



**CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
Geneva (13-17 November 2017)**

**Statement by Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Next steps

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you once again for the very constructive way in which you are steering our discussion.

I have carefully followed the interesting debate on your useful food-for-thought paper, as well as considered the working papers presented by different member states.

I fully share your view that this is a complex subject and we cannot but recognize, as you underlined yesterday, that a lack of common understanding remains on many relevant issues.

Nevertheless, we have also noted with interest that there is emerging consensus on some important points of our discussion.

I am referring, in particular, to the appropriateness of the CCW as the forum to continue addressing this issue; to the applicability of IHL to possible future LAWS; and to the need for meaningful human control with regard to the use of lethal force.

As I already stated during the general debate, in our view fully lethal autonomous weapons systems remain a prospective issue. However, their future development remains possible.

For this reason, we agree that there is need for continuing political discussions within this forum.

On this point, I share your approach on the need to focus on substance, in order to enlarge the basis for our future work.

After three meetings of technical discussions, we are ready and feel the need to move forward with more concrete outcomes.

We are aware that it is not easy to strike a balance among the different positions, but I think there is room for identifying possible common elements.

In this prospect, the French-German proposal aiming to set shared basic principles to address the challenges posed by the potential development of LAWS must be considered a constructive contribution.

A recommendation in this sense would be a good operational outcome for this GGE and would constitute a good basis for our continued work on the issue.

In this vein, we would prefer a political declaration in order to underline the political commitment of the membership to make further tangible progress.

I would like to see these elements duly reflected in your conclusions for this GGE, Mr. Chair.

Thank you.