



The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers

Established in 2010, the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC) sets forth a commonly-agreed set of principles for private security companies (PSCs) and establishes a foundation to translate those principles into related standards as well as governance and oversight mechanisms. An oversight mechanism, the ICoC Association, was established in Geneva, Switzerland in September of 2013 and functions as a multi-stakeholder body charged with promoting, governing and overseeing implementation of the ICoC. This entails promoting the responsible provision of security services and respect for human rights and national and international law, through activities that include certification of member company systems and policies, monitoring of performance, and consideration of third-party complaints.

Objective

The ICoC aims to establish a foundation to provide standards for the private security industry operating in complex environments, as well as to improve oversight and accountability of PSCs.

How the ICoC and the ICoC Association can benefit governments

- By promoting good practices and transparency within the private security industry.
- By supporting government policy objectives including humanitarian and development assistance, investment, and conflict prevention.
- By facilitating oversight of private security activities conducted in under-regulated environments.
- By providing a platform to engage with private security companies and civil society to identify human rights-related risks and develop collaborative risk-management approaches.

Membership Criteria

Final membership criteria will be developed by the ICoC Association's Board of Directors, based on the following criteria established in the Articles of Association:

- Membership criteria for PSCs include certification and annual dues.
- States and intergovernmental organizations that support the Montreux Document (MD) and express intent to support the principles of the ICoC and participate in the activities of the ICoC Association are eligible. As members, they commit to provide information related to implementation of the MD and the ICoC and promote compliance with the ICoC in their contracting practices and policies.
- Civil Society organizations that establish independence and a demonstrated institutional record of promoting and protecting human rights, humanitarian law or the rule of law are eligible. Civil society members commit to promote the purpose of the ICoC Association.
- Other entities may be eligible to join as non-voting Observers.

For background on ICoC members and additional information see: <http://www.icoca.ch/>