Supplement to the Annual Report – January 2016

The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association (“ICoCA”), in response to a request from the Montreux Document Forum’s Working Group on the ICoCA, hereby submits the following supplement to the 2014-2015 Annual Report that was presented to the ICoCA General Assembly at the Association’s 08 October 2015 Annual Meeting. The supplement provides material updates on the ICoCA’s ongoing work regarding its core governance and oversight functions since October 1, 2015.

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1. GOVERNANCE

1.1. ICoCA Board of Directors

The General Assembly, in its 08 October 2015 Annual Meeting, voted to appoint one new Director to represent the Industry Pillar, and to re-appoint both the United States and Sweden, each to a second term as Government Pillar representatives.

The new Industry Pillar Director, Ms. Pamela Hosein (Amalgamated Security Services Ltd, Trinidad and Tobago), replaces Mark Knight (Montreux Solutions, Switzerland), whose seat on the Board expired on 07 October. In addition, the United States announced that Ms. Katherine Gorove (U.S. Department of State) had been designated to serve as a Board Director on behalf of the United States, and the Government of Sweden announced that Ambassador (Ret.) Bertil Roth had once again been designated to continue service on the Board on behalf of the Sweden.

As currently constituted, the following persons serve the ICoCA Board of Directors (pillar affiliation and term expiration date indicated for each):

Amol Mehra, representing Civil Society Organizations, serving until Sept 2016
Aly Sagne, representing Civil Society Organizations, serving until Sept 2016
Margaret Roggensack, representing Civil Society Organizations, serving until Sept 2017
Michael Posner, representing Civil Society Organizations, serving until Sept 2017
Alan Donohue, representing Industry, serving until Sept 2017
Andrew Nicholson, representing Industry, serving until Sept 2017
Pamela Hosein, representing Industry, serving until Sept 2018
Chris Sanderson, representing Industry, serving until Sept 2016
Rémy Friedmann (Board Chair), designated by Switzerland, serving until Sept 2016
Katherine Gorove, designated by the United States, serving until Sept 2018
Sophia Willitts-King, designated by the United Kingdom, serving until Sept 2016
Ambassador (Ret.) Bertil Roth, designated by Sweden, serving until Sept 2018
2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Membership Growth

Since October 2015, an additional 11 applications from PSCs for ICoCA membership have been approved, bringing the current total ICoCA Industry Pillar membership to 99. An additional 31 applications from PSCs are currently under review. Two (2) applications for membership in the CSO Pillar are under review, and a decision on those is expected in the near future from the CSO Pillar in accordance with the process described in the Membership Requirements document. The ICoCA does not currently have any outstanding applications for membership from governments. A list of the current ICoCA members can be found at http://www.icoca.ch/en/membership.

3. ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTION DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Administration and Oversight

3.1.1. Development of Certification Procedures (Article 11)

During the General Assembly’s Annual Meeting, the membership discussed the requirement for ICoCA Members to become certified by 1 July 2016, as well as current ICoCA Certification Procedures and the extent to which existing and potential ICoCA members may face challenges in accessing and completing the certification process. In particular, the Membership noted the following:

- At present, the ICoCA has only formally recognized one standard for certification of PSCs operating on land: ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 (“PSC.1”).
- Twelve (12) ICoCA members have achieved certification to PSC.1.
- At present, there are only two (2) certification bodies that have been accredited by national accreditation services to offer certification to PSC.1, both of which are based in Europe and operate principally in English. Two others are in the process of obtaining accreditation, but have not yet completed the process. Both of the two prospective additional certification bodies are also based in Europe and operate principally in English.
- An additional standard for PSCs operating on land, ISO 18788, was published in summer 2015 and is currently being reviewed by the ICoCA for recognition. It is not, however, expected that any certification bodies will be in a position to offer certification to ISO 18788 until Spring/Summer 2016.
- Members reported concerns about the cost of obtaining certification (particularly for smaller companies and those companies located farther from the present certification bodies), difficulty in understanding the requirements to obtain certification, and concerns about the implications (cost and otherwise) for companies that do not operate in or maintain their documentation in English.
- Members also noted that the existing standards (PSC.1 and ISO 18788) were fairly robust and comprehensive, and represent the only industry-specific standards based on the ICoC for PSCs operating on land. Some members expressed a concern that recognition of other less industry-specific standards and/or standards not based on the Code would make it difficult for the ICoCA to maintain a meaningful certification requirement, and would result in “dilution of standards.”
Based on these questions and concerns, the Board requested that the ICoCA Secretariat conduct a preliminary inquiry into barriers to certification under existing standards. The Secretariat conducted telephonic interviews with approximately 25 PSCs in November 2016, and presented its preliminary results to the Board at the Board’s 4th Quarter Meeting in December 2016. Among other observations, the Secretariat study confirmed that the current cost of obtaining certification to PSC.1 is significant and, when coupled with travel and other logistical costs for auditors and the additional challenges for companies operating in languages other than English, was likely to remain a material “barrier to entry” for a significant number of PSCs in the current environment.

At the December Board Meeting, the Board decided that the Certification Committee would meet in London on 27 January 2016 to discuss potential courses of action (a/k/a “alternative pathways to certification”) that might address these and other barriers to certification and help to create a system that would both be accessible to all PSCs who were prepared to fully demonstrate a commitment to implementing the Code in their systems and policies and, at the same time, would also maintain the ICoCA’s commitment to rigorous standards (as represented, for example, by PSC.1 and ISO 18788).

The ICoCA Certification Committee has also completed its assessment of ISO 28007-1 (Guidance for Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) providing privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) on board ships). A Draft Recognition Statement is expected to be issued for public comment, in accordance with the Certification Procedure, by the end of January 2016.

3.1.2. Development of Reporting, Monitoring and Performance Assessment Procedures (Article 12)

Following the October General Assembly, the Board’s Working Group on Article 12 has held a weekly telephonic conference to work towards the development of procedures to implement the processes defined in Article 12. In November, the Working Group focused on the development of preliminary sets of performance indicators tracking five core requirements and prohibitions in the Code.

In December 2015, the Board’s Working Group on Article 12 Procedures met in Washington, DC to discuss the performance indicators as well as a first draft of Article 12 Procedures prepared by the Secretariat. The Article 12 Working Group continues its weekly calls and is nearing completion of the draft procedures. The WG further expects to complete its draft compliance indicators, and to present the resulting drafts to the Board for discussion at the March 2016 First Quarter Board Meeting.

Geneva, Switzerland
22 January, 2016