

STANDING UP FOR IHL: BUILDING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING AROUND THE LAW THAT PROTECTS IN WAR

25th Bruges Colloquium, 13-14 November 2025

Speakers' Biographies

Day 1: Thursday, 13 November 2025

Welcome and Opening Addresses

Mr. Eloi Fillion took on his current position as Head of Delegation to NATO, the EU and the Kingdom of Belgium, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in December 2024. After joining the ICRC in 1998 as Legal Adviser in Geneva, Mr. Fillion moved to the operations and served in India, Uganda, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Sudan, Israel and Palestine with increasing management responsibilities. In 2009 he became Deputy Head of Delegation in Afghanistan. Between 2011 and 2014 he was Deputy Head of Operations for the Middle East Region, mainly working on Syria. He worked as Head of Delegation in Sudan from 2015 to 2016, as Head of Delegation in Nigeria from 2017 to 2021, as Head of Delegation in Afghanistan from 2021 to 2024. Lastly, he served as Regional Director for the Near and Middle East region from June to October 2024. Mr. Fillion holds a Master's degree in Public International Law from the University of Aix-en-Provence (France) and a BA + Maîtrise in Public International Law from the Exeter University (UK) and the University of Aix-en-Provence (France) respectively.

Mr. Marco Incerti is the Director of the Rectorate of the College of Europe, Bruges Campus. He has over two decades of experience across European academia and think-tanks. Most recently, he served as Adviser to the Secretary General of the European University Institute, after a seven-year stint as Director of its Communications Service. As Director of the Rectorate, Mr. Incerti oversees the operations of a strengthened office and supports Rector Mogherini in the coordination of the Heads of Services as well as the implementation of the action plan for her second mandate.

Dr. Gilles Carbonnier is the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (appointed in 2018). Since 2007, Dr. Carbonnier has been a professor of development economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), where he also served as director of studies and president of the Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action. His expertise is in international cooperation, the economic dynamics of armed conflict, and the nexus between natural resources and development. His latest book, published by Hurst and Oxford University Press in 2016, is entitled *Humanitarian Economics: War, Disaster and the Global Aid Market*. Prior to joining the Graduate Institute, Dr. Carbonnier worked with the ICRC in Iraq, Ethiopia, El Salvador and Sri Lanka (1989–1991), and served as an economic adviser at the ICRC's headquarters (1999–2006). Between 1992 and 1996, he was in charge of international trade negotiations (GATT/WTO) and development cooperation programmes for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

Introductory session: What Should Political Support for IHL Look Like in Practice?

Judge Theodor Meron has been a Judge and, between March 2012 and January 2019, was the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism). He was also a Judge and Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). He served a total of four terms as President of the ICTY and three terms as President of the Mechanism. A leading scholar of international humanitarian law, human rights, and international criminal law, and of Shakespeare and the war, Judge Meron is the author of a dozen books and more than a hundred articles, including some of the books and articles that helped build the legal foundations for international criminal tribunals. His latest book, *Standing up for Justice: Challenges of Trying*

Atrocity Crimes” was published by the OUP in 2021. He is a member of the Institute of International Law, member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a fellow of the American Academy of Art Sciences, and the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and medals, such as the Hudson Medal (ASIL) and the Haskins Prize (ACLS) as well as Officer of the French Legion of Honour, Grand Officer of the French National Order of Merit as well as Officer of the Order of Merit of Poland. A past honorary President of the American Society of International Law and past Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of International Law, he is Charles L. Denison Professor of Law Emeritus at NYU Law School and, since 2014, a Visiting Professor of Law at Oxford University, he is a Visiting Fellow at Mansfield College and Academic Associate of Bonavero Human Rights Institute and Honorary Fellow in Trinity College. In 2019, HM Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) for service to criminal justice and international humanitarian law. He is a special adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Ms. Kajsa Ollongren is the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Justice. Ms. Ollongren is a former Dutch politician who served in the Netherlands as Minister of Defence (2022–2024) and Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (2017–2022) in two consecutive cabinets, also holding the role of Deputy Prime Minister (2017–22). Previously, she was an alderwoman and deputy Mayor of Amsterdam. Having entered the Dutch civil service in 1992, she served as the deputy secretary-general (2007–2011) and secretary-general (2011–2014) within the Prime Minister’s office. Ms. Ollongren, who is a dual Dutch and Swedish national, studied history at the University of Amsterdam and Public Administration at the École Nationale d'Administration in Paris. She is a reservist at the Dutch airforce, a fellow at Chatham House and sits on various boards of non-profit organisations in the field of international relations and security and defence.

