

Montreux Document Forum Event

The Permanent Missions of Portugal and Switzerland with DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

Cordially invite you to attend the side event on “Strengthening Private Military and Security Companies’ Regulation in the Maritime Context”, to take place on

Thursday, 20 October 2022

From 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Conference Room 11,

United Nations Conference Building, 1st Basement Floor

The event will be preceded by a buffet at 12:45 pm, next to the Vienna café with light refreshments



Please register [here](#) by 18 October 2022

To join VTC follow this [link](#)

If prompted, enter the following info to join:

Meeting number: 2346 700 4180

Password: UNMPMC22!

BACKGROUND

Maritime security is part of a holistic ocean governance and is critical to improving ocean resilience and the ability of nations to pursue the blue economy agenda. To this end, maritime security strategies are necessary to ensure the protection of the maritime space, improve the standard of living of coastal communities, and strengthen the ability of States to sustainably use their marine resources.

Private military and security companies (PMSCs) are now part of the landscape as they play an important role in providing maritime security services, including in response to the phenomenon of piracy. It is therefore necessary to address the challenges posed by such operations, including with respect to jurisdiction or the relationship between PMSCs and coastal States. In this regard, the Montreux Document and the Reference Document are important international instruments that should be considered by states and other stakeholders in dealing with PMSCs to serve as a starting point for this much needed discussion.

The purpose of this side event is to provide a forum in which these challenges are openly debated. For that, the debate will count with the valuable contributions of representatives of coastal and flag States, international organizations, and civil society.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1. OPENING

Opening remarks by the Permanent Representative of Portugal and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland

2. PANEL

Mr. Mateus Kowalski, Chair of the MDF Maritime Working Group

Ms. Sorcha MacLeod, Chair of the UN Working Group on Mercenaries

Mr. Jon Huggins, Maritime Advisor and Researcher, Stable Seas Program

Mr. Evan M. Curt, Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Marshall Islands

3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

4. CLOSING

Closing remarks by Cristina Valdés Argüelles, DCAF