



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Country Statements on Killer Robots

Compilation by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
March 2014

This compilation by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots contains all statements made to date by governments at multilateral meetings on the topic of fully autonomous weapons, also known as lethal autonomous weapons systems or “killer robots.”

During 2013, total of 44 nations spoke to provide their views on fully autonomous weapons.¹ Regional or inter-governmental organizations such as the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have also made statements.²

The statements were made during:

- A Human Rights Council debate on the UN report by Prof. Christof Heyns in Geneva on [30 May 2013](#);³
- The United Nations General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security in New York during [October 2013](#);⁴
- Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties and related meetings in Geneva during [November 2013](#).⁵

¹ During 2013, a total 44 states spoke publicly for the first time on fully autonomous weapons (date of first statement): Algeria ([30 May](#)), Argentina ([30 May](#)), Australia ([14 November](#)), Austria ([30 May](#)), Belarus (14 November), Belgium (11 November), Brazil ([30 May](#)), Canada (11 November), China ([30 May](#)), Costa Rica ([29 October](#)), Croatia (15 November), Cuba ([30 May](#)), Ecuador ([29 October](#)), Egypt ([30 May](#)), France ([30 May](#)), Germany ([30 May](#)), Ghana (14 November), Greece ([29 October](#)), Holy See ([14 November](#)), India (30 October), Indonesia ([30 May](#)), Iran ([30 May](#)), Ireland ([29 October](#)), Israel (15 November), Italy ([14 November](#)), Japan ([29 October](#)), Lithuania ([14 November](#)), Madagascar ([14 November](#)), Mexico ([30 May](#)), Morocco ([30 May](#)), Netherlands ([29 October](#)), New Zealand (30 October), Pakistan ([30 May](#)), Russia ([30 May](#)), Sierra Leone ([30 May](#)), South Africa ([30 October](#)), South Korea (14 November), Spain (11 November), Sweden ([30 May](#)), Switzerland ([30 May](#)), Turkey ([14 November](#)), Ukraine ([14 November](#)), United Kingdom ([30 May](#)), and the United States ([30 May](#)).

² The first statements were made at the Human Rights Council: European Union ([29 May](#)), GRULAC, Latin American and Caribbean Group of 33 states ([29 May](#)), and Organization of the Islamic Conference, comprised of 56 states ([29 May](#)).

³ A total of 20 nations spoke for the first time on fully autonomous weapons or “lethal autonomous robots” during the Human Rights Council debate on 30 May 2013: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and US.

⁴ A total of nine nations spoke for the first time about fully autonomous weapons in their UNGA First Committee statements: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa.

⁵ A total of 15 countries spoke about fully autonomous weapons for the first time during the Convention on Conventional Weapons meetings in November 2013: Australia, Belarus, Belgium,

This compilation does not include parliamentary records or correspondence. Since May 2013, members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots have received responses to their letters from the foreign ministers of Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, and the UK.

Canada, Croatia, Ghana, Holy See, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Madagascar, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine.

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Algeria

Human Rights Council, [30 May 2013](#)⁶

We endorse the statements made by the groups that we belong to. [OIC] We thank the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for the presentation of his report.

The Rapporteur has also focused his report on lethal autonomous robots and has also focused on the concerns that they raise regarding the protection of life in times of war and in times of peace.

The question of their programming so that their use is compliant with international humanitarian law and with the provisions of international human rights law have rightly been raised by the Special Rapporteur.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concerns of the need to adopt appropriate measures so that the use of this technology respects human rights. Further to the moratorium mentioned by the Special Rapporteur on the use of this technology, we solicit his advice on additional measures to regulate their use.

Argentina (on behalf of GRULAC)

Human Rights Council, [30 May 2013](#)⁷

GRULAC would like to express its thanks to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for the presentation of his report.

We welcome the fact that it [the report] has focused on an issue which is of growing interest to the international community, which is lethal autonomous robotics, and the effect of their use on human rights.

In particular, we, the countries of the region, will be looking at his analysis on the current technology, the factors that foster or hinder its development, and the possible future use thereof and the suggested ways forward.

There is a reference whereby these systems might lead to a “normalization of the conflict” and we are worried about that. There is a potential arms race that might be created by this that would create divisions between states and weaken the system of international law. There is a possibility that these LARs might trigger reprisals, retaliation, and terrorism, and they might have an impact on human rights and international humanitarian law.

As a way to avoid these negative consequences the report concludes that an international body should be set up with the responsibility of looking at the situation and suggesting long-term solutions. In this regard, we would be grateful if the Rapporteur could clarify if he is referring to the High Level Group which he recommends the High Commissioner convene.

We would also like to know if the UN competent bodies should not do more than just collaboratively transparently as requested in the report.

⁶ Statement of Algeria, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 29 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Algeria_10_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Mohamed Djalel Eddine Benabdoun and translated from French by the United Nations.

⁷ Statement of Argentina on behalf of the GRULAC, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 29 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Argentina_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Mariano Alvares Wagner and translated from Spanish by the United Nations.

Australia

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁸

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

Human Rights Council, [30 May 2013](#)⁹

We would like to thank Mr Heyns for your interesting and timely report focusing on lethal autonomous robots. In this context Austria would like to refer to the statement of the European Union.

You have rightly underlined the cross-sectoral aspects of this issue in proposing to set up a panel of experts from various fields. We deem this proposal interesting even if the Human Rights Council is in our view not the adequate framework to do that. We are looking forward to further discussion of LAR in various fora bearing in mind the multi-sectoral nature of this issue.

Would you consider ethical guidelines on lethal autonomous robots as a useful tool in order to ensure that the use of such weapons complies with international human rights law?

