Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as President-designate of the Third United Nations Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (RevCon3), to be held in New York in 2018.

I would like to thank you once again for entrusting France with the responsibility to preside over this important Conference, and assure you of my willingness to work in an inclusive and transparent manner with all delegations on this crucial issue.

I now wish to communicate a few preliminary elements on substantive and organizational aspects of RevCon3 and its preparations.

In line with past practice – and with the mandate of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI) – it is foreseen that RevCon3 will review the progress made both in the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) and in the implementation of the ITI.

**Schedule of the meetings**

Please note that:

- The Preparatory Committee will be held from 19 to 23 March 2018 in New York.
- The Review Conference will be held from 18 to 29 June 2018 in New York.

**Working methods**

I propose to work towards substantive and comprehensive outcome documents for RevCon3 that will include, in accordance with past practice:

- a political declaration
- a PoA implementation plan 2018-2024
- an ITI implementation plan 2018–2024
- a schedule of meetings 2018–2024.
The *Preparatory Committee* should allow us to reach an early agreement on procedural aspects, including a provisional agenda and provisional rules of procedure for the Review Conference. The Preparatory Committee could also, in line with past practice, include thematic debates. This would free up time during RevCon3 for sustained negotiations of comprehensive draft outcome documents.

I propose that the Review Conference itself start with a general debate, followed by negotiations of the outcome documents listed above.

A "zero-draft" of the possible outcome documents will be circulated early on so as to allow for open, transparent consultations and for the development of comprehensive draft outcome documents to be tabled at the Review Conference.

*Working papers and Secretariat studies*

All delegations are encouraged to submit working papers in due course, as these will provide valuable contributions to our discussions and enrich our meetings.

The Secretariat will also contribute to our work through several documents, as requested in the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States in June 2016 (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2).

*Sponsorship programme*

Past meetings benefitted from a sponsorship programme facilitating the participation of representatives from capitals as well as from regional and sub-regional organizations. I encourage States in a position to do so to consider contributing to such a programme.

*Open informal consultations*

France took good note of the constructive views expressed on priority issues to be included in the outcome documents of RevCon3 during the informal consultations held in New York on 31 January 2017, and thanks delegations for their active participation.

My intention is to conduct several rounds of open informal consultations over the course of 2017 and 2018, both in New York and in Geneva.

I also intend to participate, where possible, in relevant thematic and regional meetings and conferences that may be organised in the run-up to RevCon3.

I propose to hold the next open, informal consultations on Monday, 6 March 2017 at 3pm in Room XII of the Palace of Nations in Geneva.
This meeting will give all delegations a further opportunity to share their views and priorities for the preparatory process of the Third Review Conference, taking into account our previous consultations.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion with you all.

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

[Signature]

Ambassador Michèle RAMIS
President-designate of the Third Review Conference
of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

To All:
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
to the United Nations – Geneva

Ref: Small Arms / Invitation to open informal consultations for PoA RevCon3, 6 March 2017, 3pm, Room XII, Palace of Nations.