed, including Belgium, Canada, Italy, and Spain for the first time.[6] All except Russia expressed explicit support for the draft mandate to work on this topic in the CCW in 2014.[7]

The speakers raised a number of concerns that should be considered by an experts meeting and there was interest in discussing definitions, scope, applicability, transparency, and accountability. Germany said that legal, ethical and technological issues should be discussed in detail. China noted that lethal autonomous weapons systems and other autonomous weapons platforms "have

[5] Austria (twice), Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, France (twice), Greece, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan (twice), Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States. See: http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/2013/05/nations-to-debate-killer-robots-at-un/

[6] Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China (twice), Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Russia (twice), Spain, Switzerland, UK and US.

[7] Russia said it had a number of questions. It wanted to know what kind of weapons would be discussed, mentioning drones in particular, and had questions on the financing of the meeting. Russia said it was "not saying yes or no," but wanted more clarity before deciding its position.

caused humanitarian concerns." It emphasized the need for the CCW to "do the work gradually and in a progressive manner in order to forge consensus."

Most speakers said they were flexible on the timing. Pakistan said it would be fine with more days and the US said 5 days would be better.

Italy said it was prepared to play "an active part at expert level" when the meeting takes place. Brazil urged that Professor Heyns be invited to the experts meeting. It also pointed out that a CCW mandate wouldn't prevent other UN bodies from addressing this subject, such as the Human Rights Council.

Pakistan pointed out the Convention on Conventional Weapons is not just a forum for "restricting" weapons and striking a balance between military and humanitarian concerns, but serves to create full bans on weapons, citing the CCW's protocols on non-detectable fragments and blinding lasers.

Several nations emphasized the need for civil society engagement, including Belgium, Netherlands, Mexico, and UK. At the end of the session, Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch made a brief intervention on behalf of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots to introduce the coalition and its goal of a preemptive ban on fully autonomous weapons as well as express support for the proposed CCW mandate of work.

Ambassador Simon-Michel said lack of clarity over the kinds of weapons and systems involved was exactly why an informal experts meeting was needed. He said the draft mandate was "broad-based" because "you can't narrow it down before you have defined it. Defining it is part of the problem." Ambassador Simon-Michel noted that, "one of the discussions will be on the distinction between autonomous and automatic weapons."

In response to questions about including drones, Ambassador Simon-Michel said that "all the debate which has taken place" on lethal autonomous weapons systems has not included drones. He also noted the difference: that drones are remote-controlled aircraft still controlled by a human decision-making process, while the challenge of robotics addresses systems of a later generation where humans do not intervene in the decision to fire. The US also pointed out that lethal fully autonomous weapons systems are "future systems" that would operate "without human intervention" and not remotely-piloted aircraft or drones.

Organizing the 2014 experts meeting will be the responsibility of the current CCW meeting chair—Ambassador Simon-Michel—but he pointed out "it should also be collective work" and indicated that he will need help. He proposed that the chair delegate friends of the chair, each of whom would take responsibility for a half-day of work of the group. On funding, he said that the advantage of an informal experts meeting is that it is 'budget-lite' and does not cost as much as a formal meeting because there are no official documents to translate and photocopy.

In conclusion, Ambassador Simon-Michel said the informal experts meeting would be "a discussion group" and not take any decisions. The report would be the chair's responsibility and would "endeavor to accurately reflect the debate" by summarizing the deliberations, but would

not make recommendations. He said that if the informal experts meeting is agreed then at the next annual CCW meeting in November 2014, a renewed mandate could be proposed to continue the informal group or a decision could be taken "to move to a different phase" namely a group of governmental experts, which "would be a more formal meeting." He described the proposed process as "a gradual approach that would allow us to build consensus."

3. General statements (14 Nov.)

During three-hour morning and afternoon sessions on 14 November, a total of 39 countries spoke in a marathon session of general statements to the opening of the annual meeting of Convention on Conventional Weapons high contracting parties. 65 percent of the countries that spoke (24 nations) addressed killer robots, including eight nations that were making their first public statements on the matter: Australia, Ghana, Holy See, Lithuania, Madagascar, South Korea, Turkey, and Ukraine.[8]

Almost all speakers on killer robots expressed explicit support for the proposed CCW mandate and none spoke against it.[9]

In its first public statement on the matter, the Holy See expressed "grave ethical concerns" and said most critical is "the lack of ability for pre-programmed, automated technical systems to make moral judgments over life and death, to respect human rights, and to comply with the principle of humanity."

The Netherlands said the "essential element" is that lethal autonomous weapons systems once activated can select and engage targets without human intervention. It described the approach by the UN special rapporteur as "on point" in that it identifies the problem as "the absence of human intervention" and said we need to discuss this further.

Pakistan noted that "in certain Western quarters, it is being argued that a ban on such weapons is unnecessary and even dangerous" and criticized this as being based on "twisted thinking." Pakistan said that "the military-industrial complex, with huge electoral contributions to politicians" is "pushing for production of such weapons and thereby shaping the thinking on evolving defence policies."

India said that the informal meeting should allow for an exchange of views to see whether future potential action is possible in the CCW.

Again, several nations emphasized the need for civil society engagement, including Austria, Belgium, Mexico, Netherlands, and the UK.

[8] Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Holy See, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, and US, plus the European Union. The 14 nations that spoke, but did not address killer robots were: Albania, Argentina, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Israel, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mali, Netherlands, Philippines, Russia, UAE, and Zambia.

[9] Russia was again deliberately vague, but its representatives indicated privately that it would be unlikely to block agreement on the mandate.

4. Final session (15 Nov.)

There was a final discussion on final morning of CCW meeting to consider the proposed mandate a final time prior to its adoption, where 21 nations spoke, including Croatia and Israel for the first time.[10]

Ambassador Simon-Michel noted the positive feedback received on the mandate proposal. He circulated revised text for the draft mandate with two amendments: a duration of four days and the proposed meeting dates of 13-16 May 2014. He described the four-day meeting as "an intermediary solution" following various suggestions received. He emphasized that the proposed date was dependent on the availability of rooms at the UN in Geneva, noting the difficulty to finding a room given the full calendar and ongoing renovations.

In the discussion that followed most nations that spoke agreed with the revised mandate language, but there were some suggestions. India asked that the words "in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention on Conventional Weapons" be added. The wording is redundant given that the whole mandate is on behalf of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, but the proposal was supported by several delegations and included in the final text that was adopted.

China pointed out that this is a highly complicated matter given the legal and ethical aspects and emphasized "we will probably not be able to achieve our goal in a single meeting alone, be it three or four or five days, because this will only be a preliminary opportunity for experts to exchange views." China noted that after this meeting, delegations will return to capitals to have further thinking on the matter and said the mandate "will not be a one-shot deal." China, Russia, and Belarus requested amended dates for the informal discussions and expressed concern about financing their participation given that travel budgets have already been allocated.

Cuba proposed to delete the reference to "emerging technologies," but Israel, UK, and US objected to this proposal. As a compromise, China suggested the addition of "existing" to "emerging technologies" in the mandate so that it would read "existing and emerging technologies." Neither suggestion was taken on board in the final text.

The French chair closed the discussion by again noting the "broad consensus" for the text of the mandate and said no amendments needed to be made to the substance. He again emphasized that the proposed dates were beyond his control due to the lack of flexibility on meeting rooms.

The decision by the Convention on Conventional Weapons to take on killer robots was taken when the final report of the meeting was adopted by consensus on Friday, 15 November at 4.47pm local time.[11]

[10] Belarus, Belgium, China (twice), Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and US.