UNGA First Committee, 15 October 2013¹⁰

Prevention and accountability for deliberate targeting of civilians during war, as well as disproportionate collateral casualties as a result of military action, are at the centre of our concern. Today, arms technology is undergoing rapid changes. The use of armed drones in conflict situations is increasing. In a not too distant future, fully autonomous weapons systems might become available. As a result, the implications of these developments on IHL require urgent engagement by relevant UN forums and further discussion with a view to ensure that these weapons will not be used in a way that violates universally recognized principles of IHL such as the proportionality of the use of force or the obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

⁸ 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

⁹ Statement of Austria, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 29 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Austria_09_30May2013.pdf
Delivered by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi.

¹⁰ Statement of Austria, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 15 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/14Oct_Austria.pdf Delivered by Ambassador Alex Kmentt.

UNGA First Committee, 30 October 2013¹¹

Disturbingly, however, we continue seeing reports of massive human suffering of civilians resulting from armed violence in many countries. In the face of this it is our duty to continue assessing the international legal framework against the background of a constantly changing international environment and in particular new weapon technologies and new weapons systems that have to be evaluated for their potential humanitarian impact and implications for the international legal framework.

Today, arms technology is undergoing rapid changes. The use of armed drones in conflict situations is increasing, causing far too many collateral civilian deaths. In a not too distant future, fully autonomous weapons systems might become available. As a result, the implications of these developments on international humanitarian law require urgent engagement by relevant UN forums and further discussion with a view to ensure that these weapons will not be used in a way that violates universally recognized principles such as the proportionality of the use of force or the obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)¹²

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 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 November 2013¹³

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 November 2013¹⁴

¹¹ Statement of Austria, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 15 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/30Oct_Austria.pdf Delivered by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi

¹² 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

¹³ Statement of Belarus, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

¹⁴ Intervention of Belarus, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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 November 2013¹⁵

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 November 2013¹⁶

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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013¹⁷

Brazil welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which treats issues that bear on the future of the human rights system.

The report on the use of lethal autonomous robotics, besides translating into a call for the international community to reflect on such an issue, is indisputably praiseworthy for altering about the challenges ahead. Brazil welcomes 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 gunpower and nuclear weapons.

¹⁵ Intervention of Belgium, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

¹⁶ Intervention of Belgium, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

¹⁷ Statement of Brazil, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 29 May 2013.

http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Brazil_09_30May2013.pdf

Delivered by Mr. Marcelo Bretas.

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 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 the occasion of the high-level segment of the previous session of this Council when he welcomed the investigation by the 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 specifically 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 Human Rights Council high level panel on the use of lethal autonomous robotics 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 lethal autonomous robotics, 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 and affect civilians indiscriminately.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013¹⁸

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.

¹⁸ Intervention of Brazil, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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 November 2013¹⁹

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 November 2013²⁰

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 November 2013²¹

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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013²²

The Chinese delegation would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Mr Heyns for his report.

China has taken note of the detailed analysis contained in Mr. Heyn's report on the emerging issue of lethal autonomous robotics. As the report pointed out, this issue related to various areas such as the development of military, science and technology, international peace, arms control, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, and is highly complex.

¹⁹ Statement of Brazil, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²⁰ Intervention of Canada, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²¹ Statement of Canada, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²² Statement of China, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_China_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Cui Wei and as translated from Mandarin by the UN.

In fact, the exploration of this emerging issue by the international community is still at a very preliminary stage. We believe that this issue should be further studied to consider actions to be taken in the future.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013²³

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, 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 November 2013²⁴

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 November 2013²⁵

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 November 2013²⁶

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

²³ Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²⁴ Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²⁵ Statement of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²⁶ Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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 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 November 2013²⁷

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.

Costa Rica

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013²⁸

Furthermore, we worry that many problems identified with the use of armed drones would be exacerbated by the trend toward increasing autonomy in robotic weapons. My delegation feels that we should begin international dialogue soon on the issue of lethal autonomous robotics, and calls for States to consider placing national moratoria on their development, production and use and discuss eventual prohibition.

Croatia

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013²⁹

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.

²⁷ Intervention of China, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

²⁸ Statement of Costa Rica, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_CostaRica.pdf Delivered by Maritza Chan.

²⁹ 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.

Cuba

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013³⁰

My delegation has taken note of both reports, which address issues which are of great interest and very topical and we thank the rapporteurs for their presentations.

We think that it is very interesting that Mr Heyns has looked at the development and potential use by some states of automated weapons systems that are controlled by software that can kill or contribute to the death of human beings. We agree that we must look at the question urgently internationally and we must do so in a serious and rational manner.

The development in this kind of weaponry means that those who use them can use them without incurring any physical risks themselves and they don't incur any cost either apart from the economic cost. As a result any place in the world can become a large and perpetual battlefield thanks to their actions and they can use force even if when force is not required.

Cuba shares the concern expressed in the report of the negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the right to life, because of the use of drones, and other lethal autonomous robots and other forms of selective killings that are carried out pursuant to the the executive decisions of certain countries.

The killings, which are the result of the use of these weapons, appear to be tantamount to extrajudicial executions that are in violation of international laws.

We propose that future assessment of these weapons look carefully the consequences of the use of drones in conflict situations and in the context of the fight against terrorism. We suggest looking at the figures of those who have died as a result of the use of such devices. It would also be worth us investigating the consequences of the issue on the international security systems and the security systems of the states, as mentioned by the Rapporteur.

We support his proposal to set up a moratorium on the testing, production, manufacture, transfer, acquisition, deployment and the use of these artifacts while we wait for an international conference to set laws for their use.

In the meantime if we don't achieve a moratorium and if we don't achieve a regulation of their use we would like to know what the rapporteur thinks about actions we the international community could take to tackle those states who are bent on using these weapons in blatant violation of the right to life.

