Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President-designate of the Third 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).

Only one year separates us from the beginning of RevCon3, which will be held in New York, from 18 to 29 June 2018. France is convinced that RevCon3 will provide a unique opportunity to take a further collective step in the fight against the threats posed by the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

An early preparatory process has been launched in order to allow all participants to share their views on and priorities for RevCon3. To that end, informal consultations were held in New York on October 28th, 2016, January 31st 2017 and in Geneva on March 6th, 2017. I am grateful for member States’ active participation and for the constructive views expressed on these occasions.

I have taken careful note of the comments and proposals offered thus far by delegations, and I am pleased to be able to provide hereto attached a draft outline of elements suggested for discussion at RevCon3.

The themes outlined in the attached document, which are neither final nor exhaustive, are drawn from various sources, including the views offered by States at the informal consultations held in New York and Geneva, and the discussions and respective outcome documents from the meetings of the last review cycle—from the second Review Conference convened in 2012 through the sixth Biennial Meeting of States held in 2016. The latter meeting provided three specific mandates, contained in paragraphs 63, 90 and 120 of A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2, for discussion at RevCon3.

I wish to recall that, in accordance with past practice and as communicated to all States in my letter dated 24 January 2017, the draft outline of elements covers both the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) and include: a political
declaration; a PoA implementation plan 2018-2024; an ITI implementation plan 2018–2024; a schedule of meetings 2018–2024.

The attached outline of elements for an outcome document is being circulated to support our future discussions. As such, it will be subject to further in-depth discussions in a transparent and consultative manner. To this end, I invite delegations to study the outline and submit their views on the attached documents (to the following email addresses: poarevcon3fr.dt@diplomatie.gouv.fr; conventionalarms-unoda@un.org).

In order to allow ample time for all delegations to review the document and elaborate their views during the summer, I intend to convene other rounds of open consultations in New York and Geneva in the fall. More detailed information on these consultations will be provided in due course.

I look forward to fruitful discussions as we continue our preparation with a view to a robust outcome for RevCon3.

Wishing you restful summer holidays, please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

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 – New York
Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations – Geneva