



Latin American and Caribbean Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of
Autonomous Weapons Systems, San José , Costa Rica

Statement of Stop Killer Robots

Delivered on 24th February 2023

I speak on behalf of the Stop Killer Robots campaign, a global coalition of over 200 civil society organisations across 70 countries, advocating for new international law to safeguard against the serious risks posed by Autonomous Weapon Systems.

We would like to express our gratitude to the government of Costa Rica for hosting this conference, and to representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean for your collective leadership in calling for the urgent launch of negotiations of a legally binding instrument.

For nearly 10 years, multilateral discussions on this issue have taken place at the CCW. This forum has brought global attention to the need to establish legally binding rules. This call is supported by over 80 States, the UN Secretary General, experts in technology and artificial intelligence , faith leaders and civil society organisations all around the world. International discussions have resulted in policy positions converging on the need for both prohibitions and regulations.

However, to achieve a legally binding instrument, we must now make progress in a forum that is open and accessible to all, driven by a common purpose to establish new legal rules to safeguard our rights and dignity, and to promote a more peaceful world for our generations and those to come. We call upon States to urgently initiate and engage with all forums capable of delivering this outcome.

At this conference, Latin American and Caribbean States have demonstrated genuine leadership and political vision for a way forward. A Communiqué from this region calling for a legally binding instrument is an historic milestone, significantly building momentum to the international effort to establish a new treaty on Autonomous Weapon Systems.

The Stop Killer Robots coalition deeply values your work. And we would like to assure you that our campaign will work to support you and encourage all other regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and the Pacific, to follow your lead, and join the call to urgently launch negotiations on a legally binding instrument.

Thank you again to the government of Costa Rica and representatives of Latin American and Caribbean States for your commitment, vision and leadership on this issue.