

19 March 2015

Call for Background Paper
Montreux Document Regional Conference for Anglophone African states
Addis Ababa, September 2015

1. Call for Paper:

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) seeks to commission a background paper presenting research on the regulation of private military and security companies (PMSCs) and private security companies (PSCs) in Africa. The paper will provide food for thought to inform discussions during the 2015 Montreux Document Regional Conference in Addis Ababa. The Montreux Document is an intergovernmental initiative launched by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2008 to promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) whenever PMSCs are present in armed conflicts. DCAF supports the development, promotion and implementation of the Montreux Document.

DCAF is committed to promoting African scholarship on security sector reform (SSR) and security sector governance (SSG). On this basis, DCAF seeks proposals from African experts with knowledge and experience in the field of private security governance issues in Africa. The applicant must also demonstrate excellent research and professional writing and editing skills.

2. Guidelines:

The background paper must address the following issues:

- Describe the regional context for the PMSC/PSC industry as well as general trends and challenges related to regulation of PMSCs/PSCs in Africa.
- Identify specific challenges unique to the region (for example: the use of PMSCs and/or PSCs in: maritime security, extractive industry sites, humanitarian operations, training of police or national armed forces), giving specific examples.
- Provide a comparative analysis of existing regulatory approaches relevant to PMSCs/PSCs drawing on specific country case studies.

3. Application requirements and important dates:

Applications must be composed of the following:

- i. Curriculum vitae including previous research experience (1 page)
- ii. Outline for the background paper addressing structure, content, and methodology (1 page)

The paper will be subject to the following conditions and timelines:

- i. Final paper must be original work and between 4000-6000 words in length.
- ii. The paper will be published and distributed by DCAF in advance of the conference to facilitate in-depth discussions. In order to meet this deadline, a first draft must be received by 1 June 2015. Based on comments and editing provided by DCAF, a revised draft must be submitted 1 August 2015.
- iii. An honorarium of 1500 CHF will be offered upon acceptance of the final paper by DCAF.

Please email applications in MS Word format by 27 March 2015 to Anna Marie Burdzy, Project Officer,
[**a.burdzy@dcaf.ch**](mailto:a.burdzy@dcaf.ch)

Annex: Background

a. On DCAF:

DCAF is an international foundation established in 2000 whose mission is to assist the international community in pursuing good governance and reform of the security sector. As part of DCAF's holistic approach to SSR and SSG, DCAF's private security governance programme focuses on promoting transparency and accountability of the private security sector at international, regional and national levels. More information can be found here: <http://www.dcaf.ch/Programmes/Private-Security-Governance>.

b. On the Montreux Document:

The Montreux Document is an intergovernmental initiative launched by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2008 to promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) whenever PMSCs are present in armed conflicts. The Montreux Document clarifies and reaffirms relevant IHL and human rights law and encourages the adoption of national regulations on PMSCs through a compilation of good practices. The Montreux Document is not a legally binding instrument but seeks to provide guidance on the basis of existing international law. The Montreux Document also provides practical guidance in contexts outside situations of armed conflict, as its recommendations are best implemented during peacetime.

Today, the Montreux Document is supported by fifty one states, four of which are from Africa (Angola, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Uganda). The Montreux Document is also supported by three international organizations (EU, OSCE, NATO).

To increase support for the Montreux Document and to encourage debates on issues related to PMSCs, Switzerland, the ICRC and DCAF launched a multi-year programme of conferences, which have been held in Chile for Latin American states (2011), Mongolia for North East and Central Asia (2011), Australia for the Pacific region (2012), Philippines for Southeast Asia (2013) and Senegal for Francophone and Lusophone African states (2014). In this context, the next regional conference will gather English-speaking African states, and representatives of civil society, international organisations and companies in September 2015 and will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.