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013³¹

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."

³⁰ Statement of Cuba, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Cuba_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Ms. Vilma Thomas Ramirez and as translated from Spanish by the UN.

³¹ Intervention of Cuba, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

Ecuador

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013³²

My country believes that the international community should deepen the debate around Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and fully autonomous armed robots. The high number of victims indiscriminate use of drones in civilian areas has also caused serious ethical and legal questions that the development of new military technologies precluding participation and human responsibility in decision-making, is urgent a discussion would be on these new problems in the field of conventional weapons. - Google Translation

Egypt

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013³³

My delegation welcomes Mr Heyns and thanks him for his introductory remarks.

We read with great interest the content and findings of his current report dedicated to the subject of lethal autonomous robotics.

The report is an eye-opener on a very important and challenging development in the course of weaponry research and development and the relevant considerations in this regard, particularly with reference to the issue of the possible ramifications on the value of human lives, the calculation of the cost of war, as well as the possibility of the acquisition of this weapon by terrorist and organized crime networks or its usage for non-warfare related purposes.

Also, the question of the adequacy of the existing international human rights and humanitarian law frameworks to this type of new lethal innovation is very relevant and invites us to consider further study and consideration of the matter.

UNGA First Committee, 8 October 2013³⁴

Egypt reiterates that technology should not overtake humanity. The potential or actual development of Lethal Autonomous Robotics raises many questions on their compliance with international humanitarian law, as well as issues of warfare ethics. Such issues need to be fully addressed. Regulations should be put into place before such systems (LARs) are to be developed and/or deployed.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013³⁵

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 November 2013³⁶

³² Statement of Ecuador, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Ecuador.pdf

³³ Statement of Egypt, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Egypt_10_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Amir Essameldin Ahmed.

³⁴ Statement of Egypt, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 8 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/8Oct_Egypt.pdf Delivered by Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil.

³⁵ Intervention of Egypt, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013³⁷

France supports the statement of the European Union. France would like to thank Mr Heyns for his report.

The use of lethal autonomous robots raises a number of questions of a legal, strategic and ethical nature.

In this regard, France would like to state that it does not possess and does not intend to acquire robotized weapons systems with the capacity to fire independently. Our concept is based on the full responsibility of military and political leaders in the decision to use armed force. France believes that the role of human beings in the decision to open fire must be preserved.

France believes that these important issues also have dimensions related to international humanitarian law in general and to law relating to arms in particular. For that reason the question about these potential future weapons should be discussed in a multilateral framework, the appropriate forum should be that of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the CCW. This forum would be the most appropriate to bring together all of the legal, technical, and military competencies necessary for a calm and complete discussion involving all actors likely to ensure the universality of any normative work which may arise.

We therefore raise the question about the need to create an ad hoc panel under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to deal with this issue.

With regard to the problem of summary or arbitrary executions this should be dealt in the same way regardless of the action because it is the fundamental principle which is at issue and not the means. Therefore there is no particular reason to single out one of them.

³⁶ Intervention of Egypt, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

³⁷ Statement of France, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_France_10_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Ms. Katerina Doychinov and as translated from French by the UN.

France also recalls that regardless the weapons used during armed conflict, all parties must respect international humanitarian law.

UNGA First Committee, 8 October 2013³⁸

We must look to the future and address its challenges. An important debate has emerged in recent months on the issue of Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs). This is a key debate as it raises the fundamental question of the place of Man in the decision to use lethal force. It is also a difficult debate, as it highlights many ethical, legal and technical issues. It covers technologies which are not yet fully developed and which are dual-use. The terms of this debate need to be clarified. To be useful and allow progress, this discussion needs to be held in an appropriate disarmament forum, combining the necessary military, legal and technical expertise and all the States concerned.

UNGA First Committee, 30 October 2013³⁹

We must look to the future and address its challenges. A new debate has emerged in recent months on the issue of Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs). This is a key debate as it raises the fundamental question of the place of Man in the decision to use lethal force. It is also a difficult debate, as it raises many ethical, legal, operational and technical issues. It covers technologies which are not yet fully developed and which are dual-use. The terms of this debate need to be clarified. Please allow me, as chair of the next conference of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), to underline the fact that this forum fulfils those criteria.

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁴⁰

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.

³⁸ Statement of France, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 8 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/8Oct_France.pdf Delivered by Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel.

³⁹ Statement of France, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 30 October 2013. <http://www.franceonu.org/france-at-the-united-nations/press-room/statements-at-open-meetings/general-assembly/article/30-october-2013-general-assembly> Delivered by Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel.

⁴⁰ 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

Germany

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁴¹

Germany aligns itself with the comprehensive statement made by the European Union. Germany would like to comment on the report of the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Christof Heyns.

Mr. Heyns, your report was indeed a very meaningful contribution to a politically, morally, and legally important and highly necessary debate.

We will carefully examine your findings. In the first analysis let me highlight the following recommendations, which Germany believes to be worth considering. First, states should subscribe to a commitment to abide by international law. International humanitarian law as *lex specialis* in all situations of armed conflict and, where applicable, international human rights law has to be observed while studying, developing, acquiring or adopting new weapons or means of warfare be they manned or unmanned. This should set certain limits to the use of fully autonomous weapons systems.

Second, governments should be as transparent as possible regarding the development and evaluation of new weapon technology. We believe that additional transparency measures should be taken into consideration. Germany strongly supports the idea to include unmanned systems in national reports to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. Further steps to achieve this should be considered.

