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12 April 2019

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for
Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations
and to the International Organizations in Vienna

Note 45/2019-OSCE

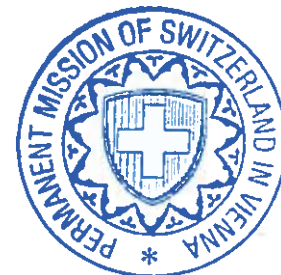
The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions/Delegations of Participating States to the OSCE in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre with reference to the Paragraphs 15 of the Vienna Document to present to following enclosed Document:

OSCE/Vienna Document 2011

ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON DEFENCE PLANNING 2019 (including information on previous expenditures, budget and finance plan) Switzerland, April 2019.

The information of this document supersedes Switzerland's former Exchange of Information on Defence Planning as of 11 October 2018.

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Mission/Delegations of Participating States to the OSCE in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 12 April 2019

To all Permanent Missions/Delegations to the OSCE
To the OSCE Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre
V i e n n a



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Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

FSC.DEC 2/09
1 April 2009

(Substantial updates of information relating to the Annual Exchange 2018
are in bold and italics)

Switzerland

15 April 2019

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

United Nations

1. *Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft* signed in Tokyo on 14 September 1963. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 31 October 1969, was ratified on 21 December 1970 and entered into force for Switzerland on 21 March 1971 (SR 0.748.710.1¹).
2. *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* signed in The Hague on 16 December 1970. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 16 December 1970, was ratified on 14 September 1971 and entered into force for Switzerland on 14 October 1971 (SR 0.748.710.2).
3. *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation* signed in Montreal on 23 September 1971. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 23 September 1971, was ratified on 17 January 1978 and entered into force for Switzerland on 16 February 1978 (SR 0.748.710.3).
4. *Convention on the Prevention, Prosecution, and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 14 December 1973. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 5 March 1985 and entered into force for Switzerland on 4 April 1985 (SR 0.351.5).
5. *International Convention against the Taking of Hostages*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 17 December 1979. This international convention was signed by Switzerland on 18 July 1980, was ratified on 5 March 1985 and entered into force for Switzerland on 4 April 1985 (SR 0.351.4).
6. *Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*, signed in Vienna on 3 March 1980. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 3 March 1980, was ratified on 9 January 1987 and entered into force for Switzerland on 8 February 1987 (SR 0.732.031).
7. *Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*, signed in Vienna on 8 July 2005. The amendments were ratified by Switzerland on 15.10.2008.
8. *Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation*, signed in Montreal on 24 February 1988. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 24 February 1988, was ratified on 9 October 1990 and entered into force for Switzerland on 8 November 1990 (SR 0.748.710.31).
9. *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation*, held in Rome on 10 March 1988. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 10 March 1988, was ratified

¹ SR = Classified Compilation of Federal Legislation, <http://www.admin.ch/ch/e/rs/rs.html>

on 12 March 1993 and entered into force for Switzerland on 10 June 1993 (SR 0.747.71).

10. *Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf*, written in Rome on 10 March 1988. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 10 March 1988, was ratified on 12 March 1993 and entered into force for Switzerland on 10 June 1993 (SR 0.747.711).
11. ***Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, signed in Montreal on 1 March 1991. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 1 March 1991, was ratified on 3 April 1995 and entered into force for Switzerland on 21 June 1998 (SR 0.748.710.4).***
12. *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 15 December 1997. This international convention was signed by Switzerland on 12 January 1998, was ratified on 23 September 2003 and entered into force for Switzerland on 23 October 2003 (SR 0.353.21).
13. *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 9 December 1999. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 13 June 2001, was ratified on 23 September 2003 and entered into force for Switzerland on 23 October 2003 (SR 0.353.22).
14. ***Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, done on 14 October 2005 in London, ratified on 15 October 2008 (SR 0.747.711.1)***
15. *International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism*, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 April 2005, the signature of which was pledged by the OSCE in the Ministerial Statement on the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism of 20 June 2005 (MC.DOC/1/05). This convention entered into force for Switzerland on 14 November 2008 (SR 0.353.23).
16. ***Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. This Protocol was ratified on 15 October 2008 and entered into force on 28 July 2010 (SR 0.747.712).***
17. *UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)*, adopted by the General Assembly in 2001. It entered into force for Switzerland on 27 December 2012 (SR 0.311.544).
18. *The Arms Trade Treaty*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 02 April 2013. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 03 June 2013, was ratified on 30 January 2015 and entered into force for Switzerland on 30 April 2015 (SR 0.518.61).

