The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations and PAX invite you to

**Discussing Drones**

*Engaging the international community on unmanned systems*

Experts will discuss legal, ethical and political issues with the emerging use and proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles, better known as drones.

Friday October 23rd, 13:15-14:30
Conference Room A, United Nations, New York.

Introduction: Maritza Chan (Costa Rica)

Speakers:

- Amrit Singh (Open Society Justice Initiative)
- Hani Shamsi (American Civil Liberties Union)
- Michael Spies (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs)
- Wim Zwijnenburg (PAX)

The session will facilitated by Alexandra Hiniker, PAX’s Representative to the United Nations in New York.
Speaker biographies:

Maritza Chan:
Maritza Chan has been a Minister Counsellor, Political Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations since 2010. As the Costa Rican expert to the First Committee, Ms. Chan was the Lead Negotiator of Costa Rica to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) negotiations, and is a member of the informal Expert Group on ATT Implementation (EAGAI). She previously served at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Embassy of Costa Rica to the United States in Washington, DC, from 2002 to 2009. Before joining the Foreign Service in 2002, she was a Senior Speechwriter for the President of Costa Rica.

Amrit Singh: Open Society Foundations Justice Initiative
Amrit Singh is Senior Legal Officer for National Security and Counterterrorism. She conducts strategic litigation, documentation and advocacy on a range of counterterrorism-related human rights issues including rendition, torture, arbitrary detention, drone killings, and surveillance. She was a law clerk to Judge Cedarbaum of the U.S. District Court (S.D.N.Y). She is author of Death by Drone, and Globalizing Torture and co-author of Administration of Torture. She is a graduate of the Yale Law School, Oxford University, and Cambridge University.

Hina Shamsi: American Civil Liberties Union
Hina Shamsi is the Director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s (ACLU) National Security Project, which is dedicated to ensuring that U.S. national security policies and practices are consistent with the Constitution, civil liberties, and human rights. She has litigated cases upholding the freedoms of speech and association, and challenging targeted killing, torture, unlawful detention, and post-9/11 discrimination against racial and religious minorities. She previously worked as a Staff Attorney in the National Security Project and was the Acting Director of Human Rights First's Law & Security Program. She also served as Senior Advisor to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions.

Wim Zwijnenburg: PAX
Wim Zwijnenburg is a Humanitarian Disarmament Project Leader for the Dutch peace organisation PAX. His work focuses on emerging military technologies and their impact on how wars are being fought and consequences for arms proliferation. He is the author of the reports Does Unmanned Make Unacceptable, Armed & Dangerous, and the latest report on drone proliferation Unmanned and Uncontrolled. He also works on the impact of conflict on the environment and has been involved in the Control Arms campaign on the Arms Trade Treaty. He holds a Masters in International Development Studies and received a Philosophy scholarship from the Thomas More Foundation.

Michael Spies: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Michael Spies joined the United Nations in 2009. He currently works as a Political Affairs Officer in the Strategic Planning Unit, Office of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). He primarily functions as a policy analyst with responsibilities including, tracking and assessing developments related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and emerging humanitarian disarmament issues. Before joining the U.N., Michael served as editor of the journal Arms Control Reporter, published by the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies and worked as research associate for several non-governmental organizations, including the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, the Lawyers’ Committee on Nuclear Policy, and the Los Alamos Study Group.