Third, we would like to call on respective parties to participate in an international debate. Please share best practices with other states. We have taken note of the recommendation to establish a high level panel on lethal autonomous robotics tasked to publish a report on the technological framework and ethics and making recommendations regarding policy issues. Great care should be laid down on the drafting of its terms and mandate in order to make it a workable body.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁴²

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 November 2013⁴³

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

⁴¹ Statement of Germany, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Germany_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Hanns Schumacher

⁴² Intervention of Germany, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁴³ 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.

support the mandate for informal expert discussions and discussions on operational deployment and rules of engagement.

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013⁴⁴

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 November 2013⁴⁵

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

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013

Greece remains firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols and continues to believe that the CCW remains the most appropriate forum for the discussion on a Protocol on Cluster munitions, as it includes both the most significant producers and users, and will thus be in a position to strike a delicate balance between military utility and humanitarian concerns. It is in this same forum that we believe that the topic of Lethal Autonomous Robotics (LARS) should be discussed considering that the CCW is in a unique position to gather the competent diplomatic, legal and military expertise to address this emerging issue.

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013⁴⁶

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 November 2013](#)⁴⁷

Lethal autonomous weapons and drones, although distinct, share much the same humanitarian implications and raise several questions of grave ethical concern. Most

⁴⁴ Intervention of Germany, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁴⁵ 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.

⁴⁶ Intervention of Greece, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁴⁷ 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

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 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

UNGA First Committee, 30 October 2013⁴⁸

Remains committed to the Convention on Conventional Weapons. There is a need to enhance understanding about humanitarian impact of autonomous weapons.

CCW statement, 14 November 2013⁴⁹

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 November 2013⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Statement of India, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 30 October 2013. <https://www.pminewyork.org/adminpart/uploadpdf/93872pmi133.pdf> Delivered by Mr. Vipul.

⁴⁹ Statement of India, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁵⁰ Intervention of India, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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 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.

Indonesia

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁵¹

My delegation would like to thank both rapporteurs for their reports.

On the issue of lethal autonomous robotics and the protection of life my delegation notes the concerns of the special rapporteur on the possible, far-reaching effects on societal values, including fundamentally on the protection and value of life and on international stability and security.

My delegation further notes of the special rapporteur's observation that lethal autonomous robotics have difficulties complying with the principle of humanitarian laws such as rule of distinction and proportionality. The autonomous decisions that the robots may take complicate the issue of responsibility. There is, therefore, a need to approach this issue in a more comprehensive manner democratically.

In this regard, the democratic control of the use of armed forces becomes one of the means that can be used. My delegation would like to ask the following: How can the principle of democracy, in particular democratic control of armed forces, contribute to the potential problems posed by the use of lethal autonomous robotics?

Iran

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁵²

My delegation takes positive note of the report by the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and shares his concern with respect to lethal autonomous robotics as well as his respective recommendations to the United Nations and respective stakeholders, which need careful and thorough consideration.

⁵¹ Statement of Indonesia, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Indonesia_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Prayusdinyarto Prakasa Soemantri.

⁵² Statement of Iran, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Iran_10_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Mohsen Ghanei.

We are of the view that the nature of lethal autonomous robotics technology makes accountability and legal responsibility for states in general, as well as subordinates in their systems.

As the special rapporteur demonstrated in his report, robotic systems with various degrees of autonomy and lethality are currently in use by some countries, specifically by the United States of America. These current inhumane uses of lethal autonomous robotics in many parts of the world like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other places by direct and classified order of the United States authorities should have been condemned by the special rapporteur in the present report.

With regard to the use of lethal autonomous robotics, my delegation would like to raise a following question to special rapporteur: What kind of immediate actions can be taken by the international community on the current violations of international humanitarian law as well as human rights in this respect?

Ireland

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁵³

The same principles which provide the foundation for the Arms Trade Treaty must also be applied to all topics of debate in relation to conventional weapons. Whether with regard to anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, transparency measures, the environmental impact of weapons, or the use of incendiary weapons, to name a few, our focus must always be to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, including the rights of women. These same principles must also apply to weapons which will be developed in the future, such as fully autonomous weapons systems. Constructive engagement and debate is essential to ensure that our actions comply with the principles which underlie the United Nations and international law.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁵⁴

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 November 2013](#)⁵⁵

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

⁵³ Statement of Ireland, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Ireland.pdf

⁵⁴ Intervention of Germany, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultation, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁵⁵ 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

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 November 2013⁵⁶

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 November 2013⁵⁷

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 November 2013](#)⁵⁸

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 November 2013

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

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁵⁹

Japan recognizes growing interests, in the international community, in the issues regarding fully autonomous weapons. We think it useful to start discussion about basic elements related to those weapons, including their definition. CCW, where

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

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

⁵⁸ 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

⁵⁹ Statement of Japan, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Japan.pdf Delivered by Ambassador Toshio Sano.

military, legal and other arms control experts are involved, could provide an appropriate venue to address these issues. Japan looks forward to discussing these issues with other interested States and civil society.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁶⁰

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 November 2013⁶¹

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 November 2013⁶²

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 November 2013](#)⁶³

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

⁶⁰ Intervention of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁶¹ Statement of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁶² Intervention of Japan, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁶³ 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

systems and to report its' outcomes to the to the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Madagascar

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁶⁴

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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁶⁵

We support the statement by GRULAC and we welcome the presentations by the rapporteurs.

We share the concern on the need to constantly look at the evolution of technology in the light of the obligation to protect the right to life. The flow of arms must be controlled to prevent individual cases of arbitrary executions, as well as the cheapening of life on a wide scale.

The prospect that lethal autonomous robotics might decide arbitrarily on the life and death of human beings is a source of additional concern for us. As states we have the obligation to guarantee the right to life because the right to life is the fundamental right that we should defend.

