**Statement of Pakistan**

**IGWG on PMSCs**

Madam Chair,

Let me start by congratulating you on your election for the Chair of this important Working Group and will support you in your work.

2. Pakistan fully supports the work of the IGWG and has been actively engaged previously in the deliberations. We will participate in the discussion without prejudging the final outcome. We consider that the IGWG through its work can fill in the gaps in the international law regarding the regulation of PMSCs. Currently either we have self regulating or national/ regional mechanisms to deal with the work of the PMSCs, however due to the transnational nature of their work, PMSCs need to be regulated through an international framework.

3. We consider that IGWG can build on the work already done in this field such as the Monteux document. Different streams of work should not be seeing as competing but complementing eachother.

4. We want to highlight a few important elements that must be considered by the IGWG. Firstly, the IGWG should cover the broad definition of complex environments and related services of the PMSCs. In this regard, the concept of mercenaries is closely linked with that of PMSCs and we would urge to make use of the expertise of the WG on the use of Mercenaries. Secondly, the basic right to self determination of the people must be reflected in the future instrument, considering that the occupiers have been seen to employ PMSCs to crush the legitimate struggle of the people under occupation. Moreover, people carrying out their legitimate struggle for their right to self determination must not be equated with mercenaries or terrorists. Thirdly, the regulation of PMSCs is in the best interests of the companies, so that they could work in a predictable and rule based environment. Fourthly, the concepts of effective vetting, mutual legal assistance between States for accountability of PMSCs of human rights violations, remedial measures, responsibility of States of nationality, contracting, territorial and host States, responsibility within the chain of command of the PMSCs etc. are important.

5. We look forward to the discussions and hearing views from experts.

I thankyou Madam Chair.