Mr. John Swords is the NATO legal adviser and director of NATO’s Office of Legal Affairs. His team advises the Secretary General, the International Staff as well as the 32 NATO Allies in committees and Council. The work touches on all areas of law and, in addition to advice, the team conducts litigation and negotiates and drafts contracts and treaties. Mr. Swords also chairs the Annual Meeting of Allies Legal Advisers (AMALA), when the most senior MFA and MOD lawyers from capitals convene at NATO to discuss the key strategic legal issues confronting the alliance. Before joining NATO, Mr. Swords led the Operational and International Humanitarian Law division in the UK’s MOD.

Panel 1: Standing Up for Humanity through the Protection of Civilian infrastructure

Mr. Arjen Vermeer is Assistant Professor of Military Law at the Netherlands Defence Academy. He is also conducting his Ph.D. research at the University of Amsterdam on the legal consequences for states under international law for the provision of satellite data by commercial entities in support of a party to an international armed conflict. Prior he held various teaching positions, worked as an arbitrator for an international sports federation and as a consultant on legal and policy issues for national and international clients. He is the founder and former editor-in-chief of the Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies and worked for several years as assistant to a Special Rapporteur of the UN International Law Commission and as senior legal advisor to the Netherlands Red Cross. He holds an LL.M and MA from the University of Leiden and an LL.M from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Right

Brigadier Joanna Bowen joined the Army Legal Service in 1996. During her early military career, she was assigned to the Army Prosecuting Authority after which she served as a staff officer advising on criminal and disciplinary cases. However, much of her career has been spent advising on international law. She has served in various operational Headquarters in the UK as well as NATO HQ including the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany and the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium. She has deployed on several military operations including Feb 1999 North Macedonia, Jun 99 Kosovo, Jan 04 North Macedonia (12-month deployment) and Jan 12 Afghanistan. In 2001, she was awarded a Distinction in a LL.M in International Criminal Justice and the Law of Armed Conflict. In 2006 she was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional services to NATO. In 2011, while serving at the Doctrine, Concepts and Development Centre she wrote the capstone doctrine on CPERS (JDP1.10) As a Colonel, she has advised the most senior general officers on UK domestic operations and intelligence operations. She attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in 2023 and upon promotion to Brigadier took up the role of Head of Operational Law in January 2024.

Mr. Laurent Gisel is the Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit at the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. He leads the development and promotion of the ICRC’s strategies and activities to reaffirm, clarify, and strengthen international humanitarian law with regard to weapons of humanitarian concern, new technologies of warfare and the conduct of hostilities. Mr. Gisel worked in the ICRC Legal Division in various positions since 2008, including Legal Adviser to Operations, and Senior Legal Adviser and Cyber Team Leader. From 2013 to 2020, he was the file holder for the rules governing the conduct of hostilities under international humanitarian law, including their application during urban warfare, cyber operations, and outer space operations, on which he publishes regularly. Mr. Gisel

began his career at the ICRC in 1999 and held several positions in conflict areas, in Israel and the Occupied Territories, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and as Deputy Head of Delegation in Nepal. He served as Diplomatic Adviser to the ICRC Presidency from 2005 to 2008. Prior to joining the ICRC, Laurent became attorney-at-law in Geneva and worked at the Public and Administrative Law Court of the Canton de Vaud. He holds a Degree in Law from the University of Geneva and a Masters in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva, Switzerland).