The lawfulness of any lethal weapon should be assessed in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. That is why it is fundamental that we apportion responsibilities, legal accountability not only for the use of the weapons, but also for the way in which they are acquired, developed, and transferred. In particular, the arms that have a high potential for lethal ability must be limited for the right to life to be protected.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁶⁶

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

⁶⁴ 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

⁶⁵ Statement of Mexico, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Mexico_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Ulises Canchola and as translated from Spanish by the UN.

⁶⁶ Intervention of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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

CCW statement, 14 November 2013⁶⁷

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 November 2013⁶⁸

With respect to holding an experts meeting, 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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁶⁹

My delegation would like to thank Mr Christof Heyns, the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. We would like to thank him for his report and also for the thoughts that he has given us on the various ethical, legal, and moral aspects of the use of lethal autonomous robotics.

We take note at the concerns expressed with the prospect of such machines no matter how intelligent and high performance, de facto have the right to determine the life of

⁶⁷ Statement of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 14 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁶⁸ Intervention of Mexico, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁶⁹ Statement of Morocco, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Morocco_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Said Ahouga and as translated from French by the UN.

human beings. The implications of the limited use of such revolutionary technology could turn out to be as immeasurable and needs to be examined with a view to determining necessary regulation for human rights.

It is important to strike a balance between the development of military tools which are in keeping with legitimate needs and for the prevention of threats to the right to life, in particular for the civilian population and non-combatants. For example, the emphasis should be laid on the responsibility of depriving someone of life in the case of these weapons systems' malfunction.

Therefore, we believe it would be useful for this to be discussed in order to give a grasp the various moral and legal implications of the use of such a weapons system looking towards developing an appropriate approach and relevant code of conduct.

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013⁷⁰

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

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁷¹

The possible development of Lethal Autonomous Robot Systems raises many legal, ethical and policy questions. In the Netherlands we have started a discussion on this issue with involvement of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, relevant partners of civil society and academia in order to get a better understanding of the developments in this field and the related problems. In answering the question about the legality of weapon systems we are guided by international law and in particular by International Humanitarian Law. While developing new weapon systems, states should remain within the boundaries of international law. We will participate actively in discussions on LARS and in that regard support the proposal of the CCW chair for an informal discussion on LARS in the framework of CCW.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁷²

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.

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.

⁷⁰ Intervention of Morocco, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁷¹ Statement of Netherlands, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Netherlands.pdf

⁷² Intervention of the Netherlands, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013⁷³

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.

New Zealand

UNGA First Committee, 30 October 2013⁷⁴

The humanitarian considerations that underscore our commitment to addressing these issues have been frequently evoked during this Committee's work. We welcome this renewed emphasis on human security, and we acknowledge here civil society's important role in working with governments to develop and implement effective solutions to the challenges we have addressed. The advent of new weapons technologies such as fully autonomous weapons systems only underline the need for us to continue to work together to ensure that the principles which guide us continue to be upheld. We look forward to continuing that partnership in this constantly evolving field.

Pakistan

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁷⁵

Pakistan thanks the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Christof Heyns for his report on lethal autonomous robotics, LARs, as

⁷³ 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.

⁷⁴ Statement of New Zealand, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 30 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/30Oct_NZ.pdf

⁷⁵ Statement of Pakistan, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Pakistan_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Ms. Mariam Aftab.

weapons systems. As the special rapporteur has pointed out these weapons raise far-reaching concerns on a wide range of legal and human rights issues.

The special rapporteur has recommended that states put in place national moratoria on aspects of lethal autonomous robotics and has called for the establishment of a high-level panel on lethal autonomous robotics to discuss this issue further.

My delegation shares the view that the development and deployment of lethal autonomous robotics would have a wide range of implications, not just in the field of disarmament but with regard to international human rights and humanitarian law.

As the special rapporteur has pointed out in his report, the use of lethal autonomous robotics raises complex moral, ethical, and legal dilemmas. The situation in which one party to a conflict bears only economic costs and its combatants are not exposed to any danger, is no longer war but one-sided killing.

We concur with the special rapporteur that lethal autonomous robotics take the problems that are present with drones and high altitude war strikes to their factual and legal extreme.” The concurrent concern is that the development of these weapon systems will have a disproportionate impact for developing countries because they have born the brunt of wars in the post-Cold War era.

Moreover, by reducing the cost of war for one or both sides, lethal autonomous robotics would make recourse to the use of force more frequent, thereby increasing the resort to war.

Therefore, my delegation is of the view that there is a need to move beyond national moratoria. The international community should consider a ban on the use of lethal autonomous robotics. We have similar precedents in the case of blinding laser weapons, that is Protocol IV of the CCW, which prohibited the employment of laser weapons whose specific purpose is to cause blindness.

My delegation is of the view that the risks posed by the lethal autonomous robotics are similar in nature and therefore warrant the same kind of restrictions by the international community. We believe that the experience with drones demonstrates that once these technologies are developed and operationalized, it is almost impossible to restrict their use. It is, therefore, necessary to impose the necessary restrictions at the earliest possible stage in their development in order to prevent violations of human rights.

UNGA First Committee, 16 October 2013⁷⁶

Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs) – that would chose and fire on pre-programmed targets on their own without any human intervention – pose a fundamental challenge to the protection of civilians and the notion of affixation of responsibility. ... We recognize that consensus building will be a difficult task, but we take this opportunity to put forward some ideas that we feel are essential to promote greater global security: ... Nine, The development and use of drones and Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARS) need to be checked and brought under international regulation. Besides the UNGA and its First Committee, the CCW Conference of State Parties also provides a forum to address these issues.

