INTERVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS (LAWS)

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Geneva, 13 November 2014

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor on this very important issue.

Croatia aligns itself with the EU statement made earlier. However, allow us a couple of national points on the topic of LAWS.

Croatia warmly welcomes the ongoing and direct engagement between States Parties and international organizations and institutions, as well as civil society and NGOs on the issue of LAWS, and their joint determination to approach issues of priority in that regard. For one such priority, I will cite ICRC’s paper on Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS): While there is recognition that humans must retain ultimate control, more detailed deliberation is needed about what constitutes adequate, meaningful, or appropriate human control over the use of force.

In our view, the Informal Meeting of Experts on the issue of LAWS held this May, ushered in a new era of hope for the international disarmament community. The continuation of talks on LAWS and its potential to eventually grow in a legally-binding instrument is an idea really close to our hearts. It is therefore our belief that this was truly a landmark year in which significant strides were made that could add immeasurably to the global security architecture.

Our presence at the May Meeting, as well as our support for the renewal of the mandate of another informal meeting of experts in 2015 (in the framework of the CCW) clearly indicates Croatian Government’s political commitment to address LAWS in substance. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to cooperate with our partners, including organizations of civil society and experts from academia, concerning the future talks on LAWS. Moreover, we are ready to work assiduously with other States Parties to achieve the objective of proper regulation of these weapons.

Finally, let me conclude by recognizing the calls to ensure gender diversity in deliberations relating to disarmament, peace and security discussions by engaging and including non-male experts (which obviously applies to the LAWS issue as well).

Thank you Mr. President.