Prof. Julia Grignon is a Visiting Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas and Chair of the Subcommittee on International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Action at the CNCDH (National Committee on Human Rights, France). Specialized in International Humanitarian Law, at Laval University Prof. Julia Grignon directed *Osons le DIH!* a development partnership that aimed at contributing to the promotion and strengthening of International Humanitarian Law. She also directed a research project on the extraterritorial application of International Human Rights Law in the context of external military operations. At Paris-Panthéon-Assas she is currently the head of the International Law Clinic. Prof. Grignon is an alumnus of University of Geneva, where she obtained her Ph.D on The Temporal Scope of International Humanitarian Law, awarded the Paul Reuter and the Walther Hug prizes. She is the author of numerous publications in peer-review journals as well as in collective works. She is one of the co-authors of the *Online Casebook How Does Law Protect in war?*. She also directed a special issue of the *Revue Québécoise de droit International* on the law applicable in the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine and edited the book *Tribute to Jean-Pictet*. In addition to occasional teaching and/or research as a visiting professor in North America, Europe and Africa, Prof. Grignon spent a year of study and research at the Institut des droits de l'Homme et de la paix of the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar (Senegal). From November 2022 to November 2025 Prof. Grignon was the Research Director of IRSEM (Strategic Research Institute at the Military Academy, France).

Panel 2: Standing Up for a Meaningful Protection of Medical Facilities: Operationalizing Legal Safeguards

Dr. Nele Verlinden is a Senior Legal Advisor at the ICRC Delegation to the EU, NATO and the Kingdom of Belgium in Brussels, where she is responsible for the dialogue on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) with the EU, NATO and Belgium. Before joining the Brussels delegation, she served as Legal Advisor in the Paris Regional Delegation of the ICRC, covering inter alia national implementation of IHL, repression of IHL violations, responsible arms trade and various disarmament issues. She also worked as a lecturer at KU Leuven, as a legal advisor to the Belgian Ministry of Justice and in various other capacities for the ICRC's legal division in Geneva. Dr. Verlinden holds a Ph.D in international law from KU Leuven, an LL.M in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law from the Geneva Academy (summa cum laude) and a Master in International and European Law from KU Leuven (summa cum laude).

Brigadier Lisa Ferris, originally from Gisborne, New Zealand, commenced her career with the New Zealand Army in 2003 as a Lieutenant in the Army Legal Service. Her early postings included serving as a Legal Adviser at Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force and Headquarters Joint Force New Zealand. She gained her first promotion to Captain in 2004 while working as Legal Officer for the Army Training Group. In 2008, she was promoted to Acting Major and deployed to the Arabian Gulf on board HMNZS Te Mana as a Legal Adviser, where her rank was substantiated. During her career, Brigadier Ferris took on key legal advisory roles in operational contexts, including deployments to Afghanistan in 2009 and again in 2012, where she advised on a Court of Inquiry. In 2012 she was seconded to the Government Communications Security Bureau, providing legal advice on intelligence matters. From 2013 onwards, appointments included Deputy Director Personnel Law, Deputy Director Operational Law and Chief of Staff/Commanding Officer for Defence Legal Services. In 2015, she visited Iraq as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade delegation, contributing to plans for New Zealand's Building Partner Capacity mission. In 2016 she was promoted to Acting Colonel and appointed as Acting Director of Defence Legal Services. She was appointed as Director of Defence Legal Services and substantiated as a Colonel in 2017. In 2018, she was promoted to Brigadier. In her current role, Brigadier Ferris serves as the Defence Adviser to the United Kingdom and Senior Military Representative to NATO and the EU, a position she assumed in June 2024.

