

Enhancing the Regulation, Oversight and Governance of the Private Security Industry

Background

The private security industry plays an important role in ensuring security for citizens, communities, businesses and visitors, often complementing the capacities of police and law enforcement. However, in the absence of effective regulations, oversight, and governance structures, the activities of private security companies have raised valid concerns with respect to professionalism, legality, legitimacy and accountability in the provision of security. An insufficiently regulated private security sector may also be a major challenge for the advancement of labour laws and the rule of law.

Objective and Impact

The scope of services provided by private security companies is diverse, ranging from protection of individuals and facilities such as in tourist sites, to risk management and consulting, cybercrime solutions, firearms training, guarding extractive industries and critical national infrastructure and a myriad of other services. This project will drive implementation of international norms and good practices in the Caribbean region, when it comes to regulating private security and reducing armed violence.

Regional cooperation allows strengthening of the rule of law in CARICOM and its member States, permits States to pool resources and thoroughly address the regulation of private security. The project will support professionalization of the industry and support efforts in CARICOM to reduce armed violence, through improved regulatory and oversight mechanism.

Status

CARICOM IMPACS partnered with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to host a Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Enhancing the Regulations, Oversight and governance of the Private Security Industry in the Caribbean on 4-5 February 2019. A key recommendation from this Workshop was the *'Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Working Group on Enhancing the Regulation, Oversight and Governance of the Private Security Industry to propose and advance recommendations, as well as share experiences, good practices, information and promote international standards'*.

This multi-stakeholder group will facilitate the networking of regional good practices and supporting actors in addressing shared challenges. The group will be aimed at fostering more responsible business conduct of private security companies and support security, development the advancement of the rule of law and strengthen good governance in the Caribbean region.