



Observatory Newsletter

February 2019

News and events

1. Have a look at the report of the Observatory's Annual Conference
2. We are launching an updated website
3. Call for submissions from the UN Working Group on the use of Mercenaries

What's new with the Observatory projects?

4. Discover the Observatory's ongoing projects

Members spotlights

5. Private Security Training Curriculum in Kenya: Usalama's engagement
6. AFRILAW's partnership with the Nigerian private security authority



1. Have a look at the report of the Observatory's Annual Conference

The African Private Security Governance Observatory held its Annual Conference on 8th and 9th October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme: "Promoting oversight and accountability of the private security sector in Africa." The conference was hosted by the Usalama Reforms Forum, local partner member of the Observatory, with the support of DCAF.



The first Annual Conference brought together the network of civil society organizations (CSOs) within the African Private Security Governance Observatory. Approximately 50 participants, representing CSOs from Anglophone and Francophone observatories, deliberated challenges and opportunities in the private security sector, reflected on Observatory activities in 2018, as well as national initiatives within the framework of the Observatory, discussed tools and capacity building opportunities, and considered structures and governance processes for the Observatory.

Have a look at the **final report of the conference** for more information!

[*View the report*](#)

2. We are launching an updated website

Communication and visibility from the Observatory was mentioned by many participants of the Annual Conference as an issue that should be improved.

For this purpose, we have refreshed the Observatory website and updated the content! This new version of the website is online, and includes new features such as:

- An interactive map aimed to include national regulations on private security from the member's countries. All your **contributions to the content of the map** will be more than welcome.
- A dynamic section for news and events. This section will not only include news and events from the Observatory, but also from its members, so keep us informed and share with us your own newsletters. We will be delighted to post your newsletters online.

GO AND HAVE A LOOK! : www.observatoire-securite-privee.org



3.

Call for submission from the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination

The Working Group seeks the assistance of interested States, inter-governmental organisations, civil society organizations, experts, private companies and other stakeholders in elaborating a thematic report on the specific role that PMSCs play in extractive industries as well as on key gender-specific considerations for the PMSC industry by responding to all or relevant parts of the questionnaire attached below. The elements elaborated in the questionnaire are meant to serve as guiding questions rather than providing an exhaustive or a prescriptive list.

Do you want more information on this topic?

Please follow the link to the call on gender and private military and security companies: [Click here](#) or to the call on extractives and private military and security companies: [click here](#)

Do not hesitate to consult the **Guiding questions for submissions**:

For the guiding questions **on gender and PMSCs**

[Click here](#)

For the guiding questions **on (PMSCs) operating in the extractive industry**

[Click here](#)

4.

Discover the Observatory's ongoing projects

Observatory's national projects refer to activities supported by the Observatory that seek to advance private security governance by creating entry points for action or providing a research basis for further engagement. Projects take place in one or more countries represented in the Membership and are carried out by one or several Members.

The following projects have been approved by the Steering Committees as of the 15th of January 2019 and are currently under development:



Approved in May 2018: **Baseline Study on the Private Security Industry in Kenya: challenges and implementation of the new regulatory framework**



Approved in July 2018: **Private Security in Tanzania Mainland Research**



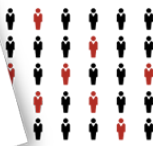
Approved in August 2018: **Baseline Assessment on Private Security Governance in Nigeria Project**



Approved in January: **2019 Prospective analysis of the private security sector in Guinea**



Approved in January 2019: **Awareness campaign to improve the governance of PSCs in the DRC**



5. Private Security Training Curriculum in Kenya: Usalama's engagement



Usalama's engagement for the consolidation of the private security sector started back in 2010, after the adoption of the new constitution of Kenya as part of the broader framework of the national security sector reform process. Usalama has been a key stakeholder, organizing community consultations and policy engagement. This national process culminated with the enactment of the Private Security Regulation Act in 2016.

Usalama has engaged the country's union leadership to discuss and explore new ideas to support capacity building in the private security sector in Kenya. With the creation of the Private Security Regulatory Authority, Usalama has now been called upon to support the harmonization of different training curriculums that have been developed by the Nation Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and the Technical and Vocational Education Training Authority (TIVETA), with the aim of developing a single standard training curriculum for the private security industry. The process is set to begin in March, according to the Director of Private Security Regulatory Authority. Usalama occupies a unique space as a neutral player to provide guidance.

The Vice Chairman of the Private Security regulatory Authority, the Chairman of the Protective Security Industry Association, the Director of the Private security Training Academy and the Secretary General of the Private Security Workers Union and gave presentation during the Observatory Annual Conference 2018 on the challenges and opportunities their respective institutions are facing, emphasizing the importance of opening dialogue and creating partnerships amongst the various actors.

6. AFRILAW's partnership with the Nigerian private security authority

In April 2018, AFRILAW, member of the Observatory, established a partnership with the Private Guards Companies Department of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, (NSCDC) to work together to promote and improve private security governance and responsible private security services in Nigeria. AFRILAW held meetings with the Assistant Commandant General (Private Guards Companies) of the NSCDC to discuss Private Security Governance issues as well as the Baseline Survey project developed in the framework of the Observatory.



In November 2018, upon our request, the Assistant Commandant General of NSCDC issued a **letter of support** and cooperation for the Baseline Survey, mandating all Private Security stakeholders in Nigeria -especially the members of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC)-, Private Guards Companies and Private Guards, Private Guards Companies Associations and Private Guards Companies Users in the two project states of Abuja and Rivers State to give their maximum cooperation and support to AFRILAW's Field Researchers/Data Collectors, and to participate where necessary and required during the study period in other to make the Baseline Assessment a huge success. Currently, AFRILAW is developing the final report of the Baseline Survey and the project will be concluded with the Stakeholders Workshop in March 2019.