



Policy and Research



Overview

The Policy and Research Division (PRDiv) produces empirically grounded and policy-oriented comparative research on global topics relating to security sector governance and reform (SSG/R). This cutting-edge research bridges the gap between policy and practice and is driven by the demand of our national and international partners.

As a pioneer in the field of SSG/R, PRDiv has contributed significantly to developing the concept in international policy and discourse. It does so by creating, distilling and disseminating knowledge that facilitates the elaboration of norms, standards, and good practices as well as policies and guidelines. This is based on applied research, which produces solid evidence to inform expert discourse, policymaking and programming. In this pioneering role, PRDiv has become an incubator of new ideas and projects.

Based on tailor-made research and its broad experience, PRDiv also spearheads important policy work with multilateral organisations to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of their support to national and international actors. Services provided to international partners range from delivering policy research and advice, to supporting policy and guidance development.

Finally, PRDiv provides indirect support to national actors on the basis of our knowledge products, which have been translated into over 37 languages.



Highlights

› ASSISTING MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS

PRDiv plays an important ongoing role in placing SSR on the agenda of the UN and the OSCE and has been recognised as an instrumental partner in both Secretary-General Reports of the UN on SSR and the OSCE on SSG/R. Through its policy advice, DCAF contributed to the adoption of the first ever UN Security Council Presidential statement on SSR and our study on the UN's approach to SSR through its integrated missions provided the basis for several recommendations in the UN Secretary-General's first ever report on SSR. A PRDiv-led mapping study of the OSCE's approach to SSG/R was instrumental in shaping its engagement in this field.

Another important focus of our engagement with multilateral organisations has been supporting the development of SSG/R policy and guidance frameworks such as the UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR (2012), and the SSG/R Guidelines for OSCE Staff (2016).

› SUPPORTING NATIONAL ACTORS

PRDiv engages indirectly with national actors to foster effectiveness and accountability of their security sectors. For instance, PRDiv hosts the annual global International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces (ICOAF) which is an international platform for peer-sharing between ombuds institutions and other NHRIs of 40+ countries, with the purpose of enhancing democratic governance of the defence sector. PRDiv also provides a plethora of tools in multiple languages such as handbooks on parliamentary oversight of the security sector, regional mapping studies on ombuds institutions, and toolkits on intelligence accountability.

› CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL POLICY AGENDAS

Powerful international policy agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are a cornerstone of our work. The 2030 Agenda, especially SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, recognizes security as a precondition for sustainable development and peace, putting DCAF and the SSG/R agenda at the spearhead of achieving SDG16.

Against this backdrop, PRDiv has embarked on a multi-year project focusing on three different oversight actors of the security sector and their role in promoting SSG/R and SDG16. Best practices and lessons learnt from across the globe are examined and discussed to provide guidance for implementing security sector reforms in the context of the 2030 Agenda. For several years PRDiv has hosted official policy events at the annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

› BROAD EXPERTISE

Through our policy research work, we have developed expertise in SSG/R in the context of:

- » The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on SDG5, SDG11 and SDG16;
- » The Sustaining Peace Agenda, with a focus on prevention;
- » Grievance mechanisms, with a focus on ombuds and national human rights institutions;
- » Oversight, with a focus on intelligence and parliamentary oversight;
- » The role of SSG/R in various stages of peace processes, and how SSG/R can facilitate those processes;
- » SSG/R and emerging security challenges, such as migration and climate change;
- » Monitoring and evaluation, with a focus on improving methodological approaches of SSR-related evaluations.



Milestone Publications

We publish a high volume of freely available policy and research work, strengthening the empirical knowledge base on SSG/R and providing practical guidance to security sector actors, academics and practitioners. Our milestone publications include (available online, in hard copy as well as through DCAF's SSR App):

SSG/R Series:

- » *SSR Backgrounders Series*, e.g. on Parliaments, police reform, gender equality.
- » *SSR Papers Series*, e.g. on SSR and transitional justice, the Rule of Law and SSR, rethinking community policing, SSG/R and SDG11 (urban safety), or the Arab Uprisings and Armed Forces.

Selected Recent Publications:

- » *The United Nations and Security Sector Reform - Policy and Practice*. LIT Verlag/DCAF, 2020.
- » *Handbook on human rights and fundamental freedoms of armed forces personnel*. OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), 2020.
- » *Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Intra-State Elements*, DCAF, 2019.
- » *Enhancing Multilateral Support for Security Sector Reform: A Mapping Study Covering the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe*. DCAF, 2018.
- » *Who is Policing the Police? The Role of Parliament in Police Governance in Asia and Europe*. S&F Sicherheit und Frieden 35, no. 2 (2017): 72-78.

DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically controlled by:



Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed



Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policy



Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive

DCAF pursues five main activities:



Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes



Capacity building for state and non-state actors



Publishing research and knowledge products



Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices



Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions

DCAF Geneva Centre
for Security Sector
Governance
20TH ANNIVERSARY

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