What is DCAF?

DCAF is an international foundation established in 2000 on the initiative of the Swiss Confederation, as the 'Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces'. DCAF contributes to enhancing **security sector governance** (SSG) through **security sector reform** (SSR). The Centre's work to support effective, efficient security sectors which are accountable to the state and its citizens is underpinned by the acknowledgement that security, development and the rule of law are essential preconditions for sustainable peace.

DCAF is guided by the principles of neutrality, impartiality, gender sensitivity and local ownership as the basis for supporting legitimate, sustainable reform processes.

Good governance of the security sector

Effective governance and civilian oversight of the security sector are essential (...) for peace and development.
(UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2008)

The security sector (...) should be subject to the same standards of efficiency, equity and accountability as any other public service.
(UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, 1999)

DCAF is based in **Geneva** with permanent offices in Beirut, Brussels, Ljubljana and Ramallah. The DCAF Foundation currently comprises **57 Member States** from across the globe. The Centre has over 100 staff from more than 30 countries.

Where does DCAF work?

DCAF conducts activities in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Comprehensive operational and policy research programmes are focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Northern Africa, the Newly Independent States and Southeast Europe.

What does DCAF do?

DCAF's core services:

- assessments
- programme design
- monitoring and evaluation
- tools and guidance development
- capacity-building and training
- knowledge services and publications

DCAF combines **conceptual**, **analytical** and **operational capabilities** in order to support a holistic SSR agenda. The Centre develops and promotes appropriate norms and standards at national and international levels, conducts policy-relevant research, offers tailored policy guidance and provides advisory field support and in-country assistance programmes.

DCAF's **International Security Sector Advisory Team** (ISSAT) reinforces the capacity of the international community to support SSR processes, primarily in conflict-affected and fragile states.

DCAF's thematic expertise:

- border management
- civil society capacity-building
- defence reform
- gender and SSR
- intelligence governance
- justice sector reform
- new issues in security sector governance
- ombudsman institutions
- parliamentary oversight
- police reform
- private security governance
- public-private partnerships

Who does DCAF work with?

DCAF applies a broad understanding of the security sector that incorporates core security actors, management and oversight bodies as well as private or informal security actors.

The Centre places particular emphasis on supporting security sector governance institutions and actors. These include:

- executive authorities
- parliaments and interparliamentary bodies
- judicial authorities
- security sector actors
- ombudsman institutions
- media
- expert networks
- civil society organisations

DCAF partners include a wide range of governments, parliaments, international organisations, non-governmental and private actors.

DCAF works directly with **national SSR stakeholders** in different national and regional settings.

DCAF contributes to the efforts of **bilateral donors** in supporting SSR, promoting coherence, coordination and complementarity in line with the whole-of-government / whole-of-institution and 3Cs agenda.

DCAF works with **multilateral institutions** – in particular the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, as well as other regional and sub-regional organisations – in enhancing their role in the SSR field.

DCAF actively fosters partnerships with regional and global SSR-related **expert networks**.

DCAF facilitates or otherwise supports innovative **multi-stakeholder processes** of policy development and implementation in the field of security governance.

DCAF Member States

Albania
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
Cote d'ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Geneva (Canton)
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malta
Moldova
Montenegro
Netherlands
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Russian Federation
Senegal
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Slovenia
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Spain
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Switzerland
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