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**Statement by Pakistan in the Interactive Dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or
Arbitrary Executions
23rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Christof Heyns, for his report on Lethal Autonomous Robotics (LARs) as weapon 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 establish national moratoria on aspects of LARs and has called for the establishment of a high level panel on LARs to discuss this issue further.

My delegation shares the view that the development and deployment of LARS 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 LARs raise 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 "LARs 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 who may not have access to this technology. Moreover, by reducing the cost of war for one or both sides, 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 LARs. We have similar precedents in the case of Blinding Laser

Weapons i.e. Protocol IV of the CCW, which prohibited the employment of the laser weapons whose specific purpose is to cause blindness.

My delegation is of the view that the risks posed by LARs 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 operationalised, 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.

I thank you.