Preface

The idea for a research handbook on international law and cyberspace emerged from our own research and discussions in different fora about the applicability of international rules to cyberspace and to various cyber activities and the realisation that the range of issues and problems involved pose various challenges to international law. For this reason, we endeavoured to bring together an array of experts to offer original and insightful analysis of a host of legal issues pertaining to cyberspace and to various cyber activities.

The handbook starts with an examination of the legal status of cyberspace and of the way certain international law principles apply to cyberspace. These include sovereignty, jurisdiction, state responsibility, intellectual property rights, human rights, and individual criminal responsibility. Part II proceeds by setting out and analysing the legal rules that apply to cyber terrorism, cyber espionage, and cyber crime. Part III examines the rules that apply to cyber attacks whereas Part IV considers the application of international humanitarian law principles to cyberwar. Part V examines international and regional cyber security policies such as those of the EU, NATO, Asia-Pacific nations and of the United Nations.

This research handbook thus serves as a guide to academics, practitioners, researchers and students on the international law principles and rules that apply to cyberspace and to certain cyber activities. The handbook also serves as a basis for further research in this area by identifying a number of important issues that require more detailed and specialised treatment.

We are grateful to various people who have contributed in different ways to this research handbook. First, we are indebted to all the authors for their excellent contributions. We are also grateful to Professor Michael Schmitt for writing the introduction. Professor Schmitt has almost single-handedly placed cyber on the academic and policy agenda. Finally, we want to thank Andraz Kastelic, our research assistant, Robin Morris for his help with editing and proof-reading as well as Ben Booth, Jennifer Stanley and the Edward Elgar team for facilitating the production of this research handbook.

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Nicholas Tsagourias and Russell Buchan
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