Excellency,

Following our constructive and enriching informal consultations on 29 January in Geneva and on 21 February in New York, I am writing to you in connection with the Third United Nations Conference 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 (RevCon3).

Three and a half months from now, from 18-29 June 2018, States will come together at RevCon3 to review the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). In the remaining short timeframe, we will have to continue to lay the groundwork for a successful outcome at RevCon3. The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) will be held in New York from 19 to 23 March 2018, which will mark a milestone in our preparations. I would therefore like to draw your attention to a few important points, including our next informal consultations, the structure of the thematic debate and the documentation for PrepCom.

**Thematic debate**

In line with past practice, and as proposed in my previous letters, we will hold the thematic debate during the PrepCom, which will allow us to make meaningful progress in our deliberations and will free up time during RevCon3 to hold a general debate and focus on the negotiations on the RevCon3 outcome document.

To help us structure our deliberations, I kindly suggest that, in addition to the draft agenda, the *Outline of elements* and *Elements for discussion* which I developed and circulated in my letter of 19 January 2018) form the basis of our work at PrepCom. The list of potential issues identified in the Outline of elements is of course without prejudice to other themes States may wish to address.

Under agenda item 7.a.i, delegations may wish to discuss various topics, which I intend to organize in the following way: (1) Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at all levels including coordination and synergies; preventing SALW diversion; preventing the illicit manufacturing and conversion of SALW; opportunities and challenges of new developments in SALW-related technologies; transparency and information exchange; (2) the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in SALW on development, including 2030 agenda; gender issues; rule of law and culture of peace as well as (3) other elements related to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit
trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels.

Under agenda item 7.a.ii, delegations may wish to discuss implementation, international cooperation and assistance. To inform our deliberations, I have invited the Secretariat to present on the linkage between the PoA/ITI and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under agenda item 7.a.iii, delegations may wish to discuss the Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Under agenda item 7.b, delegations may wish to discuss the International Tracing Instruments, including marking, record-keeping, and tracing; international cooperation and assistance; transparency and information exchange; implications of recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design for the ITI; as well as any other elements related to the ITI. I have invited INTERPOL, based on the practical work it has been conducting on tracing and its acknowledged role in the ITI, to provide a short presentation on its work on weapons tracing.


Taking into account these proposals, I invite States to prepare short substantive stand-alone statements on themes they wish to contribute to and on the proposals they may wish to bring forward. Due to the possibility of multiple interventions, time management will be of the utmost importance. I call on all delegations to be mindful of our time and to be succinct in their statements and interventions.

**Procedural matters**

Delegations and observers who wish to be included in the list of participants should register through the “e-List of participants” module on the e-deleGATE secure portal.

Bureau Members will officially be elected under agenda item 3 “Election of other officers” of the PrepCom. It is suggested that the regional groups recommend the same Bureau Members to also serve at RevCon3. The following Bureau Members have been provisionally nominated by the regional groups: Egypt, Kenya, Sierra Leone (Africa); Iran, Japan, Nepal (Asia-Pacific); Croatia, Estonia, Russian Federation (Eastern Europe); Austria, France (President-designate) and Greece (WEOG). I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage the submission of nominations from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

**Documentation and national reports**
Documents concerning PrepCom are available online at www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3.

States wishing to share their views and proposals are invited to submit working papers, which should be sent to UNODA (conventionalarms-unoda@un.org).

As national reports represent a key input in enriching the considerations of PoA and ITI implementation at the RevCon3, I encourage all delegations to submit their national reports on the implementation of the PoA and ITI by the extended deadline of 12 March 2018. The online reporting tool can be accessed through www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3.

**Informal consultations**

I would like to invite you to a short round of informal consultations on **Friday, 16 March, at 3:00 P.M., in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations in New York.** This session will provide an opportunity to review relevant procedural or any other matters relating to the PrepCom.

I look forward to working with you all during PrepCom and to pursue our joint efforts towards a successful Review Conference in June.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Jean-Claude BRUNET
President-designate of the third Review Conference