Dear Ambassador Nikel,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Federal Foreign Office for funding and hosting this extremely important and timely conference on Smart Weapon Technology.

In my view, the role of Smart Weapons—particularly with respect to arms control—is a topic that has to be debated much more in the future. This conference is an important step in this direction.

**Background on BICC:**
Please, allow me to say a few words about my institute, the Bonn International Center for Conversion, or BICC, which organized this conference. Since its foundation, almost twenty years ago, BICC has dealt with arms control issues. It has been on the forefront of research on the legal and political means necessary to control small arms, including cross-border trafficking and storage.

In the area of small arms and light weapons control, BICC has
- done in-depth research, which includes its most recent publication on Man-Portable-Air-Defense-Systems, also known as MANPADS,
- given practical advice on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM),
- designed courses on training and education on small arms control (TRESA modules) and
- has given training courses throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

**Cooperation with SAS:**
While BICC has in-house expertise in this field, we were happy to develop the concept of this conference in cooperation with Geneva-based Small Arms Survey. Our thanks go to Pierre Gobinet for the cooperation.

You will all find a copy of the Small Arms Survey’s recently published background paper “Personalized Firearms and Electronic Safety Devices: Perspectives” in your conference folder.
This paper provides preliminary knowledge on some of the major issues discussed in this conference and is greatly appreciated.

Conference structure
Let me take the chance and introduce you briefly to the structure of this conference.

The experts whom we invited to give a presentation will address the issue of smart arms from different perspectives. I am more than happy that the panels include academics with different disciplinary backgrounds as well as policymakers and representatives of smart arms companies.

The conference is divided into six panels, which intend to open and broaden the discussion on various facets of smart arms.

Today, we will start with a panel on the background of this issue. We’d like to shed light on the global framework of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Panel two will introduce the technical possibilities and visions in smart weapon technology, followed by a discussion about the social and political implications arms control is facing in conflict and post-conflict countries.

Tonight, you are invited to an evening reception, which will take place at a restaurant, about five minutes walking distance from here.

Tomorrow, we will start by discussing the specifics of export control and the tracing of small arms and light weapons. Here, we will raise the question of how smart technology can, could, or should contribute to arms control.

Well aware of the range of positions on the matter of smart weapon technology, Panel five will provide the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the matter at hand.

The final panel is intended to look at the national, regional, and global legal frameworks that exist or have to be developed in
future. A specific focus will be put on the role of smart technology in the UN Programme of Action.

Most of the presenters here have also agreed to write up their papers for later publication, and we shall inform you around November of the final output.

I wish all of us stimulating, perhaps provocative, discussions, which we—for sure—do not expect to be definitive.

However, tomorrow afternoon, before we part and spread again across the globe, I hope that we will develop valuable ideas for the next steps when we summarize the conference.

I would like to thank the Federal Foreign Office again for their hospitality and for making this conference possible.