

Working Group on the use of mercenaries

Panel Event: Use of private military and security companies by the United Nations

Wednesday, 5 March 2014, 10:00-13:00

Room IX, Palais des Nations

Geneva

AGENDA

10:00 - 10:10 Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Patricia Arias (Chairperson-Rapporteur, Working Group on the use of mercenaries)

10:10 – 10:20 Opening remarks by Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights

10:25 – 10:55

I. Outsourcing security to private contractors: what challenges for the United Nations?

- What risks does outsourcing security to private contractors pose to UN staff, UN operations, and the image of the UN?
- Is hiring PMSCs necessary and is it the only feasible/practicable solution to ensure security of UN staff, and operations? When does the UN resort to PMSCs?
- How do the UN Policy and Guidelines on the use of armed guards mitigate the risks posed by PMSCs?

Panellists:

Mr. Stuart Groves (Former Chief Security Coordinator, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

Mr. Rick Cottam (United Nations Staff Union, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia)

10:55-11:30 Discussion with participants

11:30-12:05

II. Suggestions for the way forward

- How to strengthen the "UN Guidelines" on the use of armed guards and their application?
- How to address other types of security services that are not covered by the UN Guidelines?

- How to ensure that the UN has an efficient selection and vetting process when employing private security companies?
- How to ensure accountability for possible human rights violations committed by private security companies?
- Examples of "best practices" which may be used as future policy guidance for the United Nations and other international organizations

Panellists: Ms. Åse Østensen, Assistant Professor, Royal Norwegian Naval Academy

Ms. Elke Krahnmann, Professor of Security Studies, Department of Politics and History, Brunel University (United Kingdom)

12:05-12:50: Discussion with participants

12:50: Closing remarks by Ms. Patricia Arias

For more information about the Working Group, log on to:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Mercenaries/WGMercenaries/Pages/WGMercenariesIndex.aspx>