Council of Europe

1. *European Convention on Extradition*, opened for signature in Paris on 13 December 1957. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 29 November 1965, was ratified on 20 December 1966 and entered into force for Switzerland on 20 March 1967 (SR 0.353.1).
2. *Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 15 October 1975. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 17 November 1981, was ratified on 11 March 1985 and entered into force for Switzerland on 9 June 1985 (SR 0.353.11).
3. *Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 17 March 1978. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 17 November 1981, ratified on 11 March 1985 and entered into force for Switzerland on 9 June 1985 (SR 0.353.12).

4. *Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 10 November 2010. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 23 October 2014, ratified on 15 July 2016 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 November 2016 (SR 0.353.13).
5. *Fourth Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition*, opened for signature in Vienna on 20 September 2012. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 23 October 2014, ratified on 15 July 2016 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 November 2016 (SR 0.353.14).
6. *European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 20 April 1959. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 29 November 1965, was ratified on 20 December 1966 and entered into force for Switzerland on 20 March 1967 (SR 0.351.1).
7. *Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 17 March 1978. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 17 November 1981 but was not ratified because of Parliament's reservations concerning judicial assistance in fiscal matters. For further information see the related Federal Council report (BBl 1983 IV 121).
8. *Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 8 November 2001. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 15 February 2002, was ratified on 4 October 2004 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 February 2005 (SR 0.351.12).
9. *European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 27 January 1977. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 27 January 1977, was ratified on 19 May 1983 and entered into force for Switzerland on 20. August 1983 (SR 0.353.3).
10. *Protocol Amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 15 May 2003. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 15 May 2003 and was ratified by Switzerland on 7 September 2006 (**not yet entered into force**).
11. *Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 21 March 1983. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 21 March 1983, was ratified on 15 January 1988 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 May 1988 (SR 0.343).
12. *Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 18 December 1997. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 9 July 2001, was ratified on 18 June 2004 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 October 2004 (SR 0.343.1).
13. *Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 8 November 1990. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 28 August 1991, was ratified on 11 May 1993 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 September 1993 (SR 0.311.53).
14. *Criminal law Convention on Corruption*, entered into force on 1 July 2002. Switzerland signed the Convention on 26 February 2001 and ratified the instrument on 31 March 2006. It entered into force on 1 July 2006 (SR 0.311.55).
15. *Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption*, entered into force on 1 February 2005. The protocol was signed by Switzerland on 3 June 2004 and was ratified on 31 March 2006. It entered into force for Switzerland on 1 July 2006 (SR 0.311.551).
16. *Convention on Cybercrime*, opened for signature in Budapest on 23 November 2001. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 23 November 2001. The Convention entered into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2012 (SR 0.311.43).

17. *Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, Concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of a Racist and Xenophobic Nature Committed through Computer Systems*, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 28 January 2003. This protocol was signed by Switzerland on 9 October 2003 but has not been ratified to date.
18. *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*, in force since 1 February 2008. This convention was signed by Switzerland on 8 September 2008 and ratified on 17 December 2012. It entered into force for Switzerland on 1 April 2013 (SR 0.311.543).
19. *European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes*. It was ratified on 7 September 1992 and entered into force on the 1 January 1993 (SR 0.312.5).

Moreover, Switzerland has signed the following conventions

- The Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism of 16 May 2005 and its additional Protocol of 22 October 2015. The convention was signed by Switzerland on 11 September 2012 and its additional Protocol on 22 October 2015.
- A further multilateral agreement is the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008. This international convention was signed by Switzerland on 3 December 2008, was ratified on 17 July 2012 and entered into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2013 (SR 0.515.093).

Bilateral agreements

Switzerland concluded bilateral agreements on police co-operation with all its immediate adjacent states as well as with Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Latvia, Serbia **and Montenegro**. On 26 January 2018, Switzerland signed a bilateral agreement on police cooperation with Bulgaria. With the USA, on 12 December 2012, Switzerland signed the Agreement on Enhancing Co-operation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC). The PCSC Agreement has not yet come into force. Furthermore, Switzerland has concluded memoranda of understanding with the following states: On 12 September 1994, Switzerland signed a MoU with Russia regarding, among other matters, combating crimes against life and limb, illegal weapons and explosives trade and falsified travel documents. On 27 March 2009, Switzerland signed a MoU with Bulgaria, and on 13 July 2012 one with Turkey establishing a joint operational police working group for combating transnational crime, especially terrorism. On 12 December 2012, Switzerland and the USA signed the MoU for the Exchange of Information on Individuals Connected to Activities Related to Terrorism (Homeland Security Presidential Directive [HSPD-6]) and the Agreement on Enhancing Co-operation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC). These agreements and memoranda contain a number of provisions regarding co-operation between law enforcement authorities in the fight against criminal activities including terrorism (e.g. coordination of operations, exchange of information, joint working groups, etc.). In order to improve co-operation between Swiss and US law enforcement authorities in investigating terrorist attacks, the Federal Council in 2006 concluded an agreement on the employment of joint investigation teams in the fight against terrorism and its financing.