[11] See Final Report of the Convention on Conventional Weapons 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2013/10) available at: http://bit.ly/1jRKxvj

II. Campaign outreach

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots undertook a round of outreach in Geneva in late May 2013 in conjunction with the presentation to the Human Rights Council of the report by Prof. Christof Heyns, including a press conference and side event on 28 May. It also met with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Prior to that, Human Rights Watch briefed diplomats from 13 countries in Geneva on 19 April.

Representatives from a significant number of nations attended a lunchtime seminar convened by France in Geneva on 3 September. Campaign to Stop Killer Robots coordinator Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch and Prof. Noel Sharkey from the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) expressed the coalition's support for work in the CCW.

The campaign issued a 3-page "backgrounder" on the Convention on Conventional Weapons on 26 September 2013 to increase public awareness and understanding of the framework convention.

On 16 October, ICRAC issued a letter signed by 272 experts in 37 countries urging international action to ban the development and deployment of weapon systems that make the decision to apply violent force autonomously, without any human control.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots engaged on the CCW mandate during the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security in New York in October. Wareham facilitated a Campaign to Stop Killer Robots side event on 21 October that featured presentations by Noel Sharkey of ICRAC, Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams of the Nobel Women's Initiative, and Richard Moyes of Article 36. A week later, Wareham delivered the campaign's first UNGA First Committee statement during the NGO segment on 29 October. The campaign undertook media outreach in New York that resulted in several articles.

France's Ambassador Simon-Michel regularly consulted with the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in the lead-up in the adoption of the CCW mandate, including via a meeting in New York on 18 October.

On 25 October, the campaign issued its second "Action Alert" inviting its members to adapt and use sample "talking points" on the CCW mandate in their communications with government contacts. Campaigners pressed governments to support the CCW mandate.

WILPF's Reaching Critical Will sent reminders to Geneva-based diplomatic representatives on the CCW mandate proposal and the campaign's CCW side event. During the CCW meeting, WILPF took notes and posted statements to its website.

On 13 November representatives from the campaign's Steering Committee undertook outreach on the report at the UN's Palais des Nations in Geneva. The UN Association of UN Correspondents/Association des Correspondents Auprès des Nations Unies (ACANU) hosted a Campaign to Stop Killer Robots briefing for its members in its library at the UN Palais des Nations. Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch and Noel Sharkey of ICRAC presented the coalition's views on the issue and discussed expectations for action via the CCW.

Approximately eight journalists attended the 45-minute briefing, which was less than half the number that participated in the campaign's previous media briefing at the UN in Geneva on 28 May. The campaign and its member organizations issued press releases that day, which attracted strong interest in the United Kingdom and generated some coverage elsewhere. Japanese media, including *NHK Television* and *Kyodo News Service* covered the mandate outcome on 15 November as did *Forbes* and *The Independent*, but none of the major wire services—*Agence France Presse, Associated Press, Reuters*—covered it. (See Annex II of media coverage)

In the afternoon of 13 November, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots held an hour-long side event briefing that was chaired by Roos Boer of IKV Pax Christi and featured presentations by Goose and Sharkey. Approximately 120 people attended the side event, including representatives from dozens of states. Throughout the week of the CCW, campaigners held bilateral meetings with diplomats from various countries to discuss the CCW mandate, including the US.

For the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, Wareham delivered two statements during the week of CCW meetings, while founding NGOs Human Rights Watch, Article 36, IKV Pax Christi, and ICRAC each delivered statements on 14 November. Human Rights Watch and Article 36 provided detailed memos to CCW delegates. On 15 November, Richard Moyes discussed fully autonomous weapons during an Article 36 side event attended by states and NGOs.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is preparing to engage extensively with governments in the lead-up to and during the CCW experts meetings in May 2014.

For more information, see:

- Backgrounder on the CCW by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
- Statement and press release by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
- Report by WILPF's Reaching Critical Will project
- Statement, press release, and memo to delegates by Human Rights Watch
- Statement, press release, and memo to delegates by Article 36
- Statement by ICRAC
- Statement by IKV Pax Christi
- Web posts by Campaign to Stop Killer Robots on French seminar (Sep.), UNGA message (21 Oct.), UNGA outreach (23 Oct.), UNGA outcome (30 Oct.), CCW outreach (13 Nov.), and the CCW outcome (15 Nov.)

Annex I: Country Statements

The government positions contained in this annex were provided in country statements and notes of country interventions. Only a portion of the general statements are available online so unless an html link to the original statement is provided the statement was derived from notes taken by members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. Country interventions made during the informal consultations and discussion on the final day were less formal than the country statements. The notes of country interventions are not be verbatim or an exact or complete record of what was said so please use caution when citing from them.

Australia

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[12]

The CCW needs to continue to demonstrate its relevance as a key instrument of international humanitarian law that can remain responsive to advancements in weapons technology and take into account developments in the nature and conduct of armed conflict.

This meeting is, therefore, an opportunity to consider what future work the States Parties should embark upon in 2014 and beyond.

In recent months, there has been much discussion also on the topic of lethal fully autonomous weapons systems and in particular the application of existing international humanitarian law to the potential development of such weapons systems. We would support a further informal exploratory discussion under the CCW framework on this topic to allow states to develop a more informed understanding on the definition, military utility, legal as well as humanitarian aspects associated with lethal autonomous weapons systems. I congratulate France's work to support engagement on this.

Austria

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[13]

We also need to keep up with emerging technological developments in the area of conventional weapons and make sure that we consider the implications of these developments for international law at an early stage. In this light, we commend you, Mr. President for your timely initiative to propose a mandate for an informal meeting of experts to discuss questions related to emerging technologies in the area of autonomous weapons systems. Austria has at various occasions expressed her support for the relevant UN fora to deal with this issue with a sense of urgency and has called for a multi-disciplinary approach. We would welcome an informal expert meeting in the framework of the CCW and support the mandate proposed by the Presidency, which should allow us to consider the broad range of aspects related to the emerging technologies in the field of autonomous weapons systems, including legal, technical, ethical and societal aspects. We also

[12] Statement of Australia, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Australia.pdf

[13] Statement of Austria, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Austria.pdf

support the approach outlined by the Presidency for the informal Meeting of Experts to be inclusive of the broad range of expertise available from states, international organizations and civil society.

Belarus

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[14]
Belarus is ready to join the consensus that is forming here related to what you have proposed, Mr. Chairman, namely the mandate on lethal autonomous weapons systems.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[15]
Our delegation stated yesterday that we are prepared to support the emerging consensus on the mandate. Our position is very flexible regarding the text of the mandate. In principle we are prepared to support the Indian proposal and Cuban proposal.
We would like to draw attention to need to take into account the desire of delegations that the event should take place within a single time-block together with the expert meeting for Protocol V. Perhaps it would be useful to hold an additional conversation with secretariat and UN administrative services on that. Perhaps we could use the Council Chamber where the Conference on Disarmament usually takes place. Taking into account importance of forthcoming meeting, we might be able to come to a solution regarding rooms.

Belgium

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[16]
This is a very important issue and we think it's high time to delve further into this important matter, opening up a lot of issues in the legal, technical, and operational fields. We support the proposal and would like to emphasize two elements. There needs to be a broad-based discussion mandate covering all the issues referred to. There needs to be broad-based participation, allowing us to tap expertise of academic circles, UN bodies, and NGOs.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[17]
Belgium reaffirms its support for the proposal. We are flexible as to issue of dates, but would like to endorse the proposal for a group of experts. We propose broad participation and support a broad mandate that makes it possible to examine all aspects of the issue.
We had a small comment on the definition of working group's topic of "lethal autonomous weapon systems." We think that autonomous weapon systems could have humanitarian consequences without killing and that should also be part of our thinking on this.

