



Virtual information exchange on implementation of weapons reviews

16-17 September 2020

In accordance with Article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, States have a responsibility to determine whether the use of new weapons they study, develop, acquire or adopt would be prohibited under international law, in some or all circumstances. Conducting such reviews is a practical measure that all States can take to ensure they comply with international law.

Increased transparency on the conduct of weapons reviews would build confidence in how States fulfil this responsibility, helping to facilitate predictability with respect to the potential introduction of destabilizing new technologies and promoting common understanding regarding the application of international law, particularly IHL. It may also assist other States to strengthen their own practices and facilitate the identification of good practices that could form the basis for possible future common standards.

In action 25 of the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda the Office for Disarmament Affairs commits to organizing with relevant partners "an informal process with a view to facilitating the exchange of information and experiences between States on the reviews of new weapons". This virtual meeting seeks to begin this process.

Registration required: <https://forms.gle/ytf5q4T97upCJ3Wk8>

Programme

Wednesday, 16 September

All times EDT

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| 08:00-08:10 | Welcoming remarks
Michael Spies
Coordinator, Science, Technology and International Security, Office for Disarmament Affairs |
| 08:10-08:30 | Weapons reviews 101
Wen Zhou
Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross |
| 08:30-08:50 | Overview of current practices
Vincent Boulanin
Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute |
| 08:50-09:10 | Challenges posed by new technologies
Pauline Warnotte
Researcher, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research |
| 09:10-10:00 | Q&A and discussion |



Thursday, 17 September

- 08:00-08:30 **National presentation: Australia**
Sarah-Jane White
Deputy Director, Directorate of Operations and International Law, Australian
Department of Defence
- 08:30-09:00 **National presentation: Netherlands**
Boddens Hosang
Deputy Director of Legal Affairs, Netherlands Ministry of Defence
- 09:00-09:30 **National presentation: Switzerland**
Mirco Anderegg
Deputy Head Law of Armed Conflict, Swiss Federal Department of Defence
- 09:30-10:10 **Discussion: format for information sharing and identification of good practices**
Opening thoughts from Netta Goussac, Associate Senior Researcher, SIPRI
- 10:10-10:15 **Way forward**

For more information, contact Amy Dowler (dowler@un.org)