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Statement of Pakistan, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 16 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/16Oct_Pakistan.pdf

Another disturbing trend is the development of new types of conventional weapons like the Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs), and the use of armed drones which cause indiscriminate killing of civilians. The use of drones, especially outside the zone of conflict or the battlefield, not only poses a legal challenge but also has serious human rights and humanitarian implications. It needs to be stopped immediately. The use of drones needs to be brought under international regulation before it spirals out of control.

Similarly, LARs, which would choose and fire on pre-programmed targets on their own without any human intervention, pose a fundamental challenge to the protection of civilians and the notion of affixation of responsibility. They could alter traditional warfare in unimaginable ways. Their development needs to be addressed at the relevant international fora including at the UN and the CCW Conference of State Parties.

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 weapons⁷⁷ production is curtailed forthwith under an international regime.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁷⁸

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.

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁷⁹

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

⁷⁷ Statement of Pakistan, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Pakistan.pdf

⁷⁸ Intervention of the Pakistan, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁷⁹ 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

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

Human Rights Council, [30 May 2013](#)⁸⁰

We would like to thank Mr. Heyns for his report on the development and use of autonomous robotic combat systems or lethal autonomous robotics.

We have read his report with great interest, and we note the complexity and the lack of clarity in the legal, moral, and ethical matters of the development and possible use in the future of lethal autonomous robotics.

Particular attention, in our view, should be paid to the conclusion of the special rapporteur to the effect that the use of this kind of weapon could have serious implications for societal foundations, including the negating of human life.

In our view, in future, such machines could also significantly undermine the ability of the international legal system to maintain minimal legal order.

⁸⁰ Statement of Russia, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/HRC_Russia_09_30May2013.pdf As delivered by Mr. Alexey Ulsugin and as translated from Russian by the United Nations.

We would like to underline the importance of ensuring transparency in all aspects of the development of the robotic weapon systems and also the need to take into account the standards of international humanitarian law and international human rights law at all stages of the development of lethal autonomous robotics.

We would like to put a question to Mr. Heyns: What implications might there be for human rights doctrine and international humanitarian law when it comes to delegating a process of decision making from the human being to a machine? What prospects of the use of lethal autonomous robotics are there when it comes to for non-combat processes?

We will follow the further investigation with interest of the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions when it comes to unmanned aircraft or drones and lethal autonomous robotics, in particular in the context of compliance with international humanitarian law.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁸¹

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

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 November 2013⁸²

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.

Sierra Leone

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁸³

My delegation thanks the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for his comprehensive report.

The development of lethal autonomous robotics is becoming increasingly prevalent, and it is but timely that such a technology be viewed under a human rights lens.

From the military standpoint, the use of drones is considered advantageous in terms of saving the lives of the combatants of the attacking side during wars. It is also argued

⁸¹ Intervention of Russia, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁸² Intervention of Russia, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁸³ Statement of Sierra Leone, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_SierraLeone_09_30May2013.pdf
As delivered by Ms Yvette Stevens.

that robots can be programmed to minimize errors and reach their targets with a high degree of accuracy. But robots are machines and as we have seen with semi-automatic devices can indiscriminately kill innocent victims, including women and children.

The international instruments—international humanitarian law—are clearly targeted at conventional warfare and the use of robots raises questions about accountability. Who is to blame, when a breach of these laws occurs through the use of these robots?

In addition, we have seen these robots can be deployed outside conflict zones to hit targeted individuals, who are considered to be terrorists, but who have not been tried through due processes. What are the implications of this under international humanitarian law? Could this be considered as “extrajudicial execution”?

Furthermore, as with all other technology, these robots can fall into the wrong hands and be used indiscriminately. How does the international community guard against that to safeguard the right to life for the victims? These are all questions, which need to be answered before the use of robots becomes widespread.

My delegation agrees with the recommendation that the Human Rights Council should call on all states to declare and implement national moratoria on at least the testing, production, assembly, transfer, acquisition, deployment and use of lethal autonomous robotics until such time as an internationally agreed-upon framework on the future of lethal autonomous robotics has been established.

My delegation agrees with the recommendation that] that the High Commissioner convenes a multi-sectoral high level panel, as a matter of urgency, to take stock of technical advances of relevance to lethal autonomous robotics and propose a framework to enable the international community to address effectively the legal and policy issues related to lethal autonomous robotics, and concrete substantive and procedural recommendations in that regard.

South Africa

UNGA First Committee, 30 October 2013⁸⁴

In closing, Chairperson, it is common cause that, from an environmental perspective, certain substances used in conventional weapons can be hazardous to human health.

In this regard, my delegation is of the view that we should support efforts aimed at increasing our knowledge of the potential humanitarian impact of such substances in order to better understand the civilian health and environmental legacy of conflict. In the same vein, my delegation would also support further discussions on the emerging issue of lethal autonomous weapon systems.

South Korea

CCW statement, 14 November 2013⁸⁵

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.

⁸⁴ Statement of South Africa, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 30 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/30Oct_SouthAfrica.pdf

⁸⁵ 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.

Spain

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁸⁶

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 November 2013⁸⁷

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.

Sweden

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁸⁸

Sweden associates itself with the statement made by the European Union and would like to make a few additional comments.

The practice of extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions is abhorrent and represents a flagrant violation of the inherent right to life. As such the task given to the special rapporteur to examine situations in all circumstances and for whatever reason and to submit the findings on an annual basis to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, is of great importance.

As special rapporteur in this field you play an important role and we wish to thank you for your efforts and work on your latest report. We look forward to seeing you continue your important mission and express our full support.

Traditionally Sweden has the special responsibility to present draft resolutions on the issue of extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions. We did so in 2008 and 2011 and we look forward to presenting a resolution to renew the mandate of the special rapporteur and also containing operative paragraphs on the substance of the issue. We look forward to presenting a draft resolution on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions next year.

