



**CCW Annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties, 13-15 November 2024**  
**Statement by Stop Killer Robots (for delivery, 3 minutes)**

Thank you, Chair.

Stop Killer Robots is a global coalition of over 250 civil society organisations across more than 70 countries. Our campaign has represented civil society on this issue for more than a decade and in that time progress has been made, but not enough, and time is running out.

Events over the past year demonstrate the devastating and unacceptable harm that can result from seeking to increase the speed of violence through artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. Weapons with concerning levels of autonomy are now being used in conflict, contributing to digital dehumanisation and the erosion of meaningful human decision-making and control. Your diplomatic efforts will soon be outpaced and a failure to deliver will result in devastating humanitarian consequences.

Last year, the UN Secretary-General and President of the ICRC issued a landmark joint call, challenging States to negotiate new international law on autonomous weapons systems by 2026. This call is supported by thousands of technology and artificial intelligence experts, dozens of Nobel Laureates, hundreds of faith leaders, and by civil society groups around the world. More than 120 states from all regions have called to launch negotiations of a legally binding instrument.

Last month's resolution at the UNGA is a welcome response to this challenge. The resolution enables informal talks on this topic in New York for the first time and opens long overdue participation to states who are not party to the CCW to meaningfully contribute on this issue. These talks also provide an invaluable opportunity to address critical issues missing from discussion here, including ethical and human rights concerns.

We regret that significant efforts were made by a small number of states, most of whom have a vested interest in developing autonomous weapons, to drastically lower the ambition of the resolution. Their efforts ensured negotiations for a new legal instrument would not be mandated this year through the UNGA and limited, for the time being, formal work towards an instrument to the confines of the CCW.

You have committed to concluding your work here by the next CCW Review Conference in 2026 and the UNGA resolution urges the CCW to complete its work even sooner, preferably by the end of 2025. You have set yourselves a deadline to demonstrate that meaningful progress is achievable within this forum.

Since 2012, Stop Killer Robots has stood ready to work with all states towards the negotiation of a legally binding instrument, and for more than a decade, the CCW has not been able to deliver. The spectre of repeating old patterns and failing to deliver looms large, we hope that you will not fail.

We are watching for an outcome. Our membership around the world is watching for an outcome. Parliamentarians, members of the tech, science, and faith communities are watching for an outcome. The need for urgency is real. States have a responsibility in this moment of multilateral fragility to strengthen the rules based order, and to take steps to safeguard humanity from automated violence.

History will remember who had the courage to act.

Thank you.