New York, October 25, 2016

Excellency,

I am writing to you in France’s capacity as President-designate of the third Review Conference (RevCon3) to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in New York in 2018.

I would like to invite you to a first round of open, informal consultations on RevCon3 on Friday, 28 October, 2016, between 10 am and 1 pm, in conference room 8 of the UN headquarters, with the aim of exchanging views on expectations regarding the possible agenda and outcome of RevCon3.\(^1\) In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English.

The following elements, which have been already identified in the outcome document of BMS6, may serve as a good basis for our discussion of the RevCon3 agenda.

**Possible elements for the agenda of RevCon3**

a. In line with the mandate of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and keeping with past practice, it is foreseen that RevCon3 will include a review of the implementation of the ITI.\(^2\)

b. At the 2012 Review Conference on the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument (RevCon2), States agreed that *international cooperation and assistance*, including capacity-building (including provision of equipment, technology and training), should be an integral element of all PoA and ITI meetings (section III, paras 3 and 4).\(^3\)

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\(^1\) These informal consultations are being held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/51, which decided to convene – in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action – the third Review Conference in 2018 for a period of two weeks to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting early in 2018.

\(^2\) International Tracing Instrument, paragraph 37.

\(^3\) In the 2012 RevCon outcome document, States also mentioned physical security measures of small arms and light weapons (stockpile management) as a relevant issue to be further addressed. Pursuant to this, the issue of stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons, has been comprehensively considered during BMS5 (2014).
c. At BMS6, States agreed that the following issues should be considered at RevCon3:

The implications for the Programme of Action and the ITI of recent developments in small arms and light weapons **manufacturing, technology and design** (paragraphs 63, 90).

Ways to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the **provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology, as well as ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance** for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including financial and technical assistance (paragraph 120).

**Questions for the open consultations**

I would be grateful if you could contribute your government’s views and suggestions during our informal consultations on Thursday, 26 October. In particular it would be appreciated if you could share initial views and expectations regarding the preparations of the Review Conference.

I thank you in advance for contributing substantively at an early stage to the process. This ensures that the preparations for RevCon3 will be transparent, timely, and fully inclusive. I look forward to an interchange of views on achieving our joint objectives.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Alice Guitton