

Human Rights Council: First Session – Intergovernmental Working Group on Private Military and Security Companies

Australian Statement

Australia acknowledges the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Private Military and Security Companies.

Australia supports the development of a robust regulatory framework for the procurement and engagement of private military and security contractors, and remains firmly committed to the Montreux Document, the International Code of Conduct (ICoC) and its oversight mechanism, the Association of the International Code of Conduct (ICoCA), in this respect.

The Montreux Document is non-prescriptive, and provides a streamlined summary of States' international legal obligations when engaging private security providers in situations of armed conflict. These principles are reinforced by the ICoC and ICoCA.

Australia does not consider that a legally binding international convention on private military and security contractors is necessary or appropriate at this time. The relevant obligations already exist under international law.

Australia considers that that focus should be on securing wider endorsement of the Montreux Documents, strengthening the ICoCA's effectiveness through greater representation from States, and strengthening implementation of existing international obligations and best practice guidance through regulation at the national level.