



Working Group on the International Code of
Conduct Association (ICoCA Working Group)

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Meeting of 6 June 2018

Chair's Summary

1. Update from the Executive Director of the ICoCA the Strategic Plan

The ninth exchange of the ICoCA Working Group was attended by 15 Montreux Document Participants, the Executive Director of the ICoCA (Mr. Jamie Williamson), as well as the MDF Secretariat. Mr. Ian McKay, representing the United States as the Chair of the Working Group recalled that this meeting was intended to serve as an opportunity to engage with the Executive Director regarding the Association's work to produce a strategic plan for the ICoCA's future operations. A questionnaire was circulated to Montreux Document participants in advance, giving delegations the opportunity to provide written feedback to inform the strategic plan. The Chair thanked those Montreux Document participants who provided responses to the questionnaire. The meeting of the Working Group also served to provide updates to the ICoCA's activities.

2. Discussion and Feedback

One Montreux Document participant inquired as to the long term goals of the strategic plan. The Executive Director noted that the Plan would build on the objectives established for 2018 namely: (1) to increase government membership and recognition; (2) to increase client engagement; (3) to streamline certification processes; (4) to strengthen operational awareness and credibility; (5) to broaden funding streams and (6) to develop synergies with other initiatives and platforms in the field of private security regulation. In addition, the ICoCA was in the process of gathering and analyzing information and data to assess the nature and human rights impact of security industry trends, to enable the validation of approaches and goals identified by ICoCA.

The Executive Director also discussed that the feedbacks submitted by Montreux Document participants were received and discussed by the Board of the ICoCA in May. The strategic plan will be finalized by 30 November and shared with Montreux Document participants when it will be presented at the ICoCA 2018 Annual General Assembly.

3. ICoCA Governance Update

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Rémy Friedmann, notified MDF participants that there will be an election by the end of the year to fill two seats on the Board of Directors, with ICoCA Government Members eligible to vote. He invited Montreux Document participants who have not yet done so to consider joining ICoCA and present a candidate for the Board of Directors.

4. Thematic Presentation by the Executive Director

The Executive Director of the ICoCA first gave an update on membership. In April 2018, two new civil society organisations (CSOs) from Iraq were approved. There are currently 26 CSO Members. As of early - June, 6 ICoCA Certification applications were under review; and 13 ICoCA Member companies were certified. There were 30 membership applications under review. The Executive Director furthermore described that industry membership is quite diverse. Company Members were headquartered in 34 countries and in terms of revenue, the majority of companies in the ICoCA (77%) were considered as “small” (\$ 0-20 M). Of the Association’s 93 industry Members in early June, 51 were operating on land, 16 members were maritime-based, and 26 had both maritime and land-based operations. The number of Government Members sits currently at seven.

A number of Montreux Document participants inquired as to the status of providing more access to Certification. The Executive Director reiterated that the Association performs a complementary approach to the work of Certification Bodies. To improve access to ICoCA Certification, the Secretariat is continuing its consultations with Certification and Accreditation Bodies in order to further assess existing options for small and medium-sized companies with respect to challenges faced in achieving certification.

With respect to the Monitoring and Complaints function, the ICoCA has launched its first thematic guidance on the topic of Company Grievance Mechanisms (CGM) in June 2018. In collaboration with Member companies, DCAF and other experts, the ICoCA developed the guidance to assist Member companies to fulfill their commitments under the Code. The Guidance is structured in two documents: an explanatory [manual](#) and an [interpretative](#) guidance offering good practices.

The Executive Director also gave an overview of an upcoming Field Based Review planned for Ghana in June 2018. The ICoCA intended to engage with a range of stakeholders involved in the private security industry including Member security companies, government authorities, clients, civil society organisations and security associations. The Executive Director described that the mission would focus on issues such as vetting of personnel and subcontractors, safeguarding vulnerable persons, the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and training of personnel. The mission would also involve direct engagement and outreach with Members and other security companies and with key local CSOs.

With respect to outreach, the ICoCA is also focusing on supporting engagement with civil society organisations. Under the leadership of *l’Observatoire de la Société Civile pour les Minerais de paix* (OSCMP), member of the ICoCA, 25 Congolese civil society organisations met during a workshop in Goma in May 2018 to discuss the role of civil society in monitoring private security companies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the ensuing discussion, one Montreux Document participant inquired if there are plans to intensify outreach to governments in order to grow membership. The Executive Director described that active outreach efforts are currently being undertaken.

5. AOB

The Chair announced that the next Working Group meeting will take place by the end of the year, to be confirmed.