

**Human Rights Council****Fifty-fourth session**

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council  
on 11 October 2023****54/11. Mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedure Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council, of 18 June 2007,*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 15/26 of 1 October 2010, establishing the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,*Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolution 36/11 of 28 September 2017 establishing a new mandate for the open-ended intergovernmental working group for a period of three years, and its resolution 45/16 of 6 October 2020, in which the Council renewed the mandate to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, to protect human rights and ensure accountability for violations and abuses relating to the activities of private military and security companies,*Noting* that the working group held its first session from 20 to 23 May 2019 and its second session from 26 to 29 April 2021 and duly reported to the Human Rights Council on its outcomes,<sup>1</sup>*Noting also* that the working group held its third session from 9 to 13 May 2022,<sup>2</sup> at which it introduced a revised zero draft instrument on an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring of and oversight over the activities of private military and security companies,<sup>1</sup> See A/HRC/42/36 and A/HRC/48/65.<sup>2</sup> See A/HRC/51/40.

*Welcoming* the progress report on the fourth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, held from 17 to 21 April 2023,<sup>3</sup> which elaborated on a revised second draft instrument,

*Recognizing* the ongoing need to protect human rights and ensure accountability for violations and abuses relating to the activities of private military and private security companies by mainstreaming a victim-centered approach,

*Noting* relevant national, regional and international standards and tools, including those prepared by various stakeholders,

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group for a period of three years, with a mandate to continue to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, in efforts to protect human rights and ensure accountability for violations and abuses relating to the activities of private military and private security companies, informed by the revised zero draft instrument and revised second draft instrument on an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring of and oversight over the activities of private military and security companies, as prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur, and further inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, and factoring in the work done under the previous mandate;

2. *Also decides* that the open-ended intergovernmental working group shall meet for five working days, in hybrid format, and submit an annual progress report to the Human Rights Council in conformity with its annual programme of work;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of providing the open-ended intergovernmental working group with the expertise and expert advice necessary to fulfil its mandate, and decides that the working group shall invite experts and all relevant stakeholders to participate in its work;

4. *Invites* the contributions of Governments, relevant special procedure mandate holders and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, regional groups, intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society and industry, and other stakeholders with relevant expertise, including the Co-Chairs of the Montreux Document Forum and the International Code of Conduct Association;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the open-ended intergovernmental working group with all the financial and human resources necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of this important matter.

*46th meeting  
11 October 2023*

[Adopted without a vote.]

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/54/42.