Further initiatives (global)

Switzerland considers that international security cannot be ensured on a lasting basis unless states strengthen their co-operation with a view to eradicating poverty, preventing and resolving conflicts and effectively promoting human rights and the rule of law. Dialogue and mutual understanding between cultures and religions will inevitably help to prevent conflicts and terrorist acts.

In the context of the UNITED NATIONS, Switzerland systematically implements the decisions of the UN Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities ("the Sanctions Committee") and supplies financial intermediaries with the lists of names of individuals or organisations provided by other countries. Switzerland is convinced that targeted sanctions are an important tool in maintaining peace and security. Targeted sanctions must be consistent with

fundamental due process rights if there is to be any guarantee that they will be fully implemented by the member States of the United Nations.

Switzerland also implements UN Security Council resolution 2341 (2017) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. This resolution covers various measures to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), acting on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, conducted a focused visit to Switzerland from 27 February to 1 March 2018 in order to monitor, promote and facilitate its implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) and identify good practices and areas in which Switzerland may be in a position to provide technical assistance to other Member States. The delegation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee commended Switzerland for its proactive approach to the protection of critical infrastructure, which includes a national inventory, ongoing assessments of threats and readiness, and partnerships with private-sector entities. It was mentioned as a good practice for the development of a legal and operational framework to protect critical infrastructure against terrorist attack, including through public-private partnerships. Switzerland's counter-terrorism efforts in the field of non-proliferation have been highlighted. It has also been an invited member of the G8's Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) since its creation in 2003.

Switzerland has been actively engaged in the elaboration of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which adopted on 2 April 2013 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The ATT deals with the issue of terrorism as one of the elements which must be evaluated as part of the risk assessment of the exporting State before deciding whether or not to authorise an export of conventional arms or of items covered by the treaty. It came into force for Switzerland on 30 April 2015.

Switzerland's national and international action is *also* guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006). It is essential for Switzerland that counterterrorism efforts and policies are carried out within the framework of international law and particularly of international human rights law, maintaining a balanced approach between prevention and repression. Moreover, in the context of armed conflict, all parties and individuals must apply international humanitarian law without any exception.

Switzerland is actively participating in the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) (ex Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)), and participates in the ad hoc Working Group for the drafting of a Council of Europe counter-terrorism Strategy.

Switzerland is a founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The Forum has demonstrated some very valuable action-oriented capabilities and has become a global player in . Many political instruments have been adopted within the framework of the GCTF: (see the website of the GCTF, www.thegctf.org). Switzerland is therefore actively supporting the activities and the development of the GCTF. Since 2014, Switzerland has hosted the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience (GCERF) in Geneva, born from a GCTF initiative, and is financially supporting its activities. Switzerland supports the activities of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law. In November 2018, Switzerland decided to renew the funding accorded to GCERF for a further period of 4 years.

Switzerland also initiated the development of the Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context² to address the emerging questions regarding the involvement of children in terrorist activities and the protection of their rights. This GCTF framework document was adopted on 21 September 2016 at the Ministerial Meeting in New York. Switzerland now supports the implementation of the Neuchâtel Memorandum within different projects.

² <https://www.thegctf.org/Portals/1/Documents/Toolkit-documents/English-Neuch%C3%A2tel-Memorandum-on-Juvenile-Justice.pdf>

Switzerland *further* welcomes the Plan of Action on the Prevention of Violent Extremism of the UN Secretary General, especially the emphasis *on* the 1st and 4th pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy: this will allow a full and balanced implementation of the Strategy, underlining the necessity to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law in measures to prevent violent extremism. *Switzerland supports the creation of a Civil Society Organisations Unit by the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). At the invitation of Switzerland, the Under-Secretary General and Director of UNOCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, paid a visit to Switzerland in September 2018. This was an opportunity for an exchange on the role the International Geneva and Switzerland as a Member State play in matters of prevention and in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.*

In 2016, Switzerland launched, in collaboration with the United Kingdom, the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Initiative on Strategic Communications and Social Media Aspects in Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism, within the framework of the GCTF. The Initiative led to the adoption by the GCTF of the Zurich-London Recommendations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Online at the ministerial meeting in New York in September 2017.