Brazil

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)

[14] Statement of Belarus, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[15] Intervention of Belarus, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[16] Intervention of Belgium, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[17] Intervention of Belgium, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

Received precise instructions last week – support the establishment of an informal group to discuss the subject, which doesn't mean that other bodies in the UN system (such as HRC) would not discuss it in their respective terms of reference. There are questions around this that we'd need to answer. Do believe the group of experts can start the job.
Hope group of experts would be able to meet next year (can be flexible on how long that will be for). Hope group of experts would listen to HRC special rapporteur Heyns and advisory committee on disarmament matters.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[18]
With respect to emerging technologies in lethal autonomous weapons systems, we believe the Convention on Conventional Weapons is an appropriate forum to discuss a future multilateral regime to address these issues. However, we believe a discussion in the CCW should not preclude other UN bodies like the Human Rights Council to discuss and take action on this issue in accordance with their mandates…. Christof Heyns presented a report on development and use of lethal autonomous robots. A report was also presented by the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board. We suggest we extend an invitation to Heyns and a member of the Advisory Board to the informal group to present their findings… The international community should also carry out an investigation into the use of combat drones.

Canada

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[19]
Lethal autonomous weapons systems are an emerging issue. The government of Canada is giving it due consideration. This issue requires further discussion and thought. We need to delineate clearly what type of systems are included. We would welcome discussions in an informal setting in 2014 and support the proposal. We hope that a substantial report could be used as basis for further work.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[20]
Canada supports the proposal to organize an informal meeting of experts to discuss emerging technologies in field of lethal autonomous weapons systems. We have followed discussions closely and think it would be encouraging to look at issues pertaining to the development of these weapons. We're pleased to note that this view is shared by many states to Convention on Conventional Weapons. [not exact quote].

China

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[21]
We note that lethal autonomous weapons systems and other autonomous weapons platforms have caused humanitarian concerns. This issue relates to many issues, including legal, humanitarian,

[18] Statement of Brazil, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[19] Intervention of Canada, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[20] Statement of Canada, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[21] Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

military and other issues. So the definition, scope, and applicability of laws should be discussed thoroughly.
For most countries, this is an area on which we need to further promote our understanding. This is also an area we should learn more about. We can't achieve our objective overnight. We need to do work gradually and in a progressive manner in order to forge consensus. We are supportive of holding discussions within the framework of the CCW.

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)
Many delegations mentioned that the report of the informal meeting would be submitted to next year's high contracting parties. Raises issues on work methods--- don't know if chair would submit report in personal capacity or if this should be result of collective wisdom of informal group of experts. i.e. should we adopt principle of consensus in this regard?

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[22]
The issue of lethal autonomous weapons systems has caused growing international concern. Generally speaking, China is open to the discussions of this issue under the framework of the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Given the complicated legal, humanitarian, and technical studies, relevant study of the scope and legal issues is still needed before consensus can take shape. [Last sentence- summary]

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[23]
China supports the suggestion presented by the chair to hold an informal experts' meeting on lethal autonomous weapons next year. However we have a small problem to raise, which is the duration of the meeting. I do not understand why we do not hold this in conjunction with other experts' meetings to be held at the same time. If we separate the two informal expert meetings, it will pose difficulty for the attendance of the Chinese delegation, because the Chinese government is making every effort that it can to strengthen its financial management. The budget for participating in international conferences is confirmed a year ahead. If this informal experts meeting can be part of the other experts meeting, then we will not have any problems to attend such meetings. However if we hold those two meetings in separate months it will become a separate meeting itself for which we will have to apply for a new budget for attending such meetings. As I said the budget has already been confirmed and this will cause problems.
Another reason is, from the beginning of May to the middle of May it will be the national holiday season in China, from 1 to 10 May to be precise. Most Chinese will not be working therefore during the holiday seasons we will not be able to fully participate in these meetings. So China's suggestion is that you will consider the issue more thoroughly to make these two meetings held around the same time. This will overstretch our budget plan, and of course the Chinese delegation will make every effort it can to participate and will make contributions. As regarding the duration, we have a flexible attitude toward this issue. However I would like to say that, this is a highly complicated matter given its legal and ethical aspects. Of course, we will probably not be able to achieve our goal in a single meeting alone, be it three or four or five

[22] Statement of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[23] Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

days, because this will only be a preliminary opportunity for experts to exchange views. I believe after this meeting, different delegations will return to capitals to have further thinking on the matter. It will not be a one-shot deal.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)
In the proposal put forward earlier, there seemed to be a word "factual." I like this word very much and I'm wondering if we can reflect the wording in the document. That is to say, submit a factual report.
Our Cuban colleague suggested deletion of "emerging technologies in the area of" and we have no difficulty in supporting this proposal, however, the Israeli delegation suggests that we keep this wording. As a way out, I'm wondering if we can keep this sentence by adding "emerging" before "and emerging" so that we have two words: "existing and emerging" technologies.

Croatia

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[24]
We commend the president for the idea to convene informal meeting to discuss important questions on emerging lethal autonomous weapons. In that sense, Croatia echoes the statements of those states that have spoken in favor, particularly Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, and the Netherlands. We also welcome India's amendment.

Cuba

CCW intervention (15 Nov)[25]
Bearing in mind what was said about problems for budget for 2014 in many countries particularly underdeveloped countries, we already have a budget for 2014 and it would be difficult for us to receive additional funding. We would like to ask secretariat to consider special support for countries that require funding to help them attend the meeting.
We would like to support India's amendment to the mandate and we have our own proposal, but will not insist on it because we want consensus. We suggest that for emerging technologies, we suggest that we eliminate "emerging technologies in the area of" and keep in "lethal autonomous weapons systems."

Egypt

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[26]
We have no doubt that lethal autonomous weapons need to be addressed within the legal system of arms control, especially with respect to use by non-state actors and terrorist groups. Egypt supports discussions on scope and the legal instrument required to address these weapons.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[27]

[24] Intervention of the Netherlands, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[25] Intervention of Cuba, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[26] Intervention of Egypt, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[27] Intervention of Egypt, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

International attention to subject of lethal autonomous weapons has grown rapidly over the past year. Such weapons have generated widespread concern about their impacts, including with respect to distinction, proportionality, and their lack of accountability. At present there is no treaty body governing such technologies, but there is overarching rules governing this field via international humanitarian law. The need for evaluation is urgent and timely.
Experience shows that it is necessary to ban a weapon system that is found to be excessively injurious or indiscriminate before they are deployed, as we have seen with blinding lasers and non-detectable fragments. We look forward to the convening of the experts meeting and hopes it works as an eye-opener.
There are ramifications for the value of human life. We are concerned about the possibility of acquisition by terrorists and armed groups. A ban could prevent this, but until that is achieved, we support the calls for a moratorium on development of such technology to allow for meaningful debate and to reach greater international consensus. It might be too late after they are developed to work on an appropriate response.
Technology should not overtake humanity. This technology raises many concerns that need to be fully addressed.

France

CCW statement (14 Nov)[28]
La Convention sur certaines armes classiques est un forum unique, qui permet de rassembler des expertises complémentaires : expertise diplomatique, humanitaire, juridique, militaire. Cette pluralité d'approches est une richesse. Nous devons en tirer parti et relever les défis de l'avenir. Un débat nouveau a émergé depuis quelques mois sur la question des systèmes d'armes létaux autonomes. C'est un débat à la fois important et difficile car il pose la question fondamentale de la place de l'Homme dans la décision d'engager la force létale. La France a proposé que la Convention s'accorde sur un mandat de discussion, qui permettrait de clarifier les termes de ce débat.

