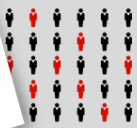


Private Security Governance Observatory: Promoting good private security governance in Africa

Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Montreux Document Forum,
Geneva, 7 June 2018

Prof. Obafemi Ajibola

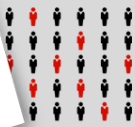


What is the Private Security Governance Observatory?

Network of African civil society organizations (CSOs) that seek to share knowledge and reinforce their organizational capacity **to promote good governance of the private security sector:**

- Established in 2016
- Initiated and supported by Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- CSOs share a concern for security and human rights, and are interested in promoting oversight and accountability of private security providers
- Main focus is on the regulation of private security companies (PSCs)





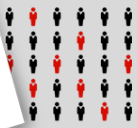
Purpose of the Observatory

The Observatory provides tools to strengthen CSOs' capacities in the good governance of private security and offers a platform for them to share their experiences and good practices on the topic.

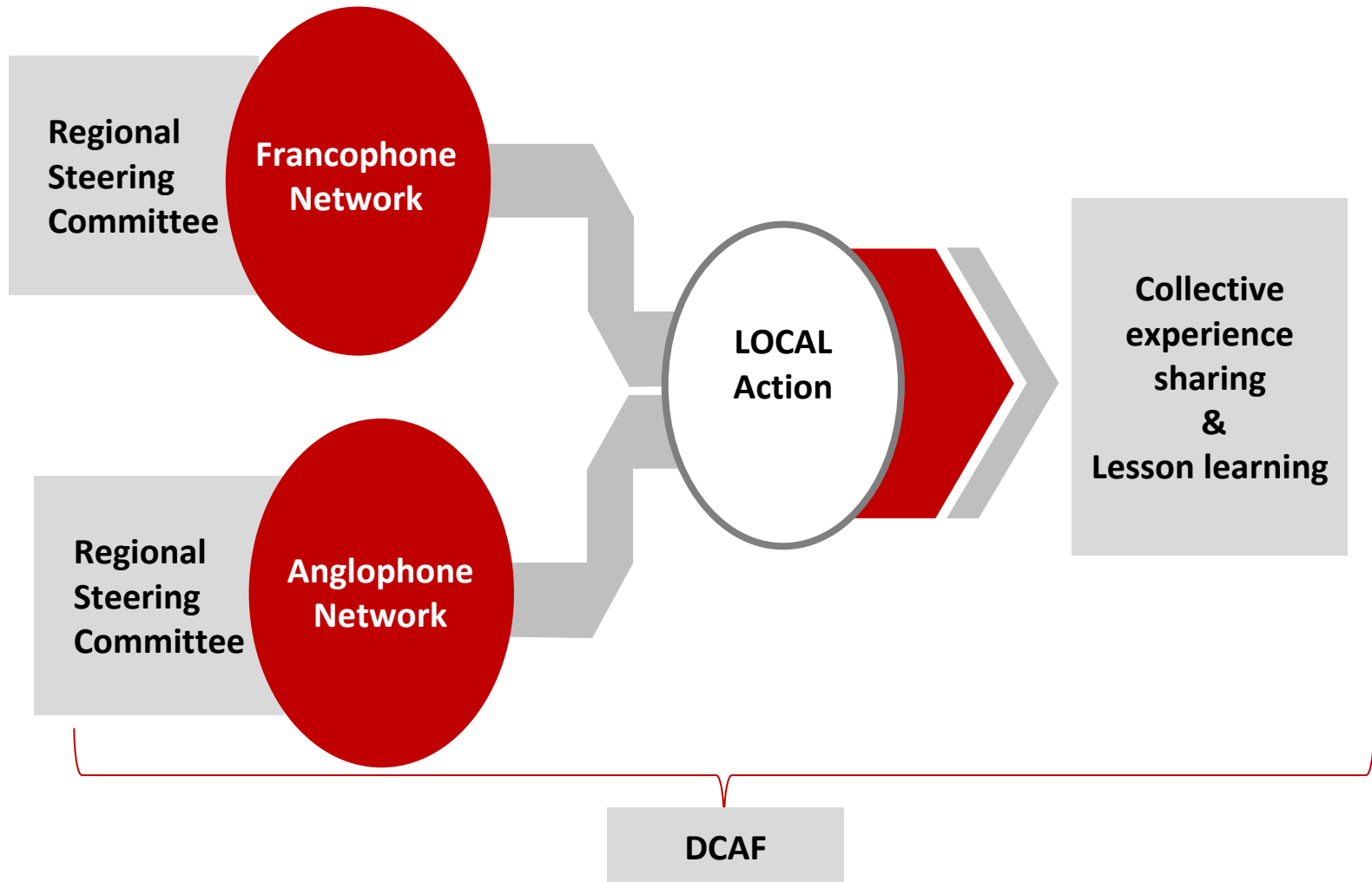
The objectives of the Observatory are:

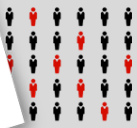
- To foster an enabling environment for CSO network building and to establish a CSO community of practice, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and good practices;
- To support the capacity of CSOs to engage effectively with national authorities, international organisations and companies in order to support more effective oversight and accountability of private security;
- To identify and facilitate entry points for civil society advocacy and monitoring to contribute to accountability mechanisms at national, regional and international levels.





Governance structure of the Observatory





Reach: Observatory network across Africa

Francophone Network

46 CSOs

11 Countries

Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

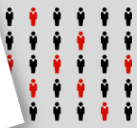
Anglophone Network

15 CSOs

7 Countries

Tanzania, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sierra Leone





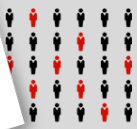
CSOs' role in the good governance of the private security industry

CSOs have the potential to undertake a crucial role in promoting good governance of the private security sector. They are a key actor, having the capacity to interact – or to facilitate interactions – with all pertinent stakeholders, be it as **human rights defender**, as the **voice of community**, or as a **facilitator**.