⁸⁶ Intervention of Spain, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁸⁷ Intervention of Spain, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁸⁸ Statement of Sweden, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013.

http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Sweden_09_30May2013.pdf

Finally, we see in your report that you intend to present a report on unmanned combat aerial vehicles to the General Assembly in 2013. At this stage, would it be possible to say something about the focus of the report and when it would be available?

CCW intervention, 15 November 2013⁸⁹

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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁹⁰

My delegation would like to thank Mr Christof Heyns for his report and welcome his efforts to clarify the rules applicable to remote controlled automatic weapons.

We continue to be concerned by the fundamental matters of the use of remote control weapons, such as drones, or automatic systems, such as lethal autonomous robotics, from the point of view of human rights and international humanitarian law.

My delegation is particularly concerned with the implications that almost complete autonomy of such machines could have when it comes to the rules of the use of force during armed conflict and in situations of maintaining order, as well as the question of international legal responsibility. In this regard, Switzerland would like to recall that in no circumstances may states delegate their responsibility when it comes to the use of lethal force.

As mentioned by the special rapporteur it is important for any technological development, including armed robots, to be in keeping with international law.

As the special rapporteur suggests, my delegation encourages the establishment of a high level group bringing together experts from various areas to shed light on these matters and we are prepared to take part in an international debate to determine what the best approach would be to such weapons systems. It is important that this dialogue take place rapidly in order to ensure that the use of this new technology is fully in keeping with international law.

Efforts in this regard should be coordinated with those being made by the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the campaign against terrorism.

Switzerland has two questions for the special rapporteur, Mr Heyns. First, what form could the international debate take and the international dialogue that is recommended by the special rapporteur? Second, what measures should states take to ensure that compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law is fully taken into account when it comes to the development and use of weapons systems such as armed drones or lethal autonomous robotics?

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁹¹

⁸⁹ Intervention of Sweden, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁹⁰ Statement of Switzerland, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Switzerland_09_30May2013.pdf
As delivered by Ms. Anh Thu Duong and as translated from French by the UN.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance of conventional arms in disarmament and international security. New technologies are changing warfare and challenges loom on the horizon. One emerging issue is that of “fully autonomous weapon systems” as highlighted in this year’s report of the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. We note with interest that the Secretary-General should consider commissioning a comprehensive study, involving UNIDIR and other research institutes and think tanks, in order to support the appropriate efforts. Switzerland is of the view that there is a need to understand, identify, and clarify the potential challenges associated with fully autonomous weapon systems and the relevant technology. Switzerland therefore recognizes the need for a structured intergovernmental dialogue in the existing forum of the Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) on this issue. Switzerland stands ready to take an active part in the discussions.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁹²

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 be formulated in a broad and flexible manner as it is now. An informal group is the right choice. On the length of meeting it should be long enough to have initial substantive discussion on the issue. Three days would be suitable.

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁹³

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

⁹¹ Statement of Switzerland, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_Switzerland.pdf

⁹² Intervention of Switzerland, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁹³ 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

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.

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 November 2013⁹⁴

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 confident that the CCW is the appropriate forum for this issue and we support the proposal.

Turkey

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)⁹⁵

⁹⁴ Intervention of Switzerland, Convention on Conventional Weapons Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 15 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

⁹⁵ 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

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 November 2013](#)⁹⁶

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

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013⁹⁷

The UK supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add some national remarks.

As noted by the EU, the use of weapons which can select and engage targets without human agency is governed by the provisions of international humanitarian law. The UK is committed to upholding the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and encouraging others to do the same.

However, we do not believe that the issue raised by Mr. Heyns is one that should be dealt with by this Council as the UK considers that there are other fora with mandates more appropriation to the consideration of issues of new weaponry governed by international humanitarian law. But for the avoidance of doubt, the UK considers the existing provisions of international law sufficient to regulate the use of such systems and therefore has no plans to call for or to support an international ban on them.

The UK notes for the purposes of future discussion in this Council that there is a clear distinction between lethal autonomous robotics and drones. Drones are remotely deliverable weaponry which involve human agency in selecting and engaging targets. Different considerations may therefore apply to drones, compared to those highlighted by Mr. Heyns in respect of lethal autonomous robotics.

The UK thanks you for your hard work and strongly supports your mandate to examine extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions in all possible circumstances and to draw the council's attention to them.

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013⁹⁸

I am looking forward to returning to Geneva for the meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and our discussions on lethal

⁹⁶ 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

⁹⁷ Statement of UK, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/HRC_UK_10_30May2013.pdf Delivered by Mr. Chris Lomax.

⁹⁸ Statement of United Kingdom, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_UK.pdf

autonomous robotics. This is an important issue, and one that sits well within the expert remit of the CCW. I hope that we can bring the UK's expertise and experience to bear.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013⁹⁹

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 November 2013¹⁰⁰

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 of America

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013¹⁰¹

The United States thanks the special rapporteur for presenting his report on what he calls lethal autonomous robotics (LARs) and what we would refer to as autonomous weapons systems.

We appreciate the special rapporteur's recognition of U.S. Department of Defense Directive 3000.09, a policy that establishes a prudent, flexible, and responsible framework for the development and use of autonomous capabilities in weapons systems, including a stringent review process for certain new types of autonomous weapons that might be propose in the future.

As reflected in this and other directives, the United States remains committed to complying with the law of war, also called international humanitarian law, with respect to all new weapons systems and their use in armed conflict.

Although we may differ on some aspects of the report, we agree that lethal autonomous weapons may present important legal, policy, and ethical issues, and we call on all states to proceed in a lawful, prudent, and responsible manner when considering whether to incorporate automated and autonomous capabilities in weapon systems.

