

# Invitation

## *“THE MONTREUX DOCUMENT ON PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES: 10 YEARS ON”*

**10 October, 1:15 to 2:30pm**

**Conference Room 6**

Private military and security companies operate in many of today's armed conflicts. Some 10 years ago, the use of PMSCs in armed conflicts rose substantially, raising concerns about the possible implications for the protection of the civilian population as well as questions concerning the applicable law. In response to this challenge, Switzerland and the ICRC launched a joint initiative that led to the adoption in 2008 of the Montreux Document. This Document aims to recall how international law applies to the activities of PMSCs. It reaffirms the existing international obligations of States and outlines examples of good practices to assist States in effectively regulating PMSCs. Though developed primarily for situations of armed conflicts, the document is relevant for all situations as its good practices are best implemented in peacetime. Today the Montreux Document is supported by 54 States and 3 International Organizations (the EU, NATO, and the OSCE).

As a platform for exchange and to assist States in implementing the rules and good practices of the Montreux Document, the “Montreux Document Forum” was created in 2014. It includes two Working Groups, one of which looks into the relevance of the Montreux Document to maritime security, and the other one providing advice to the International Code of Conduct Association on national and international policy and regulatory matters.

10 years after the creation of the Montreux Document, PMSCs are viewed in some quarters as an indispensable ingredient of security and military undertakings and there remains a need to ensure that PMSC operate in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, especially – but not only – when PMSCs are present in armed conflict.

Portugal and Switzerland invite you to a brief presentation of the Montreux Document, the Montreux Document Forum and its two Working Groups, followed by a discussion on implementation challenges.

**Please RSVP to [gabriela.potts@eda.admin.ch](mailto:gabriela.potts@eda.admin.ch) by Monday 8 October 2018.**

See enclosed the Agenda and Concept Note for the side event.

We hope for a strong participation and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible!

