



**The 2015 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on
Certain Conventional Weapons
(Geneva, 12-13 November 2015)**

Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

Italy greatly appreciated the discussions held during the Informal Meeting of Experts in 2014 and last April on the question of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).

We would like to thank the French and German Presidencies for the excellent and very productive manner in which they guided our work.

We welcome continued discussions on this issue, with a view to further deepening our understanding of its various elements and to further clarifying relevant national positions.

The CCW remains the most appropriate forum in this regard.

In our view, continued international discussions should aim, first of all, at arriving at a common understanding of the exact object and scope of this issue.

Italy shares the view that existing rules of International Humanitarian Law already provide relevant elements to address this matter.

We continue to support the full implementation of International Humanitarian Law rules and principles, and reiterate the importance of their application by all States in relation to both existing and new or emerging weapons systems.

We stand ready to participate in future work on LAWS within the CCW, also with the involvement of relevant national experts, who could specifically contribute to shedding light on autonomous technologies that could potentially be linked to the development of LAWS.

We thank Germany for its proposal to continue coordinating our discussions next year, which we warmly welcome.

Thank you, Mr President