As the report suggests this is not an entirely new issue. Some existing weapon systems meet the basic definition of an autonomous weapon as used in this report. For example, for decades the United States has operated defensive systems, such as the ship-based Aegis or land-based Patriot surface-to-air missile defenses, which can operate in a human-supervised autonomous mode to defend against time-critical air and missile attacks.

⁹⁹ Intervention of United Kingdom, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

¹⁰⁰ 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.

¹⁰¹ Statement of US, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_USA_09_30May2013.pdf
Delivered by Mr. Stephen G. Townley.

At the same time, as the report also correctly notes, “[t]echnology may in some respects be less advanced than is suggested by popular culture.” For example, for U.S. unmanned aircraft human operators control weapons employment at all times; they are not autonomous weapons.

We welcome further discussion among states of the legal, policy, and technological implications associated with lethal autonomous weapons. However, we note that these implications go beyond the Human Rights Council’s core expertise.

We therefore would like to see such discussion take place in an appropriate forum that has a primary focus on international humanitarian law issues, with the participation of states that have incorporated or are considering incorporating automated and autonomous capabilities in weapon systems. In such a discussion among states, we believe that it will be important to ensure that technical, military, and international humanitarian law expertise is included.

UNGA First Committee, 29 October 2013¹⁰²

Mr. Chairman, the United States is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and all of its five Protocols. The United States attaches importance to the CCW as an instrument that has been able to bring together states with diverse national security concerns.

We look forward to the annual meetings of High Contracting Parties in November and to establishing a program of work for 2014 that will allow CCW States to continue supporting the universalization of the CCW and the implementation of all its Protocols. During this past year, questions have arisen regarding the development and use of lethal fully autonomous weapons in forums such as the Human Rights Council. As the United States delegation to the Human Rights Council stated, we welcome discussion among states of the legal, policy, and technological implications associated with lethal fully autonomous weapons in an appropriate forum that has a primary focus on international humanitarian law issues, if the mandate is right. The United States believes the CCW is that forum. CCW High Contracting Parties include a broad range of States, including those that have incorporated or are considering incorporating automated and autonomous capabilities in weapon systems. The CCW can bring together those with technical, military, and international humanitarian law expertise, ensuring that all aspects of the issue can be considered. Accordingly, we support an informal, exploratory discussion of lethal fully autonomous weapons and are engaged with our fellow CCW High Contracting Parties in formulating an appropriate mandate that will facilitate these discussions.

CCW intervention, 11 November 2013¹⁰³

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

¹⁰² Statement of US, UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, New York, 29 October 2013. http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com13/statements/29Oct_US.pdf Delivered by Christopher L. Buck.

¹⁰³ Intervention of United States, Convention on Conventional Weapons informal consultations, Geneva, 11 November 2013. Notes by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

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 November 2013](#)¹⁰⁴

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 November 2013¹⁰⁵

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

Human Rights Council, [30 May 2013](#)¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ 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/>

¹⁰⁵ 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.

We would like to thank special rapporteur Heyns for his presentation, continuous hard work, and latest interesting report. Its focus on lethal autonomous robotics is forward-looking and although it addresses future as well as ongoing technological developments it is of potential interest to the international community.

The EU therefore takes note of this contribution by the special rapporteur to address and attempt to map out possible consequences of the development of such weapons. It is undoubtedly a complicated field, both legally and technically.

We agree with the special rapporteur that the use of weapons, including those with select targets without a human in-the-loop, is governed by international humanitarian law. Therefore this is not an issue that sits squarely within the work of this council, but should be debated outside this council in other international fora, in particular in the framework of the relevant arms control fora of the United Nations.

As concerns related to lethal autonomous robotics touches upon several different fields, could the Special Rapporteur elaborate on which other fora you this could be debated?

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)¹⁰⁷

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 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.

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Human Rights Council, 30 May 2013¹⁰⁸

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference].

The OIC thanks the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Mr Christof Heyns for his report.

The special rapporteur has focused on lethal autonomous robotics, LARs, and their deployment. He has argued there are far-reaching concerns as to the extent that lethal

¹⁰⁶ Statement of European Union, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013.

http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/HRC_EU_09_30May2013.pdf Delivered by Ms. Anne Koistinen.

¹⁰⁷ 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.

¹⁰⁸ Statement of the OIC, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May 2013. As delivered by Ms. Mariam Aftab, Pakistan.

autonomous robotics can be programmed comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. States should establish national moratoria on lethal autonomous robotics and states should take action on this issue.

The development of lethal autonomous robotics weapon systems is an extremely important issue. As the special rapporteur has pointed out in his report, there is a qualitative difference between reducing the risk that armed conflict poses to those who participate in it and the situation where one side is no longer a “participant” in armed conflict in as much as its combatants are not exposed to any danger. This development fundamentally changes the nature of war. This is further compounded by questions relating to the fixing of legal responsibility in the case of the use of lethal autonomous robotics.

We agree with the special rapporteur that there is a need to take immediate action before further developments in this technology overtake policy-making and undermine the existing international human rights and humanitarian law framework.

We would like to know from the special rapporteur whether the national moratorium on lethal autonomous robotics would be sufficient or whether there is a need to initiate an international process with a view to ban the use of lethal autonomous robotics. We look forward to further debate and discussion on this important issue in the Human Rights Council.

United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General

CCW statement, [14 November 2013](#)¹⁰⁹

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 November 2013](#)¹¹⁰

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.

¹⁰⁹ 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>

¹¹⁰ http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/MSP-2013/Statements/14Nov_IACG-MA.pdf

International Committee of the Red Cross

CCW statement ([14 Nov.](#))¹¹¹

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.

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¹¹¹ 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