

Increasing Armed UAV Transparency, Oversight and Accountability: What are the concerns and what is possible?

Monday, 16 April 2018

Palais des Nations, United Nations, Geneva

0945–1000 Registration and coffee

1000–1015 Welcome and opening remarks

- *What are the key findings of the UNIDIR study in to improving the transparency, accountability and oversight of UAVs?*
- *How has the use of armed UAVs differed from manned aircraft?*

Renata Dwan, Director, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

John Borrie, Chief of Research, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Session One Mapping trends in armed UAV proliferation and use

1015–1130 Moderator: Kerstin Vignard, Deputy Director and Chief of Operations, UNIDIR

- *What are the current trends in armed UAV proliferation?*
- *How are technological developments and new actors altering the proliferation landscape?*
- *How are trends in armed UAV use expected to change in the short and long term?*

Armed drones around the world – current trends and future developments

Ulrike Franke, *Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations and University of Oxford*

Unmanned ambitions: the growing development of drone producers and exporters

Wim Zwijnenburg, Project Leader, Humanitarian Disarmament, PAX and Coordinator, European Forum on Armed Drones

1130–1145 Tea and Coffee

Session Two Assessing armed UAV challenges

1145–1315 Moderator: John Borrie, UNIDIR

- *What evidence is there that armed UAVs lower the threshold for states to deploy lethal force?*
- *Does the current use of armed UAVs challenge international legal norms designed to limit the use of force?*
- *What challenges does the proliferation of armed UAV capability pose to global stability?*

International norms relevant to the use of armed UAVs

Hina Shamsi, Director, National Security Project, American Civil Liberties Union

Framing the challenges arising from the proliferation and use of armed UAVs

Rachel Stohl, Managing Director, The Stimson Center

Approaches to technology and policy in addressing challenges posed by armed UAVs

Elizabeth Minor, Advisor, Article 36

1315–1345 Lunch Break

Closed Roundtable: Evaluating standards and mechanisms to address UAV challenges

1345–1630 Moderator: John Borrie, UNIDIR

This closed roundtable will invite States to reflect on the morning's expert presentations, to consider the effectiveness of current standards and mechanisms relevant to the use of UAVs and to consider the possibilities for alternatives. UNIDIR will be joined by representatives from other UN agencies and the ICRC to provide resources for discussion where required.

- *To what extent do current transparency, accountability and oversight mechanisms address the challenges associated with armed UAVs?*
- *What options are available to strengthen accountability for armed UAV use?*
- *To what extent do mechanisms applicable to the possession and trade of armed UAVs mitigate the challenges arising from armed UAV proliferation?*
- *What are the pathways for elaborating or strengthening these measures and mechanisms at an international level?*

This meeting will be held in English and under the Chatham House Rule. This working agenda is subject to change.