The main roles of CSOs can include:

- Knowledge building and sharing lessons learnt;
- Awareness raising of and participation to the formulation of national policies;
- Monitoring of the industry;
- Complaints handling and assistance to victims;
- Engage with government to foster information sharing and develop oversight and accountability mechanisms (as recommended in MD Good Practice 21)





Key challenges faced by many CSOs

Lack of expertise
and capacity
amongst CSOs

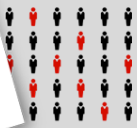
Poor
collaboration or
cooperation
amongst CSOs

Lack of trust
and/or
transparency
between CSOs
and the security
sector

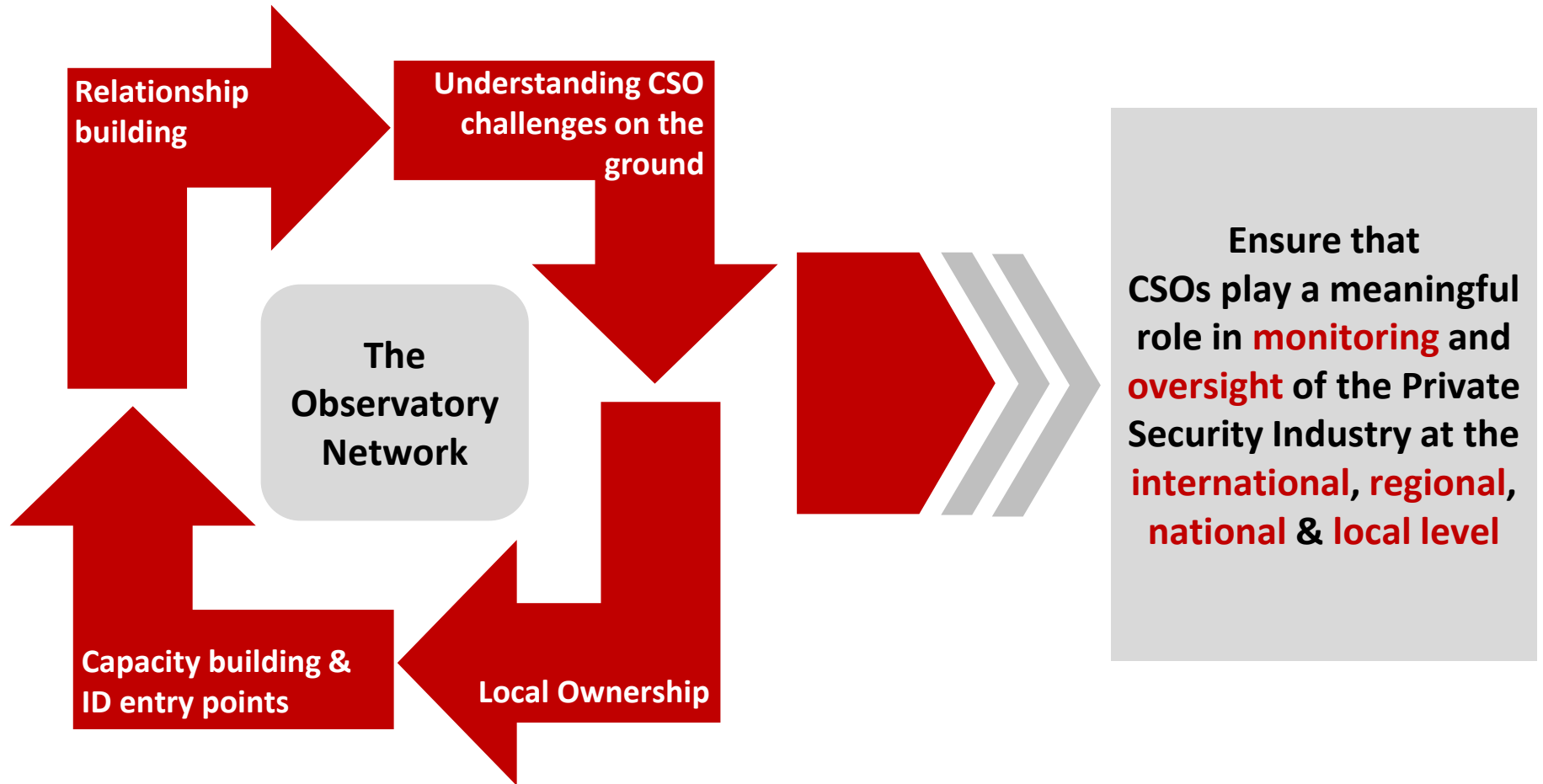
Tradition of
secrecy
surrounding
the security
sector

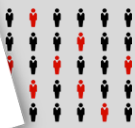
Prioritisation
of national
security
concerns
over civil
liberties and
human rights

Too little donor support for
transparency and
democratic accountability of
the security sector



Some lessons learnt





Conclusion & Way Forward

Can bring international mechanisms such as MD to local context and lobby government to adopt such

Can explain the mechanism to the general public and educate the public on what government has signed up to – to ensure general support

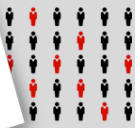
Can collaborate with & facilitate collaboration among government, private security companies & general public to ensure successful implementation

Can deploy its skills and knowledge to support monitoring and oversight of the private security sector

Can collect information on compliance of the private security companies and report on violation of human rights

Can provide needed capacity building to ensure successful implementation of the MD

Observatory/CSOs
can be a link
essential to the
success of the
implementation of
the MD in our
countries



Thank you for your attention

More information at: <http://www.observatoire-securite-privee.org>

Contact us at: info@privatesecurityobservatory.org