



**CCW Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
Geneva (13-16 May)**

Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati

Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your chairmanship of this meeting and assure you of my delegation's support.

Italy is strongly committed as High Contracting Party, to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols, and shares its guiding principles towards the promotion and the implementation of International Humanitarian Law.

Italy is also party to all Protocols and to all disarmament Conventions aiming at mitigating the humanitarian impact of weapons.

We are convinced that the CCW has the merit to address not only the humanitarian concerns posed by existing weapons but also to prevent the development of new types of weapons that would be unacceptable under basic International Humanitarian Law principles. Therefore, we deem it very important that, within this framework, we will be able to address new potential threats appearing on the horizon.

In this context, at the last annual meeting of the CCW States Parties we strongly supported the decision to convene this informal meeting of experts to discuss

questions related to emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, the so-called killer robots.

We are aware that such weapons are not operational yet and nobody can predict what their impact on IHL will be. However, an early assessment of their possible impact is of paramount importance.

We are convinced that the CCW is the most appropriate framework for such process. In this light, we welcome your initiative as well as the cross-dimensional approach of the meeting and thank you for your engagement in this exercise.

We hope that this meeting will make us better understand the problems that could rise from the development of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.