

The Montreux Document

Overview

Adopted in 2008, the [Montreux Document](#) is the first document of international significance to reaffirm **the existing obligations of states under international law**, in particular international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law, **relating to the activities of private military and security companies (PMSCs)**. It also lists good practices designed to help states take national measures to implement these obligations. The Montreux Document seeks to provide guidance based on existing international law; it is therefore not a legally binding treaty and does not create new legal obligations.

The result of an international process launched by the Government of Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Montreux Document provides a blueprint for governments to **more effectively regulate PMSCs** and strengthens security sector governance. DCAF hosts the Secretariat of the [Montreux Document Forum](#), supports the Co-Chairs (currently Switzerland and the ICRC) in outreach and dissemination of the Document, and provides thematic advisory support to States on the national implementation of the Document's norms and good practices.

In line with our mandate, **DCAF encourages states who are not familiar with, or do not support the Montreux Document at present, to consider doing so**. This can be done by a simple official letter or diplomatic note to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, based on the template below.

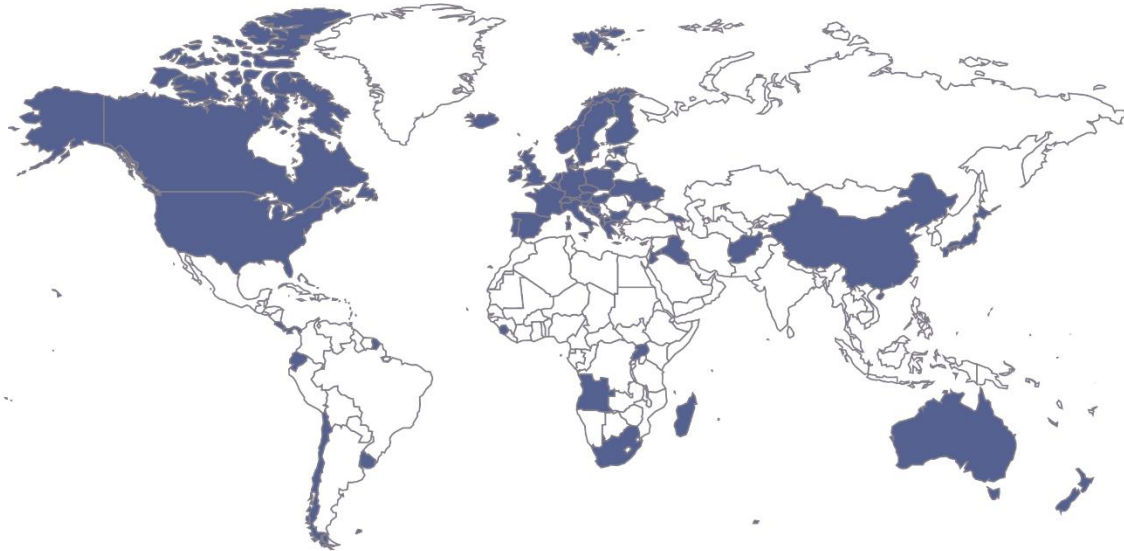
In its capacity as Montreux Document Secretariat, DCAF stands ready to provide additional information and briefings to interested States, through s.kung@dcaf.ch or info@mdforum.ch.

[The Montreux Document online](#)

[More information on how to join the Montreux Document and why](#)

[More information on advisory support for Montreux Document Participants](#)

Montreux Document Participants



List of participating states as of 1 June 2020¹:

African Group:

Angola, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda

Asia-Pacific Group:

Afghanistan, China, Cyprus, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar

Eastern European Group:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, North Macedonia, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine

Latin America and Caribbean Group:

Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay

Western Europe and Others Group:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America.

¹ Classification in accordance with the United Nations Regional Groups of Member States:
<https://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>



Template to join the Montreux Document

_____ presents its compliments to the [Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in _____] OR [Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations] OR [Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation] and has the honor to inform that _____ hereby expresses its support to the Montreux Document on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for states related to operations of private military and security' companies during armed conflict. Thereby, _____ joins the Montreux Document and its name can be added to the list of participating States.

_____ avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the [Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in _____] OR [Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations] OR [Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation] the assurances of its highest consideration.