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**COMMITTEE:** Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

**AGENDA ITEM:** Regulating the Use of Private Military and Security Companies

Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) are highly secured private businesses that provide services such as armed protection, gathering information, or military training. These businesses are often hired by governments and international organizations, especially during conflicts or peacekeeping missions. (1) The use of these companies skyrocketed after the Cold War, when many soldiers abandoned their armies and joined them instead. For instance, Blackwater from the United States and Wagner Group from Russia have worked in conflict zones like Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and various countries in Africa. (2) However, PMSCs often operate where weak laws are enforced, therefore they’re usually not held responsible for their actions. An example of this includes the group Blackwater involved in killing 17 civilians in Iraq in 2007. (3) Another example can be brought out, as when the Wagner Group has been accused of committing war crimes in Africa. (4) Therefore, the main challenge for the global community is implementing strong, united international law that controls these businesses, as many PMSCs use legal loopholes to avoid punishment of their actions. The Republic of Poland strongly advocates for the international community to create clear rules in this matter to constantly check PMSCs’ actions and ensure they follow human rights and international law.

The international community has long recognized the importance of resolving the challenges posed by Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) and has taken steps to address the legal and ethical concerns of their actions. First and foremost, the Montreux Document is an initiative that states the mandatory obligations and useful strategies for those who are related to PMSCs. (5) This document remains the most supported document regarding PMSC regulation, backed by European Union, NATO and many UN Member States, including Poland. Secondly, the United Nations Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries, which operates under UNHCR, regularly publishes cases including human rights violations done by PMSCs in conflict zones. These reports also indicate the need for proper regulations for PMSC activities. (6) Finally, several UN Security Council reports, especially those relating to missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, asks for responsibility and transparency in security operations. (7)

The Republic of Poland has taken a deep interest in this issue and engaged in international efforts aimed at regulating PMSCs. As a member of both the United Nations and NATO, it contributes and participates in the ongoing international efforts aimed at addressing the instability caused by these companies. Poland’s policy on PMSCs is clear: Being a mercenary is illegal. Therefore, PMSCs don’t exist in Poland, because nobody would be allowed to serve in them. (8) However, the country understands the necessity and importance of PMSCs worldwide missions and therefore supports better rules to properly manage them. Back in 2008, Poland supported the Montreux Document, which gives clear instructions and rules for how PMSCs should act. (9) Moreover, the country takes part in the EU’s Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), where it joins meetings and discussions based on the safe use of PMSCs. (10) All these actions done by Poland proves that the country cares about safety and fairness when it comes to private security companies.

The international community needs to take clear and enforceable solutions in order to regulate PMSCs without completely destroying the intention of using them. Firstly, the creation of an international registry of PMSCs backed by the UN could record all their actions and operating regions, and propose ethical approaches to deal with a situation which PMSCs could face. Secondly, a mandatory human rights protection clause should be added to all international private security companies. Furthermore, an annual UN report that assesses these operations could tell the idea of how the progress of the PMSC revolution is going. Additionally, a globally-driven ethicality and legality exam should be beneficial to determine the right people to qualify for the PMSC member elections. Finally, placing a body camera on all the PMSC members could help bring real evidence when such violation cases happen. This maximizes the probability of justice being served. By implementing these solutions, the international community could address this issue effectively.

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