

## UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights – Project Inputs

*This document contains inputs to the Project on Business in Conflict and Post-Conflict Contexts of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, jointly offered by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).*

### Addressing Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments

#### 1. DCAF-ICRC Partnership

Addressing security and human rights challenges is essential for underdeveloped States with weak governance. In this regard, the work of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made an important contribution to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development as well as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. More specifically, the partnership has contributed to the implementation of multistakeholder initiatives such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

Since 2012, with the financial support of the Swiss government, DCAF and the ICRC have developed tools and guidance documents in response to needs expressed by companies, governments and civil society organisations with the following objectives in mind:

- Promote security and human rights good practices by developing practical guidance tools and training materials for business actors in complex security environments;
- Influence key stakeholders in the business and human rights field through outreach and engagement;
- Facilitate the adoption of responsible business practices through multistakeholder initiatives;
- Reinforce on-the-ground implementation of security and human rights good practices through the Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM).

#### 2. Toolkit and Knowledge Hub on Addressing Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments

The two main products developed by the DCAF-ICRC partnership are the [Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments Toolkit](#) and [Security and Human Rights Knowledge Hub](#):

- The **Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments Toolkit** (Available in English, French, Spanish and Chinese) is divided into four chapters (Working with: (1) Host Governments; (2) Public Security Forces; (3) Private Security Providers; (4) Communities). The Toolkit is structured around the **real-life security and human rights challenges** that companies face when operating in complex environments. It sets out good practices and recommendations, and contains a number of checklists and case studies, providing insights into **how enhanced human rights due diligence can be conducted in conflict and post-conflict situations**.

The Toolkit is based on a survey of existing literature and tools dealing with security and human rights. The survey included visits to conflict-prone areas in South America and Africa, with hundreds of meetings with practitioners at HQ and field levels, highlighting the security and human rights problems that companies face and ways in which they could resolve those problems.

- The **Security and Human Rights Knowledge Hub** is a web platform that brings together guidance documents, tools and case studies that address security and human rights-related issues. The Knowledge Hub includes a wealth of resources and tools that outline **specific measures** businesses should take in conflict and post-conflict situations, with a particular focus on **stakeholder engagement, risk assessment and engagement with public and private security forces**.

For example, a new addition to the Knowledge Hub – **Legislative Guidance Tool for States to Regulate Private Military and Security Companies** (Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese) – provides practical guidance to parliamentarians to develop or update national legislation related to private military and security companies (PMSCs) in line with international legal obligations and taking into account good practices.

The **Gender and Private Security Regulation Policy Brief** sets out how States can integrate a gender perspective in the regulation of PMSCs through: establishing a national regulatory authority with gender expertise, integrating a gender perspective in licensing requirements, as well as procurement and contracting of private security and military company services, ensuring effective grievance (complaints) mechanisms, paying attention to sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence, and integrating a gender perspective in the State oversight and monitoring of PMSCs.

The Knowledge Hub also profiles **a thematic supplement on private security governance to the National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights Toolkit**, developed by DCAF and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The Supplement provides insights and guidance into the analysis of existing legal frameworks and policy responses for the development of new laws, policies, and practices that respond specifically to the human rights risks related to the private security industry. It is a tool for States and other human rights stakeholders, such as national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) as well as private security providers (PSPs) themselves, to evaluate the human rights risks and impacts of ongoing and potential private security operations and services.

These products offer practical guidance to all stakeholders involved in fragile conflict settings. The products are complemented by a number of additional tools developed with a variety of practitioners. These additional tools are all practice-driven and have a focus on security and human rights.

### 3. DCAF Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM)

The DCAF SHRIM is a multi-donor trust fund committed to improving security and human rights good practices on the ground in a cost-effective way. The SHRIM builds on the engagement of committed donors combined with DCAF's unique expertise developing international multi-actor mechanisms to support targeted, cost-effective security, development and human rights programming in fragile contexts.

Examples of SHRIM projects include: improving Voluntary Principles implementation in Peru, training public security forces assigned to areas of extractive operations in Kenya, and improving the field implementation of the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects are further illustrated by case studies on the Knowledge Hub.

#### 4. DCAF-ICRC Products and Initiatives – Useful Links

- Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments Toolkit ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#))
- DCAF-ICRC Security and Human Rights Knowledge Hub ([English](#))
- Legislative Guidance Tool for States to Regulate Private Military and Security Companies ([English](#), [Chinese](#))
- Gender and Private Security Regulation Policy Brief ([English](#))
- Private Security Governance and National Action Plans (NAPS) on Business and Human Rights – a Thematic Supplement to ‘National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights: A Toolkit for the Development, Implementation, and Review of State Commitments to Business and Human Rights Frameworks’ ([English](#))

*(11.03.2020 – Note: As we are slowly migrating the Knowledge Hub to a new web platform, some of the weblinks above may change in the next few months – however, these DCAF-ICRC products and initiatives will remain accessible on the new platform.)*