Ms. Claude Maon is currently the Legal Director of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Intersectional Legal Department, that she joined in 2017. She specializes in International Humanitarian Law, protection of patients who are victims of violence and medico-legal issues. Prior to joining MSF, she worked for several years as an attorney at the Brussels Bar and as a project specialist on access to justice and the fight against impunity in the field for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as well as for Avocats Sans Frontières - Lawyers without Borders (ASF) in several African countries. She also worked as a protection officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva and supported missions in the field worldwide. She undertook numerous consultancies and project management roles in the area of justice support and the fight against impunity, both for the UN system and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Maon holds a Master's degree in law and a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Aid (NOHA) from the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) – Belgium. She also holds a certificate in Criminalistics Science and Medico-Legal Psychiatry from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). She is a member of the Board of Lawyers without Borders (Avocats Sans Frontières).

Ms. Silvia Delgado González is a career diplomat. Since 2024, she serves as Deputy Director General for the United Nations at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has worked at the Spanish embassies in Tripoli, Beijing, and at the Mission of Spain to the United Nations in New York. She has worked at UNRWA, at its headquarters in East Jerusalem and in New York. She holds degrees in Law and in Translation and Interpreting from Jaume I University in Castellón.

Panel 3: Standing Up for IHL in Cyber Operations: Strengthening Protection in the ICT Environment

Senior-Captain Marie Van Hoofstat holds master's degrees in Law and Political Sciences both from the Catholic University of Leuven and a European Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University center in Venice. Sr. Cpt. Van Hoofstat started her professional career as an intern at the Brussels Representation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) handling GIZ contacts with European institutions and with partners in Brussels. Next, she completed an awarded internship from the European Inter-University Centre at the Human Rights Department of the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs. In 2011 she joined the Belgian Armed Forces to become a Legal Advisor (LEGAD) in the Operational Law Section of the Directorate Legal Support and Mediation. From 2014 to 2017 she was detached to the service of the Assistant Chief of Staff - Operations and Training. As from 2017 she has launched the LEGAD function at the Belgian Air Force. Meanwhile, she also fulfilled the function of Secretary of the Belgian Commission for the Legal Review of new Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare. Since 2012, Sr. Cpt. Van Hoofstat participates in operational deployment. She was involved in planning what was first the French-led Operation Serval and later the EU Training Mission in Mali in 2013 amongst others. She also saw operational service as the LEGAD to the Belgian ISAF Contingent in Kandahar. In both planning and execution, Sr. Cpt. Van Hoofstat was closely involved in the Belgian Homeland Ops, Operation Vigilant Guardian – running since early 2015. In 2014 she was the LEGAD for the first F-16 detachment operating in Iraq (based in Jordan), and well as in 2017 she was deployed to Al-Udeid Air-base (Qatar) for Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria. In 2021 she joined the Project Office Cyber created to establish the Belgian Cyber Command, to which she returned in 2023 after completing staff college. Since her return in 2023 she has continued to work as legal advisor to the Belgian Cyber Commander, who is also the Cyber Force Commander since its creation in 2025.

Dr. Heather Harrison Dinniss is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for International and Operational Law at the Swedish Defence University. Her research focuses on the impact of modern warfare on international humanitarian law; in particular, on emerging military technologies such as cyber warfare, advanced and autonomous weapons systems and the legal aspects of human enhancement techniques on members of the armed forces. She is the author of *Cyber War and Laws of War* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) which analyses the status and use of cyber operations in international law and the law of armed conflict. Dr. Harrison Dinniss has served as a member of advisory groups to the Swedish Government on autonomous weapons systems and cyber operations, a member of the International Law Association's Study Group on Cyber Terrorism and International Law (2014-2016) and as a core expert for two projects to establish a Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS (2016-18) & Woomera (2018-)).

Ms. Chantal Joris is a Swiss qualified international lawyer. She is a Senior Legal Officer at ARTICLE 19, an international human rights organisation which works to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression and information. Ms. Joris' work focuses on among others on freedom of expression in armed conflicts and freedom of expression issues relating to national security and privacy. Prior to joining ARTICLE 19, Ms. Joris worked at a public international law firm, where she represented States and private entities before international and domestic courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice, and advised on public international law matters.