Les réactions entendues lors de la réunion de consultations informelles de lundi sont extrêmement encourageantes de ce point de vue et nous espérons pouvoir compter sur le soutien des Hautes parties contractantes pour adopter ce mandat.

Germany

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)
There is increased interest in lethal autonomous weapons systems and this is an important topic to be discussed. Intense, informed expert discussion can shed more clarity on this topic. Definitions have to be addressed and legal and ethical questions should be discussed in detail. Technological issues should be on agenda. We should have the discussions. The CCW is right forum; we have the right expertise here.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[29]

[28] Statement of France, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/statements/14Nov_France.pdf
[29] Statement of Germany, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by Human Rights Watch and Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic.

We need to respond in a flexible manner to new developments in arms and defense technologies. We must strive for a balance between necessary military capabilities and the worst effects on civilians. The ability of the CCW forum to use legal, military, political and technical expertise cannot be understated.
Germany notes the increasing interest in lethal autonomous robotics and that this is a preliminary stage of discussions. We believe discussions should take place. We support the mandate for informal expert discussions and discussions on operational deployment and rules of engagement.

CCW intervention (15 Nov)[30]
We believe there should be sufficient time to discuss the complex questions associated with the issue and believe your proposal of four days is fair. We accept the dates you have proposed. We would have preferred back-to-back with other experts' meetings, but this is acceptable.

Ghana

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[31]
We join other states in the call for this body to hold discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems. We acknowledge its novelty and the fact that these systems are yet to be widely used, but discussions on their potential use and impacts on war need to be considered. We are reminded of the principles that bind all states. Laws of war have been established and efforts need to be made to ensure they are complied with.

Greece

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[32]
Greece supports the statement of EU yesterday. We believe that the subject should be dealt with in this forum in view of the fact that Convention on Conventional Weapons is in a unique position with legal and military expertise. We support your proposal to establish an informal group for purpose of considering issues in May. We would prefer a shorter duration, but are flexible in this regard. We also support the amendment by India.

Holy See

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[33]
Lethal autonomous weapons and drones, although distinct, share much the same humanitarian implications and raise several questions of grave ethical concern. Most critical is the lack of ability for pre-programmed, automated technical systems to make moral judgments over life and death, to respect human rights, and to comply with the principle of humanity. These questions will grow in relevance and urgency as robotic technology continues to develop and being utilized. With this concern in mind, I take the opportunity to express our support for your

[30] Intervention of Germany, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[31] Statement of Ghana, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[32] Intervention of Greece, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[33] Statement of Holy See, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_HolySee.pdf

initiative, Mr. President, that envisions the adoption of a mandate to start thinking about these important and urgent matters. Indeed advantage should be taken of all relevant contributions from all fields, particularly those of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Weaponised drones are useful precisely because they take a number of important functions out of the hands of human beings, increasing accuracy and decreasing risks to life and limb for military personnel. Yet the increasing involvement of a pre-programmed machine in several steps of the targeting and attacking process further blurs the question of who is accountable when something goes wrong. Clear accountability is essential to upholding the laws and norms of international humanitarian law.

Decisions over life and death are uniquely difficult decisions, a heavy responsibility for a human being, and one fraught with challenges. Yet it is a decision for which a person, capable of moral reasoning, is uniquely suited. An automated system, pre-programmed to respond to given data inputs, ultimately relies on its programming rather than on an innate capacity to tell right from wrong. Thus any trend toward greater automation of warfare should be treated with great caution. But even in the limited automation of "human-in-the-loop" drone systems, there lies the potential for removing the essential human component from the process. Human decision-makers involved should be trained, well informed and should dispose of reasonable and sufficient time to be in a position to make sound ethical decisions.

India

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[34]

The ways and means of progressive developments are applicable to advanced conventional weapons. We agree that lethal autonomous weapons systems could be further explored in Convention on Conventional Weapons. We appreciate the efforts of the chair to organize informal meetings to learn more about this issue and support a discussion mandate. Such an informal meeting should allow for an exchange of views to see whether it would be possible to further examine this issue for future potential action, in light of the principles of the CCW.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[35]

We have paid close attention to the statements made in the plenary and sense the widespread interest in this issue being discussed in the context of our work in 2014. We fully support the clarifications you have provided and agree with the informal nature of the work and your responsibility of preparing the report. We have also noted that there are a large number of dimensions to this issue, we ourselves in our statements have referred to need to refer to legal, ethical, and humanitarian aspects of the issue.

We do feel that in order to improve the language and to place this in proper context we suggest a minor amendment, which doesn't change the nature of the mandate but places it squarely in the context of the CCW. At the end of the first sentence after lethal autonomous weapons systems, place a comma, and thereafter insert the following: "in the context of the objective and purposes of the CCW." By introducing this we would be placing our discussion and the questions that

[34] Statement of India, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

[35] Intervention of India, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

would be raised in the informal meetings, in the context of the CCW. That would be the framework in which we would discuss the meeting. We are aware that you were consulted widely, and in putting this forward we want only to improve the clarity of the mandate and we hope it meets the approval of all here.
If this leads to questions that complicate the mandate, we would not insist on it, but put it forward for your consideration.

Ireland

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)
Technology develops at a rapid pace so it is timely that we have a discussion in this forum on lethal autonomous weapons systems. We appreciate the draft proposal. It is important to have a broad scope and broad participation from variety of expertise. We support the proposal for meeting of 3 days duration on basis of draft mandate

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[36]
The framework provided by this Convention has evolved since 1980 in response to both changes in technology and to greater appreciation of the effects of the use of certain weapons. In this context, we believe that this framework provides a suitable forum in which to discuss emerging technologies and would support the commencement of discussion on the issue of lethal autonomous weapons systems at a more detailed level. This framework has proven that it can address emerging issues with regard to weapons, as it did with Protocol IV - and we should commence examination of this issue before such systems are deployed, beginning with a meeting of experts between now and the next Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

Israel

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)
Since many delegations emphasize that the meeting will discuss lethal autonomous weapons systems, which do not exist today, we would like to preserve the wording of "emerging technologies in the area"

Italy

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[37]
We appreciate the idea of having an informal meeting. The Convention on Conventional Weapons is the right forum to talk about new challenges and technological developments in weapons systems. We appreciate France's initiative and support starting discussions. This new type of weaponry is far from being developed, but we think it's appropriate to have a debate. We are open to how long the experts meeting might last. Italy prepared to play an active part at expert level when the meeting takes place

CCW statement (14. Nov)[38]

[36] Statement of Ireland, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Ireland.pdf
[37] Intervention of Italy, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

The CCW has the merit to address the humanitarian concerns posed by existing weapons but also to prevent the development of new types of weapons that would have been unacceptable under the basic International Humanitarian Law principles. I am referring specifically to Protocol I and Protocol IV.
Now a new potential threat is appearing on the horizon. I am referring specifically to the lethal autonomous weapons, the so-called killer robots. We are conscious that such weapons are not operational yet and that nobody can predict what their impact on IHL would be. However, we deem it appropriate that the international community starts an evaluation of this possible impact.
We are convinced that the CCW is the most appropriate venue for such process.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)
We would like to reiterate our full support. We have no problem with the duration of the meeting or with the dates or with the amendments proposed to the text by India.

