

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in South Asia



DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically driven, by:



Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed



Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policies



Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive

DCAF's engagement consists of:



Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes



Capacity building for state and non-state actors



Publishing research and knowledge products



Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices



Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions

Sub-Regional Network

DCAF's Asia-Pacific Unit (APU) takes a unique sub-regional approach to promoting good security sector governance (SSG) and security sector reform (SSR) in the Asia-Pacific region. APU has a vision of fostering interregional and intraregional dialogues, experience-sharing and cooperation within and between the sub-regions of South, Southeast and East Asia, in order to improve ongoing and launch new national SSR processes.

APU has created a network of partner institutions and SSG associates (experts working on security sector-related issues) in all three sub-regions. These partners are brought together at annual sub-regional and Asia-Pacific regional forums to allow participants to share and learn from each other's experiences in promoting good SSG through SSR activities.

APU's partners in turn assemble a group of security sector representatives and experts in national SSG working groups. They review the status of good SSG in their respective countries and define needs for improvement. These are translated into specific SSR activities, for which APU seeks funding so that such SSR activities can be implemented.

Beyond specific network activities, APU continues national-level activities in different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes its long-standing work in Myanmar, as well as direct requests by national actors that are not part of the regional network. However, for any such activities to happen, external funding must be secured to cover operational and staff costs for partners and APU.

Country	Partner Institution
Afghanistan	National Center for Dialogue and Progress (NCDP)
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)
Bhutan	
India	United Service Institution of India (USI)
Maldives	
Nepal	Nepal Centre for Security Governance (NCSG)
Pakistan	Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA)
Sri Lanka	The Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation (TiME)

THEMATIC



**PARLIAMENTARY
OVERSIGHT**



**GENDER AND
SECURITY**



**POLICE AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT
REFORM**



**BORDER
MANAGEMENT**



**DEFENCE REFORM
AND DEFENCE
INTEGRITY
BUILDING**

Overview

› AFGHANISTAN

Peacebuilding in Afghanistan has involved establishing many institutions, including the national parliament, army, police, and security services. Despite optimism surrounding recent elections and peace talks, continued instability could hinder SSG progress. Priorities include improved security sector oversight by parliament, CSOs, ombuds institutions and media; improving gender awareness and equality in security services; and improving policing integrity. DCAF partners with the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies to advance trainings on parliamentary oversight.

› BANGLADESH

Recurrent natural disasters, political instability and the Rohingya refugee crisis undermine efforts to improve SSG in Bangladesh. Priority areas include preventing violent extremism, and improving awareness and capabilities of security services in relation to migration issues and maritime security, and addressing cybersecurity and the spread of fake news through improved media awareness about security issues. DCAF engages with the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies to develop training and programs for media and increased civil society engagement.

› BHUTAN

The establishment of parliamentary democracy in Bhutan included many institutional reforms. Notwithstanding issues regarding the stability of nascent national institutions, this reform period offers numerous opportunities for improvements in SSG. DCAF is considering partnerships to collaborate on the SSG priority areas of security services oversight, with opportunities to improve awareness and capabilities of parliament, and of CSOs and media about roles and responsibilities within security sector oversight.

› INDIA

India has undertaken reforms in a number of key security sectors. However, the federal system and large scale of security services present significant challenges. SSG priorities to be addressed include improved awareness about both land and maritime migration and border management. DCAF has engaged with its partner on a number of topics and is working to develop an understanding of needs and an overview of national strategic planning processes and reforms to create effective projects.

EXPERTISE



**INDEPENDENT
OVERSIGHT
INSTITUTIONS**



**CIVIL SOCIETY AND
MEDIA OVERSIGHT**



**JUSTICE SECTOR
REFORM**



**INTELLIGENCE
GOVERNANCE**



**PRIVATE SECURITY
GOVERNANCE**

› MALDIVES

Following elections in 2019, the government of Maldives undertook comprehensive governance reform, including a review of the justice system and security sector. SSG priorities include improving oversight of security services by CSOs, ombuds institutions and media, and improvements in police integrity. Preventing violent extremism is a particular priority for the government. DCAF is developing a concept for a project on preventing violent extremism in prisons and is currently pursuing contacts to identify the right partner to work with for this.

› NEPAL

Constitutional reforms in Nepal require continued institutional reform. Its federal restructuring presents risks and opportunities. SSG priorities are legislative reforms, capacity building of CSOs regarding SSG and security and government services at the federal and provincial level, parliamentary oversight, and strengthening the National Human Rights Council (NHRC). DCAF partners with the Nepal Centre for Security Governance in developing concepts that determine the need for trainings on parliamentary oversight, CSOs, media, police integrity, and the NHRC.

› PAKISTAN

Pakistan has suffered political upheavals that hampered attempts to strengthen democratic institutions. Its security pressures necessitate a broad SSG approach. DCAF and its partner, the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA), see oversight of security services by CSOs and media outlets as a priority, as well as regulating of private security actors, preventing violent extremism, and gender awareness in security services. DCAF and PIIA are developing project concepts to improve civil society engagement, media, and police integrity.

› SRI LANKA

Political instability in Sri Lanka, and instability associated with disasters and terrorist threats, has diverted attention and resources from the movement towards improved SSG since the end of the civil war. DCAF partners with the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies to determine the priority areas for next steps toward improved SSG: preventing violent extremism, improving gender awareness in security services, reforming and capacity building of police services, and reforming the National Security Policy including maritime security.



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