Mr. Laurent Gisel is the Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit at the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. He leads the development and promotion of the ICRC's strategies and activities to reaffirm, clarify, and strengthen international humanitarian law with regard to weapons of humanitarian concern, new technologies of warfare and the conduct of hostilities. Mr. Gisel worked in the ICRC Legal Division in various positions since 2008, including Legal Adviser to Operations, and Senior Legal Adviser and Cyber Team Leader. From 2013 to 2020, he was the file holder for the rules governing the conduct of hostilities under international humanitarian law, including their application during urban warfare, cyber operations, and outer space operations, on which he publishes regularly. Mr. Gisel began his career at the ICRC in 1999 and held several positions in conflict areas, in Israel and the Occupied Territories, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and as Deputy Head of Delegation in Nepal. He served as Diplomatic Adviser to the ICRC Presidency from 2005 to 2008. Prior to joining the ICRC, Laurent became attorney-at-law in Geneva and worked at the Public and Administrative Law Court of the Canton de Vaud. He holds a Degree in Law from the University of Geneva and a Masters in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva, Switzerland).

Panel 4: Standing Up for IHL at Sea: Taking Stock of Protection Challenges in Contemporary Naval Warfare

Prof. Tom Ruys is a professor of international law at Ghent University and founder of the Ghent Rolin-Jacquemyns International Law Institute (GRILI). Since October 2023, he has been serving in NATO Headquarters, Brussels, in the Office of Legal Affairs. He was a member of the Brussels bar (2009–2023) and is a reserve officer with the Belgian armed forces. He holds degrees from Ghent, Nottingham, and Leuven, including a Ph.D. from Leuven (2009), and has been a visiting researcher or professor at Yale, Cambridge, and Vienna. His research spans public international law, including the law on the use of force, law of armed conflict, state responsibility, immunities, and sanctions law. He has taught general and advanced courses at Ghent University, supervised the law of armed conflict moot court, and published extensively, including the monograph *Armed Attack* and articles in *AJIL*, *EJIL*, *BYIL*, and *ICLQ*. He has held leadership roles with the International Law Association, *JUFIL*, the *Military Law and Law of War Review*, and the Belgian Society of International Law.

Commander Peggy McGregor took the helm of the Law of armed conflict office in July 2025 after serving for two years as special adviser for naval and maritime law to the Head of the French Armed forces legal department in Paris. CDR Mc Gregor also served as a legal advisor to the Commander of the joint operations center at the strategic level in Paris (CPCO) and as a senior advisor for law enforcement at sea and International Relations in Abu Dhabi to ALINDIEN (Admiral responsible for French joint and naval operations in the Middle East and in the Indian Ocean). She was recently deployed as the senior legal advisor of EU maritime operations EUNAVFOR IRINI (2022) and EUNAVFOR ASPIDES (2024). CDR Mc Gregor graduated from Sciences Po Paris and the French war College.

Dr. Alexander Lott works as a research professor (forsker I) at the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. He has also taught various courses at the University of Tartu, Estonia at all study levels. Dr. Lott is the author of the books *"Hybrid Threats and the Law of the Sea"* (Brill, 2022) and *"The Estonian Straits: Exceptions to the Strait Regime of Innocent or Transit Passage"* (Brill, 2018) as well as the editor and co-author of the anthology *"Maritime Security Law in Hybrid Warfare"* (Brill, 2024). He has published widely on the law of the sea, human rights, international security law, administrative law, and environmental law and serves as the General Editor (with Nilüfer Oral) of the book series *International Straits of the World*. Dr. Lott has been awarded the Marie Skłodowska-Curie individual fellowship (2022) by the European Commission and the Estonian President's Young Scientist Award (2022). His previous work experience includes five years as a legal adviser at the constitutional review and administrative law chambers at the Estonian Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice as well as legislative drafting pertaining to the law of the sea and national defense.

