



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots statement by Mary Wareham, HRW
Convention on Conventional Weapons
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Our Campaign to Stop Killer Robots was pleased to be able to participate in the first meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems earlier this year. We would like to acknowledge the excellent work by Ambassador Simon-Michel of France and his team in organizing this historic meeting.

Our campaign is continuing to grow and expand, with the additions this year of more than 20 Nobel Peace laureates endorsing our call for a preemptive ban on fully autonomous weapons. Scientists continue to come on board our movement and this year a Canadian robotics company became the first worldwide to endorse the call when it pledged not to participate in the development of fully autonomous weapons. Today you received a call to action from more than 70 faith leaders of various denominations demanding action and endorsing our call for a ban. We're seeing increased debate on the matter by academic institutions and think tanks. This issue continues to seize public interest and attract media attention.

So it should come as no surprise that our global coalition fully supports the renewal of the mandate to continue deliberations in 2015. We are seeing broad consensus expressed for continuing the talks. It should be clear by now that "doing nothing" in the face of ever-greater autonomy in warfare is not an option.

We would like to make three points on the possible talks next year on both substance and process.

First, we hope that the deliberations are not a repeat of this year's experts meeting and that they dig deeper. You have heard a number of suggestions from our member NGOs in their statements today as well as in our side event briefing. An exploration

of the principle of meaningful human control is at the top of our list of suggestions, as this approach can be seen as linking technical issues with human responsibilities, and moral considerations. We have many more ideas that we would be glad to discuss with you.

Second, states should come to the next expert meeting ready to share national experiences of current weapons systems that detect and engage targets. These weapons challenge the notion of meaningful human control, and discussion on these systems can help inform us of the sorts of controls that are needed.

Third, on process, we appreciate all the expressions of support for the substantive contributions that civil society is making in the context of the Convention on Conventional Weapons. We urge that further deliberations on autonomous weapons be not just inclusive of non-governmental organizations, but also diverse in hearing the voices of men and women, of various views, and of all nations.

Finally, while we are hopeful of a successful outcome here in agreeing to the 2015 meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems we cannot help but wish the mandate was more ambitious in terms of the time allocated and level of formality dedicated to this work.

We stand ready to contribute substantively to your efforts next year.

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