



Oral Statement

Escalation of Services Provided by Private Military and Security Companies in Armed Conflict Areas

Submitted by: Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Submitted to: Fifth session of open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, relating to the activities of private military and security companies

Thank you, Mr. President.

Maat for Peace expresses deep concern about the services provided by Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in areas of armed conflict in recent times. These services include direct participation in combat missions, provision of technical support and military training to conflicting parties, and supply of weapons. Such activities contribute to the prolonged duration of conflicts. Moreover, members of these companies engage in serious violations of international humanitarian law with complete impunity.

In Palestine, Israeli occupation forces contracted "**Raven**" and "**Global CST**," two military security companies, to provide fighters and assistance in military operations carried out in the Gaza Strip.

American private military company **FOG** has also publicly shared images from within Palestinian territories on its official social media accounts, confirming its involvement in ongoing hostilities against civilians in Gaza. Additionally, the company has explicitly announced its presence in Ukraine, fighting against Russian forces since March 2022.

In Sudan, reports in April 2023 claimed that **Wagner Group** provided missiles and weapons to Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militias, aiding them in their fight against Sudanese army, Also in Mali, Libya, Mozambique and South Sudan.

To curb PMSCs activities in areas of conflict and armed conflict, Maat for Peace recommends the following:

- The working group must establish binding rules for states and private military companies, prohibiting illicit transfer of weapons to conflict areas.
- Private security and military companies must adhere to rules of transparency and reporting regarding the weapons used in their operations, particularly in conflict zones.
- Clear regulations need to be established to hold members of private military companies accountable for the violations they commit. Additionally, legal responsibility should be placed on countries employing these companies.