Japan

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[39]
Japan thinks this is a timely meeting. We believe the CCW is the most appropriate forum to take up this issue because it will need a variety of experts: legal, technological, arms control, and military. We support most of the elements of the proposal. For the scope of discussion basic issues including definitions should be discussed. On the duration of the meeting we support three days. We support the function of the chair to voluntarily submit a report.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[40]
We recognize the growing interest in lethal autonomous weapons systems and think it's useful to start discussions on basic elements, including definitions. Since the issue contains many different elements – human rights, legal, technology, and arms control – the Convention on Conventional Weapons is suitable forum where we can receive balanced and diverse reports from experts. Japan looks forward to dealing with this issue in an informal meeting within the CCW. We believe that three days is an appropriate duration to kick off discussion.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[41]
Japan recognizes the growing interest in this topic among the international community. Japan supports fully the proposal to convene experts to start discussion on these weapons. We think it important for this meeting to take place. Japan goes along with the dates and duration of the four-day meeting.

Lithuania

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[42]

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[38] Statement of Italy, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/statements/14Nov_Italy.pdf
[39] Intervention of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[40] Statement of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[41] Intervention of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

We do also take note of the emerging debate related to lethal autonomous weapon systems. We recognize that the development of such fully autonomous weapons could raise substantial questions. This debate is a complex one. We need to improve our understanding, bearing in mind that those technologies are still under development. We see value in a common discussion on this matter in the framework of the CCW, which is the best-suited forum gathering the diplomatic, legal and military expertise needed. Such a discussion could aim to explore and provide clarity on the different aspects of the topic.
In our perspective, it could help to better understand what we are talking about, what the perspectives are and what is at stake. Therefore, Lithuania welcomes the idea to convene a three- to five days informal meeting of experts in 2014 to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems and to report its' outcomes to the to the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Madagascar

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[43]
Trente ans après l'entrée en vigueur de la CCAC, la capacité de cet instrument à s'adapter à l'évolution technologique des armes et à la nature des conflits en priorisant de manière absolue la mise en oeuvre du droit international humanitaire n'est plus à démontrer. Aussi, ma délégation estime-t-elle qu'il est capital pour cette enceinte de poursuivre les débats sur ces nouvelles problématiques déjà entamés au niveau des réunions d'experts et d'introduire les valeurs morales et éthiques dans l'utilisation de ces armes.

[Google translate: Thirty years after the entry into force of the CCW, the ability of this instrument to adapt to the technological development of weapons and the nature of conflict is essential to prioritizing absolutely the implementation of international humanitarian law. Also, my delegation considers it vital for the speaker to continue discussions on these new issues already at expert meetings and introduce moral and ethical values in the use of these weapons.]

Mexico

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[44]
Mexico supports the principles of a convention with the aim of dealing with humanitarian issues which arise from present and future use of weapons which cause indiscriminate harm. There is commitment to victims. We reaffirm the efforts to make sure that international humanitarian law applies and particularly the relevance to protecting the civilian population.
We believe that the discussion and analysis of lethal autonomous weapons systems is positive. Should it be decided that this meeting should go ahead, we think that international organizations and civil society should participate. We hope to see more detailed information regarding the objective, scope, and expected results

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[42] Statement of Lithuania, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Lithuania.pdf
[43] Statement of Madagascar, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/statements/14Nov_Madagascar.pdf
[44] Intervention of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[45]
With the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution, international humanitarian law establishes restrictions on methods and means of warfare. Increasingly sophisticated technology with limited human control must be focus of international community. The aim is to create restrictions and prohibitions of these weapons based on standards of IHL and respect of human rights.
The alleged balance between military advantage and humanitarian concerns does not exist. We need to observe the development of technology with respect to human life. We are concerned at lethal autonomous weapons systems, which can determine arbitrarily whether humans can live or die. We as states have an obligation to defend the right to life and that responsibility cannot be delegated. The analysis of technology must adopt principles of transparency, responsibility, and accountability. Restrictive approach… Article 36. This rule says that when a party develops/adopts technology, its obligation is to determine if its use is prohibited by international law. [summary] Mexico is hopeful that a broad in-depth conversation will commence within this convention and it will adopt a multidisciplinary approach to discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems. We would encourage active and positive participation of civil society to inspire our thinking.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[46]
With respect to holding an expert's meting, the scope must be clear. It must have technical and scientific input and must have relevant aspects of discussion with the aim of identifying elements that require greater consideration. It must be in a position to take informed decisions on this matter. We feel that international organizations and civil society organizations must take part in this meeting, given their importance to international law.

Morocco

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[47]
We hail the initiative of holding meeting of a group of experts in 2014 to begin discussions. We support the initiative and are flexible as to the duration of the meeting.

Netherlands

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[48]
The possible development of lethal autonomous weapons systems is raising many legal, ethical, and policy questions. The Netherlands has started discussion on this issue with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, civil society, and academia.
The legality of weapons systems is guided by international law, particularly international humanitarian law. While developing new weapons systems, states should remain within boundaries of IHL.

[45] Statement of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[46] Intervention of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[47] Intervention of Morocco, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[48] Intervention of the Netherlands, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

We think it's important to explore those issues and appreciate the proposal to develop discussions. There's a lot to explore, but that's a reason why it's a good idea to explore this further. It is important to tackle the different possibilities – particularly legal aspects – now.
We support discussions within the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

CCW intervention (15 Nov)[49]
There have been several definitions floating around for lethal autonomous weapons systems. The essential element is that lethal autonomous weapons systems once activated can select and engage targets without human intervention. The approach by the UN special rapporteur is on point: the problem is the absence of human intervention. We need to discuss this further. Following discussion in Human Rights Council, we think a disarmament forum, specifically this one, is appropriate. The possibility of these weapons raises many legal, ethical and policy questions.
In the Netherlands we have already started our exploration of this issue with the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and civil society. In answering the question on the legality of these weapons we are guided by international law and particularly international humanitarian law, which states that while developing new weapons systems, states should remain within bounds of international law. Accountability and particularly legal accountability is a major issue here: where does it end and does it end here? International humanitarian law requires human judgment and the assessing of intentions, and intuition. Lethal autonomous weapons systems cannot make valued-based decisions and that is essential for accountability to international law.
We were encouraged that other states have similar questions. We need to see if and when we have to draw red lines. In this regard, we welcomed the side event on lethal autonomous weapons systems organized by Human Rights Watch earlier this week. We think that four days is appropriate for this meeting and we will actively participate.

Pakistan

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)
Lethal autonomous weapons including drones pose serious legal and moral questions and have implications under international humanitarian law. These weapons would fundamentally change the nature of war and raise serious concerns about the targeting of civilians. There is no clarity on responsibility. The use of lethal autonomous weapons clearly violates international law, both IHL and international human rights law. Transparency and accountability have not been addressed, as with drones.
In certain Western corners, a ban is seen as unnecessary and dangerous. This is wrong. A biased military-industrial complex is shaping the thinking on policy. States that currently use these weapons cannot be confident they won't proliferate. We support norms and laws that address the issues of drones and lethal autonomous weapons.
The Convention on Conventional Weapons provides an ideal forum for this. We support the proposal to convene an informal meeting of experts in 2014. At a minimum 3 days are required, but we would be fine with more days
The CCW is not only about regulating the use of certain conventional weapons and striking a balance between military and humanitarian concerns. As we know from the protocols on blinding lasers and non-detectable fragments, where there were full bans.

[49] Intervention of the Netherlands, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[50]

Lethal Autonomous Weapons System, such as Lethal Autonomous Robotics (LARs) or drones, pose serious legal and moral questions and have implications for laws of war. In the absence of any human intervention, such weapons in fact fundamentally change the nature of war. Consequently, the resort to use of force may become a more frequent phenomenon.