Ms. Romina Morello recently joined the legal division at Headquarters to work on the Global Initiative on IHL, focusing on the overarching objective of galvanizing political commitment on IHL. Prior to this, Ms. Morello worked as Regional Legal Coordinator for the Americas where she promoted the national implementation and dissemination of IHL in the continent together with the legal advisors of the region. In addition, Ms. Morello was part of the ICRC Regional Resource Network where she works together with other regional colleagues on transversal matters including the missing, migration and detention. Prior working at the ICRC, Ms. Morello worked at the External Relations and International Judicial Cooperation Unit for the International Criminal Court, where she handled relations with ICC situation countries, drafted, negotiated and concluded cooperation agreements and developed strategies to enhance relations with states, regional and international organizations on international justice matters. In addition, Ms. Morello was the Managing Officer and Legal Advisor of the International Law and Human Rights Program of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and prior to that, she worked at the Office of the Prosecutor in Argentina, the Office of the Public Counsel for the Victims of the ICC and Greenpeace. Ms. Morello is a qualified lawyer with an LLM on Public International Law and was adjunct professor of Public International Law at the Catholic University of Córdoba Law School, ICC mootcourt Judge of the Spanish and Chinese competition and supervising attorney of a project on international criminal law for Advocates Harvard Law School. Moreover, Ms. Morello has given conferences in more than 20 countries on different topics of international law to a diverse audience including governmental officials, diplomats, armed forces and police, the judiciary, public prosecutors and law students.

Panel 5: Standing Up for IHL Before, During, and After Conflict: A Pathway from Prevention to Peace

Mr. Itonde Kakoma is the President and CEO of Interpeace. Prior to Interpeace, he most recently served as the Permanent Representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to the African Union and International Organizations (2021-2023). In this capacity, Mr. Kakoma advanced continental wide humanitarian diplomacy initiatives with the African Union in public health security; climate change; disaster risk management; food security; and humanitarian affairs. Mr. Kakoma served in various leadership capacities on matters of international peace mediation, including as Director for Global Strategy and member of the leadership team at CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. Over a period of eight years at CMI, he steered mediation support teams for both official and informal peace processes, and

advanced high-level peace mediation and dialogue undertakings in the Great Lakes, the Horn, and wider Red Sea region. Previously, Mr. Kakoma was the Assistant Director for the Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center, managing a portfolio of the Center's peace initiatives and supporting former President Carter's backchannel diplomatic efforts. He was an international observer for The National Referendum on the Right to Self Determination for the People of South Sudan; and served as an advisor and report writer for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mr. Kakoma serves as a member of the Steering Group of the International Gender Champions, sits on the Governing Board of both the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the Principles for Peace Foundation; and is a member of the Global Future Council on Geopolitics at the World Economic Forum.

Mr. Frank Meeussen is Deputy Director of the Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation Division at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also serves as a member of the Ethical Advisory Board of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence, which evaluates research proposals for dual-use or military applications on ethical and legal grounds. Mr. Meeussen previously worked for eight years as advisor on foreign affairs and defense to two Deputy Prime Ministers in the Belgian government. At the European External Action Service (EEAS), he served for four years as alternate chair of the EU Council Working Group on Arms Exports, which oversees the arms export policies of EU Member States. He began his career in civil society, working for organizations such as Pax Christi and Amnesty International. Mr. Meeussen is an expert in international security, with a focus on human rights, international humanitarian law, conflict prevention, and arms control. He studied in Antwerp and Strasbourg and holds a Master's degree in International Relations. Mr. Meeussen lives north of Antwerp, is married, and has two children.

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Prof. Vaïos Koutroulis is a professor of public international law at the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where he teaches, among others, international humanitarian law and international criminal law. He has given numerous lectures on these subjects, including in training courses for members of the armed forces, humanitarian aid workers and other professionals. He has several publications to his credit on international humanitarian law, international criminal law and *jus contra bellum*. Vaïos Koutroulis is a member of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, the only permanent treaty-based body dealing with compliance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their First Additional Protocol.