



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva
Ch. Louis-Dunant, 15 - 1202 – Geneva / Switzerland
Phone: (+41) (0)22 332 50 00 / Fax: (+41) (0)22 910 07 51 E-mail:
mission.brazil@delbrasgen.org*

**Human Rights Council
23rd Session
ID with Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes and expresses its appreciation for the reports of both the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, since both of them treat issues which bear on the future agenda of the human rights system. The report on internally displaced women reminds us once again of the necessity to protect the human rights of mankind's most vulnerable share. The report on the use of lethal autonomous robotics, besides translating into a call for the international community to reflect on such issue, is indisputably praiseworthy for alerting about the challenges ahead.

Brazil appreciates the foresightedness and level of expertise of the Report by Rapporteur Christof Heyns. It is, in fact, time this Council considered the progressive distancing between decisions to kill and the actual execution, which is rightly termed in the report as the next major step after the introduction of gunpowder and nuclear weapons.

My delegation fully agrees with the idea expressed in the report that, if the killing of one human being by another has been a challenge that legal, moral, and religious codes have grappled with since time immemorial, one may imagine the host of additional concerns to be raised by robots exercising the power of life and death over humans. Therefore, Brazil would like to voice its concurrence with some of the Rapporteur's views on the use of such weapons, as the possibility of recourse to force without resorting to the human abilities to interpret context and to make value-based calculations; the consequences of a lowered human cost of conflicts like the trivialization of war; the facilitation of breaches of sovereignty; the prospect of acquisition of such weaponry by non-state actors of all kinds; and the uncertainties surrounding the accountability for killings committed by autonomous armaments.

In view of these arguments, Brazil senses an intention by the Special Rapporteur to ensure that the development of such novel weaponry do not turn into a new and uncontrollable threat to civilians. And this is very much in line with the ideas expounded by the Minister of External Relations of Brazil on occasion of the High Level Segment of the previous session of this Council, when he welcomed the investigation by Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-terrorism on the impact of the use of drones on civilians. Such concern of our country and the thoughts and recommendations by Special Rapporteur Christof Heyns point in the very same direction, in the sense that the protection of the human rights of the most vulnerable presupposes the strictest ethical and legal considerations, which is specially called for in situations of armed conflict.

In this connection, Brazil believes it worth highlighting that the development of new military technologies must carefully observe the principles of proportionality in the use of force and of distinction between civilian and military targets, as basic canons of international humanitarian law. In this context, it extends its support to the Rapporteur's suggestion to convene a HRC High Level Panel on the use of LARs for a deeper discussion on the implications of their use on human rights and on international humanitarian law.

Finally, my delegation would like to note that an appropriate forum for discussion of a future regime on the use of LARs, without prejudice to the need for this Council to assess the issue from its own perspective, could be the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, whose goal is to ban or restrict the use of certain types of weapons that cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or affect civilians indiscriminately.

I thank you, Mr. President