The use of LARs raises serious concerns about targeting of civilians and non-combatants. It may also flow into the 'signature' targeting domain. There is no clarity on affixation of responsibility, no human control in the judgment on the use of these weapons.

In the light of these factors, the use of LARs violates international law including International Humanitarian and Human Rights laws. As in the case of armed drones, the important issues of transparency and accountability have not been addressed. For instance, in case of use of LARs against another State, who would be held responsible? Would it be the user or the State that programmed or produced such LARs?

In certain Western quarters, it is being argued that a ban on such weapons is unnecessary and even dangerous. This is based on twisted thinking. In fact, it is the military-industrial complex, with huge electoral contributions to politicians which is pushing for production of such weapons and thereby shaping the thinking on evolving defence policies.

Moreover, their argument that automated weapons can save lives of soldiers ignores the obvious consequence that the targeted groups or states will retaliate by killing the civilians of the concerned countries if its soldiers are being kept out of harms' way. This is already happening which demonstrates how elusive the search for the ultimate weapon will always remain.

Also, the states that currently possess and use such weapons cannot afford to be complacent that such capabilities will not proliferate over time and hence they too shall become vulnerable, unless such weapons' production is curtailed forthwith under an international regime. Evolution of legal norms and laws are urgently needed for drones and LARs. The CCW provides an ideal forum to address these issues.

We thank you, Mr. Chairperson for conducting extensive informal consultations and presenting a proposal for convening an informal meeting of experts in 2013 to discuss issues related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons system. My delegation supports this proposal and looks forward to a detailed discussion on all aspects of this important issue.

Russia

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[51]

We have questions for clarification. We're not completely clear on the scope of the possible discussions. What sort of systems would be included, for example drones? If they're included that's one matter, and if not, it's a different kettle of fish. Russia's decision depends on that.

We have questions of a financial and organizational nature. Many agencies and departments' budgets have been rounded off and it might be difficult to allocate more money for expert travel.

That doesn't mean we are ready to give a final yes or no, but this is all very tentative and preliminary. Maybe we could discuss those issues within the groups we're going to hold for protocols II and V. We don't understand what we'll be discussing

[50] Statement of Pakistan, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/statements/14Nov_Pakistan.pdf

[51] Intervention of Russia, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

CCW intervention (11 Nov)
We have a point for clarification: are we talking about an informal meeting of experts or a working Group of Governmental Experts?

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[52]
We have one nuance concerning the informal meeting. There is a certain concern on our part, similar to the Chinese delegation, in that because of internal reasons there may be problems for the Russian delegation if the period is more than three days. We would support the meeting if the duration is three days.

Spain

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[53]
This is an extremely relevant issue. The mandate of discussion seems to be appropriate and we believe the Convention on Conventional Weapons would be the ideal forum for that discussion to take place. We agree with delegations that have said this area lacks definition. It is particularly important to hold these discussion meetings.
On the length of meeting, we are open to all options, but recall that we have to optimize time available rather than holding too lengthy debates. If could keep it to three days, it would be better.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[54]
We express our delegation's full support to your proposal to convene in 2014 an informal experts meeting. As was commented by many delegations, this topic has sparked growing interest and concern in international community. It raises uncertainties and concerns that are not only legal in nature, but also ethical. Those who say that these robots are not sufficiently defined are quite right. It is precisely for that reason that we must have discussion among experts.
We feel the terms of the mandate are adequate and proper. The topic should be in a convention such as this one and we think it requires new impetus. This is the most appropriate forum to tackle this matter. We need to optimize the time available to us and are flexible as to duration. We'd have preferred three rather than five, but we have no problem with four. We agree with the dates you have proposed. I encourage all delegations to support the initiative.

South Korea

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[55]
The Republic of Korea supports efforts to respond to concerns over weapons technology and warfare. It is commendable that the chair has invited us to a discussion on lethal autonomous weapon systems in the future and the challenges such weapons would pose to future armed conflicts and international humanitarian law.

[52] Intervention of Russia, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[53] Intervention of Spain, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[54] Intervention of Spain, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[55] Statement of South Korea, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

Sweden

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[56]

Sweden supports your proposal for a discussion mandate for an informal group to begin our discussions on lethal autonomous weapon systems. The discussions at the margin of this and other meetings recently have shown that there are a number of important aspects that need to be discussed, not least definitions. We are flexible as to the duration, but four days appears reasonable.

Switzerland

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[57]

This topic has gained significant importance and visibility. Following the United Nation Secretary-General's Advisory Board recommendations, we believe the Convention on Conventional Weapons is the right forum for discussion among high contracting parties.

In view of the objectives of CCW, it is well placed to consider the issue of lethal autonomous weapon systems and the many dimensions related to it.

Switzerland supports the CCW adopting a discussion mandate. As for the mandate, we believe it should formulated in a broad and flexible manner as it is now. An informal group is the right choice. On the length of meetingit should be long enough to have initial substantive discussion on the issue. Three days would be suitable.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[58]

Some substantive issues are of particular concern to my country and it considers this Convention to be the appropriate framework for addressing the related challenges.

An important topic has aroused growing interest this year, namely that of lethal autonomous weapon systems. Indeed, the technological developments which we have seen over the past few years and the prospect in due course of the possible engagement of weapons systems that might be able to kill human beings with no direct human involvement raise some serious questions.

Civil society has taken up this issue, as has the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. The UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters has also debated the issue this year and has put forward a certain number of recommendations on the subject, including the promotion of coordinated efforts within an existing framework such as that of the CCW. Finally, the concerns related to this issue were widely covered during the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly which took place only a few weeks ago.

Preliminary developments and initial exchanges on the matter have shown that it is complex and includes several dimensions. Indeed, questions concerning lethal autonomous weapon systems are as much political as they are military, technological, legal or even ethical. It is our belief that these questions need to be explored thoroughly, so as to identify as clearly as possible the challenges associated with these systems and technologies.

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[56] Intervention of Sweden, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

[57] Intervention of Switzerland, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

[58] Statement of Switzerland, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Switzerland.pdf

Thus, Switzerland is convinced that it is important and appropriate to pursue intergovernmental dialogue in order to, at this stage, understand and integrate the different dimensions. Only once we have better understood the challenges will we be in a position to decide, if required, on a direction to take in order to address them. We believe that the CCW is the ideal forum to do this, offering a framework which already has the necessary expertise, a fact which was also highlighted by numerous delegations at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. This would also respond to the call made by the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. Hence, we very much welcome the efforts made by you, Mr Chairman, to have this meeting adopt a mandate to discuss the matter. In our view, a broad and flexible mandate allowing in the first place to frame the issue and to identify those that potentially need to be furthered, would be appropriate at this initial stage.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[59]
Delegations should have the opportunity to discuss how the issue of robots could be addressed within framework of Convention on Conventional Weapons. We fully support the draft decision. This issue is important and timely. It is crucial for the international community to examine prospects of development and deployment and use of weapons systems making lethal decisions without human intervention. There are military, technological, ethical, legal, and humanitarian questions that are inherently complex in nature. Lethal autonomous weapon systems are not yet a reality on the battlefield, but the time is now to develop a commonly shared understanding of actual and potential developments in this domain and to understand the challenges these weapons would pose if deployed and to assess whether and what type of additional specific work is required in this area. We are confident that the mandate you have included here will allow CCW community the opportunity to explore questions and unpack dimensions of this issue. We agree that dealing with this complex issue in a multilateral venue will not be easy and therefore the experts' meeting must be allocated sufficient time. We support the dates that you have suggested. The responses to your proposal make us all the more confidant that the CCW is the appropriate forum for this issue and we support the proposal.

