



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations

Statement

By

Mr. Hamid Ahmadi

Representative of the Islamic republic of Iran

Before

**Fourth session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group
to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework,
without prejudging the nature thereof, relating to the activities of
private military and security companies**

Geneva, 17th April 2023

Thank you Mr. Chair-Rapporteur;

We welcome the 4th session of the Working Group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework relating to the activities of private military and security companies;

My delegation congratulates you for reelection as the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working and thanks you for presenting the second draft of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight over the activities of private military and security companies;

We also thank Madam Deputy High Commissioner for her remarks;

Considering our experience in the imposed eight-year war by Saddam against Iran, during which some Western companies equipped Saddam with chemical weapons that were used against innocent people in Kurdish regions of Iran, as well as the experience of illegal and inhumane activities by foreign private security and military companies in some our neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully understand the importance of elaborating a regulatory framework for the activities of

such companies and the importance of the Working Group's efforts in this regard;

Hence, Iran fully endorses the mandate of the Working Group and is prepared to actively participate in the discussions during this session in a constructive manner;

While appreciating the working group's efforts to elaborate such a framework, we believe that any regulatory framework should have a look on the historic lessons learnt to prevent abuses and guarantee the protection of individuals and countries affected by the illegal interventions of such private companies;

We seize this opportunity to reiterate our position that in the elaborations regarding the development of a regulatory framework, concerns such as respect for the national sovereignty of host countries, the commitments of the home-States, the past experiences and lessons learned from the activities of such companies, the economic and social impacts of illegal activities of such companies in host countries, the importance of accountability, remedy, transparency, and oversight of the activities of such companies should be seriously taken into consideration;

Iran is committed to work collaboratively towards ensuring that the activities of PMSCs align with international norms and human rights standards and looks forward to engage in constructive discussions with Working Group to elaborate an effective regulatory framework on this critical issue.

I thank you, Mr. Chair-Rapporteur