



UK Mission  
Geneva

## United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

### Fifth session of the OEIGWG on PMSCs

**Monday 15 April 2024**

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The UK would like to thank the Chair for convening the fifth session of the Working Group and for the opportunity to contribute to the revised third draft of the international regulatory framework relating to the activities of private military and security companies.

The significant growth of the PMSC industry and the degree of impunity in which some actors operate, including wide scale human rights abuses underscores the critical need for effective regulation, oversight, and accountability of the sector.

Despite the diversification and growth of the PMSC industry globally, major challenges remain in the implementation of national and regional regulatory frameworks. Approaches to domestic regulation have been inconsistent, with laws and policies often failing to address the risks of human rights abuses relating to activities of some PMSCs.

The UK supports a UN framework that encourages States to establish and implement comprehensive domestic laws and frameworks for the regulation of PMSCs and which remains complimentary to and builds on existing instruments.

While we continue to deliberate on certain aspects of the instrument, we welcome the incorporation of several UK proposals from the intersessional meeting in February.

The UK has reiterated at previous sessions, the essential need for clarity on the nature of the instrument under negotiation. To move discussions forward in this regard, the UK put forward proposal at the Human Rights Council mandate renewal that the Open-Ended Working Group first agree the content of a non-binding regulatory framework which, if there is a common desire, could then form the basis for discussions on a legally binding instrument.

While we acknowledge the different perspectives on a legally binding instrument, we believe that consensus on a non-binding instrument should precede such discussions.

A non-binding instrument, building on existing initiatives, can facilitate further cooperation with all States, establish a shared understanding of principles and objectives and a deliver a more widely supported, ambitious text. We look forward to discussions on the proposed plan for advancing the instrument.

The UK remains committed to constructive dialogue to seek areas of consensus in the development of this instrument, including elements outlined by the Chair under agenda Item 4.2.



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Thank you Chair.