Turkey

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[60]
Turkey sees value in debating the lethal autonomous weapons in the framework of the CCW and welcomes the idea to convene an informal meeting of experts in 2014 to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in this area, including the technical and legal aspects. The definition and the scope of these weapons need to be clarified. International Law and International Humanitarian Law should be considered thoroughly. We should also bear in mind that they cause great concerns.

Ukraine

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[61]

[59] Intervention of Switzerland, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[60] Statement of Turkey, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Turkey.pdf

Ukraine is among major proponents of strengthening the CCW regime and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in order to alleviate the suffering of civilian population and restoring social and economic life on post-conflict territories. Hence, Ukraine supports the initiative of France to organize expert discussions on the necessity to limit the use of killer robots.

United Kingdom

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[62]
This is an important issue and it is only right to begin exploratory discussions. The Convention on Conventional Weapons is the right forum. The right resources are available, including civil society, and there is balance between military and humanitarian concerns. This issue would not cover drones.
We have one question: do we presume that France will be chairing this group or do you intend to appoint someone else?

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[63]
We think some of the changes are improvements but would also like to see the preservation of "emerging technologies" in the text. We would have difficulties accepting China's suggestion because we do not believe these technologies exist at present.

United States

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)[64]
As the United States said in the Human Rights Council, we would support discussions on lethal fully autonomous weapon systems in the right forum and we believe the Convention on Conventional Weapons is the right forum.
We think the proposed mandate is correct. The issue raises legal, policy, and technological issues that need to be discussed. We think it's important to have this informal session to determine what we're talking about and what we're not talking about. What is meant by existing lethal autonomous weapons? And looking at existing international humanitarian law.
LAWs are future systems that operate without human intervention, not remotely piloted aircraft / drones. it is important to lay out in discussions what will be covered.
The United States thinks five days is more appropriate, but three days is minimum and we would support it.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[65]

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[61] Statement of Ukraine, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_Ukraine.pdf
[62] Intervention of United Kingdom, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[63] Intervention of United Kingdom, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[64] Intervention of United States, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[65] Statement of United States, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://geneva.usmission.gov/2013/11/15/u-s-opening-statement-at-the-meeting-of-parties-to-the-ccw/

We also believe there is value in discussing lethal fully autonomous weapons systems in the CCW. We appreciated the constructive informal session you hosted on Monday and were heartened to see that many other States also recognize the value of having these discussions in the CCW.
For the United States, we understand that other States and organizations here today, and many outside this room, have legitimate concerns with autonomy in weapons systems, particularly given that understanding this issue requires serious, meaningful reflection about the nature of past weapons, trends in weapons development and technology, and the likely future of weapons given those trends. It also requires certain assumptions about the future, which is never easy or ever come with guarantees. Thus, this will admittedly not be an easy issue for discussion given the many different ways and words that people use to describe autonomy, and the future nature of the systems the discussion will inevitably aim to address. It is clear that all of our delegations require education on these future systems and how existing IHL would be implemented.
Despite these inherent challenges, we look forward to this discussion in the CCW and support the Chair convening, in 2014, an informal meeting of experts to discuss the questions related to lethal fully autonomous weapons systems. Specifically, as we noted in Monday's informal, given the complexity of the issues before us we strongly recommend five days of discussion. That said, we can be flexible on the duration of the meeting, so long as it is long enough for delegations to have a full discussion of these important issues.
In conclusion Mr. Chairman, the United States looks forward to continuing and refining the substantive informative expert discussions we had in 2013, adding a new discussion on lethal fully autonomous weapons systems, and continuing our consideration of MOTAPM.

CCW intervention (15 Nov.)[66]
The United States can support the mandate as drafted. We think four days is an appropriate compromise. We can support it as written or with India's proposal, but, like Israel said, we believe it is important for the mandate to contain the wording of "emerging technologies."

European Union

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[67]
The EU and its Member States take note of the emerging debate related to lethal autonomous weapon systems. We recognize that the development of such fully autonomous weapons could raise substantial questions. This debate is a complex one. We need to improve our understanding, bearing in mind that those technologies are still under development. We see value in a common discussion on this matter in the framework of the CCW, which is the best-suited forum gathering the diplomatic, legal and military expertise needed. Such a discussion could aim to explore and provide clarity on the different aspects of the topic. In our perspective, it could help to better understand what we are talking about, what the perspectives are and what is at stake. Therefore, we welcome the idea to convene in 2014 an informal meeting of experts to discuss the questions

[66] Intervention of United States, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
[67] Statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its member states, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_EU.pdf The following countries aligned themselves with the declaration: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, and share the view that High Contracting Parties should make such a decision during this meeting.

United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General, CCW statement (14 Nov.)[68]
I am pleased to send greetings to all attending this important gathering. Your meeting comes as we mark the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. This is an opportunity to reaffirm the timeless nature of the principles embodied by this important instrument of international humanitarian law, which are not affected by technological transformation, new developments in weapon technologies, strategic security realignments or new ways of waging war. I am pleased that the High Contracting Parties have succeeded in safeguarding this understanding.
At the same time, you must remain vigilant in addressing the implications of new and emerging weapons and their technologies. I particularly encourage you to further engage in dialogue on all aspects of the issue of autonomous weapons systems, to better understand their potentially grave humanitarian impact and to consider their implications in the context of international humanitarian law and the Convention.

UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, CCW statement (14 Nov)[69]
Second, we are concerned about the implications for the protection of civilians of new weapons technology, specifically lethal autonomous weapons systems. We would welcome further discussion of such implications and recognize that the CCW provides an important forum to that end.

International Committee of the Red Cross

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[70]
As we look forward to the next years of the Convention, there are several issues that the ICRC believes merit the attention of States Parties. One such issue is the development of autonomous weapons, or 'lethal autonomous robots', as they are sometimes referred to. Fully autonomous weapon systems would be designed to operate with little or no human control and to search for, identify and target an individual with lethal force. Research in the area of autonomous weapons is advancing at a rapid pace. This should be a cause for concern, as it is far from clear whether autonomous weapons could ever be capable of being used in accordance with international humanitarian law. The ICRC has urged States, for several years, to fully consider the legal, ethical and societal issues related to the use of autonomous weapons well before such systems are developed. We believe that the CCW would be an appropriate forum to begin such an assessment and support your proposal, Mr. President, for an informal meeting on this issue in the CCW in 2014.

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

CCW intervention (11 Nov.)

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[68] Statement of United Nations Secretary-General, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7276
[69] http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_IACG-MA.pdf
[70] Statement of ICRC, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/statements/14Nov_ICRC.pdf

The Campaign to Stop Killer Roots believes that human control is essential to ensure protection of civilians and compliance with international humanitarian law. We seek a comprehensive and preemptive ban on fully autonomous weapons and support the proposal to add this topic to CCW's area of work. Many experts in our coalition are keen to engage in support of this work.

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[71]
Thank you for allowing me to speak in my capacity as coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, the international coalition of 44 non-governmental organizations in 22 countries.
Our campaign calls for a pre-emptive and comprehensive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons, also known as lethal autonomous robots. We are concerned about weapons that operate on their own without human supervision.
We would like to reiterate our support for the proposed mandate for the Convention on Conventional Weapons to take up this matter in 2014. We thank you Mr. President and your team for the intense work that you have put into the proposed mandate over the course of this week and over the preceding months. We thank all governments that have spoken on killer robots, including many that have done so for the first time this week.
We view the CCW mandate as the beginning of a process that can lead to the adoption of a sixth protocol to the CCW. At the United Nations in Geneva we often hear the phrase "step-by-step," but the proposed CCW mandate should be viewed as the first step on to a ladder. We urge you to climb high and support our call for a ban as the most effective way to ensure the protection of civilians.

Human Rights Watch

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[72]
We are extremely encouraged with the prospect of a mandate to work on fully autonomous weapons in the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), and we thank you Mr. Ambassador for your leadership and vision on this issue.
Turning to the issue of fully autonomous weapons, we will not take the time now to elaborate the many reasons why work on fully autonomous weapons is crucial, and why we believe that a comprehensive prohibition is needed. But most fundamentally, we believe that robotic weapons systems should not be making life and death decisions on the battlefield. That would be inherently wrong, morally and ethically. There should always be meaningful human control over targeting and kill decisions.
We also believe that fully autonomous weapons are likely to run afoul of international humanitarian law, and that there are technical, proliferation, societal, and other concerns that make a ban necessary. Human Rights Watch has distributed a memorandum to CCW delegates on this matter.
Mr. Chairman, work on fully autonomous weapons could revitalize the CCW, and demonstrate that CCW States Parties can be forward-looking and not just reactive to disasters. But much more important than reinvigorating the CCW, a future Protocol VI prohibiting fully autonomous weapons would be the most important achievement in the life of the CCW.
It would have tremendously positive humanitarian impact, and best of all, it would be PREVENTIVE humanitarian impact. It would avoid potentially widespread harm to civilians

[71] http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/KRC_Statement_CCW_14Nov2013.pdf
[72] http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/14/statement-2013-annual-meeting-convention-conventional-weapons

and soldiers alike – in this case, harm inflicted by emotionless, compassionless machines operating outside of human control.
So we urge you to agree to the mandate, and in particular a mandate for five days of work, not three. Surely five days is the minimum needed given the complicated nature of this issue, the many questions States Parties have, and the fact it is the first time it will be discussed in the CCW.
We urge you to prepare for extensive and intensive work next year, both within the CCW and outside the CCW context. We urge you to develop national policies, and to respond to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions' call for national moratoria on fully autonomous weapons. We urge you to come back one year from now and agree to a new mandate to being negotiations. We implore you to act with a sense of urgency and to heed the humanitarian call.
I will now give the microphone to my Human Rights Watch colleague, Mary Wareham, who serves as the coordinator of the global NGO coalition, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, to speak on behalf of the Campaign.

Article 36

CCW statement (14 Nov)
Mr President, whilst it is vital that states work to strengthen the protection of civilians from weapons currently deployed, it is also critical that we strengthen our capacity to scrutinise and control new weapon technologies before they are allowed to proliferate.
In that context, and as a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, we welcome the proposal to adopt a mandate for discussions on autonomous weapon systems. Likewise we are encouraged by the many statements acknowledging concerns posed by these technological developments and we admire your work and the work of your team on this matter.
The devolution of targeting decisions to software and sensors raises fundamental issues of concern – issues of concern for this forum, but also of relevance to other bodies such as the Human Rights Council, where we hope discussions will also continue.
In approaching our discussions on this issue we would encourage states to concentrate on considering how we would define meaningful human control over individual attacks. Such a focus would address the fundamental principle at stake here, and avoid the dangers of a debate wholly focused on hypothetical scenarios. We have circulated a memorandum to delegates setting out our thoughts on how this debate might usefully be structured.
We are convinced that negotiating new international rules in this area now will be necessary to ensure meaningful human control over the use of weapons in the future.
The debate about autonomous weapons systems highlights more broadly the need for states at a national level to have in place the mechanisms that can assess with some transparency the acceptability and legality of new weapon technologies as they come into development as is required under Additional Protocol I. In our view this should also be a topic for consideration by delegates here. Such consideration would reinforce the role of the CCW as a forum for assessing the acceptability or not of certain conventional weapons.

IKV Pax Christi

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[73]

[73] http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_IKV.pdf

The Dutch peace organisation IKV Pax Christi is one of the co-founders of the campaign to stop killer robots. This coalition was established only 7 months ago out of concern on the current development towards fully autonomous weapons. Next month we will issue a paper outlining our ethical concerns, as well as the legal objections we foresee.
As a peace organization we have many objections to fully autonomous weapons, to be short I mention three of them:
• One, we doubt these weapons can comply with the IHL principles of distinction and proportionality.
• Two, we do not see who would be held accountable.
• Three, we are afraid these systems might lower the threshold to use military force.
But our main objection is an ethical one. We strongly believe there should be adequate human control on decisions of life and death. Outsourcing human judgement and morality to machines is simply unacceptable.
The ethical dilemma is thoroughly formulated by UN Special Rapporteur Christof Heyns and I quote:
Even if it is assumed that Lethal Autonomous Robotics could comply with the requirements of IHL, and it can be proven that on average and in the aggregate they will save lives, the question has to be asked whether it is not inherently wrong to let autonomous machines decide who and when to kill.
Mr. President, technology moves fast and its implications often take us by surprise, so urgency is of the essence.
It is therefore encouraging to see how since May this year over 40 states raised the issue. My own government, the Netherlands for example has expressed their concerns and we are hoping to welcome a national policy on this issue in the near future and welcome other states to develop a policy as well.
We hope that tomorrow a mandate will be adopted that will reflect the urgency of the issue and we are looking forward to future discussion in this process.

ICRAC

CCW statement (14 Nov.)[74]
I am speaking on behalf of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), a founding NGO member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. Since its establishment in 2009, ICRAC has urged the international community to discuss the prohibition of fully autonomous weapons systems – "Killer Robots" – in light of the pressing dangers they pose to global peace and security, in addition to their alarming humanitarian implications for civilians threatened with armed violence.
ICRAC is made up of experts in robotic technology, artificial intelligence, computer science, international security and arms control, ethics and international law. As an indication of our concentration of expertise, over 80% of our members have doctoral or Juris Doctor degrees. As such, ICRAC is available and willing to provide technical expertise to the High Contracting Parties as they engage in further discussions about fully autonomous weapons systems.
ICRAC has coordinated the circulation of a "Scientists Call" to ban fully autonomous weapons systems, signed by more than 270 Computer Scientists, Engineers, Artificial Intelligence experts, Roboticists and professionals from related disciplines in 37 countries, saying: "given the

[74] http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_ICRAC.pdf

limitations and unknown future risks of autonomous robot weapons technology, we call for a prohibition on their development and deployment. Decisions about the application of violent force must not be delegated to machines."

ICRAC urges High Contracting Parties to be guided by principles of humanity in its deliberations on existing and emerging weapons technologies – taking into account considerations of human security, human rights, human dignity, humanitarian law and the public conscience, as well as the justified worries about robotic arms races and proliferation. This means meaningful human deliberation and control over the use of violence must remain the cornerstone of any eventual global policymaking on robotic weapons.

ICRAC welcomes the presentation of the Draft Mandate text enabling the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to convene expert meetings in 2014 to look at the challenges posed by fully autonomous weapons systems. ICRAC also welcomes the statements by more than 40 States which have expressed concerns about autonomous weapons systems. We believe the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons represents a useful forum to begin discussions, though dialogue about autonomous weapons systems need not be confined to this body alone.

Annex II. Media coverage

The decision by states party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons to take up consideration of killer robots attracted limited media interest with coverage mainly in the United Kingdom. It was preceded by media coverage generated as part of the campaign's outreach during the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security in New York in October.

There was media coverage in countries including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, UK, and US. No international wire services covered the CCW decision however.

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