Further initiatives (regional)

In the context of the OSCE, Switzerland is encouraging and strengthening international and inter-institutional co-operation and coordination, supporting global and regional initiatives and events related to prosecution (bringing terrorists to justice), investigation (special investigation techniques) and the financing of terrorism. In December 2014 in Basel, Switzerland hosted the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, at which two Ministerial Declarations were adopted concerning counterterrorism: one on kidnapping for ransom, the other on foreign fighters.

Furthermore, Switzerland is actively engaged in the implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), in particular by giving expert advice to participating States, and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), which also contribute to the efforts to prevent the proliferation of SALW / ammunition to organisations with terrorist intent.

1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?

At a national level, preventive and repressive measures are taken in order to prevent acts of terrorism being carried out in Switzerland. In addition, these measures aim to ensure that Swiss territory is not used to endanger domestic and international security, whether directly nor indirectly.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, Switzerland promptly provided the required information in response to co-operation requests from several countries. The parliament has outlawed all activities of the *Al-Qaida* group on its territory. Switzerland has systematically implemented the decisions of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, established following the Resolution 1267 (1999), and the subsequent relevant resolutions of the UN-Security Council aimed at the freezing of the assets of individuals and entities linked to terrorism. The activities of the two groups “Al Qaeda” and “Islamic State” are considered a growing threat to the domestic and external security of Switzerland. That is why the Swiss Parliament adopted the urgent federal law banning the groups *Al-Qaida* and *ISIL (Da’esh)* as well as other related *organisations* (Federal Act on the Proscription of the Groups Al Qaeda, Islamic State and its Associated *Organisations*, SR 122). The ban concerns not only all the activities of these *organisations* in Switzerland and abroad, but also all actions intended to provide them with financial, material or personnel-related support, such as dissemination of propaganda, fund-raising or recruitment of new members.

In view of the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (in effect since 23 October 2003), a new Art. 260⁵ of the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC

SR 311.0) came into force on 1 October 2003. This provision provides for a penalty of up to 5 years of imprisonment for anyone who collects funds or makes them available with the intention of financing a violent criminal act aimed at intimidating a group of people or at forcing a State or international organisation to carry out or refrain from carrying out any act. Art. 260⁵ supplements, among others, Art. 260³ (on criminal organisations) by making the financing of isolated individuals or loosely structured groups a fully-fledged offence, punishable even if no terrorist act has yet been committed or attempted. In addition, new provisions on the criminal responsibility of legal entities (articles 102 and 102a SCC) were introduced, also covering the crime of financing terrorism.

The Swiss Criminal Procedure Code (SR 311.0) provides various measures of procedural protection to safeguard potentially endangered witnesses. These include the options of anonymous witness testimony and the exclusion of the public from court proceedings. Within the framework of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which defines judicial standards applicable to criminal law, victim's assistance and rights of foreigners, as well as procedural and extra-procedural protection of witnesses, the Federal Council 2013 adopted the Federal Act on Extra-procedural Witness Protection. The Witness Protection Act provides for the implementation of witness protection programmes for the benefit of witnesses in criminal proceedings who may face threats. For this purpose, a special national witness protection unit was formed within the Federal Office of Police (fedpol). This unit is responsible for implementing the witness protection programme and offering advice and support to police authorities in cases where a witness protection programme cannot be implemented, but where special protective measures must nonetheless be undertaken by the police.

On 1 September 2009, the Federal Assembly approved the modification of the Federal Act on Measures to Safeguard Internal Security (MSA, SR 120) as well as the adaptations of the Ordinance on the Extension of the Duty of Authorities, Public Offices and Organisations to provide information and to report in order to guarantee Internal and External Security (SR 120.1). The modifications apply to the measures against violence during sports events. These measures have been implemented by the Cantons on 1 January 2010 by their participation in the *concordat against violence during sports events*. This concordat supersedes the provisions of the MSA concerning measures limited in time (exclusion orders, obligation to present oneself to the police and police custody).

In 2011, the Federal Assembly passed an amendment to the Federal Act on Measures to Safeguard Internal Security (MSA). Inter alia, the existing Ordinance on the Extension of the Duty of Authorities, Public Offices and Organisations to provide information and to report in order to guarantee Internal and External Security was raised at legislative level and transferred into ordinary law. The expanded obligation to inform and the right to communicate also applies to terrorism. This amendment came into force on 16 July 2012.

On 12 December 2014, Parliament passed the federal act for implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which was revised in 2012. The law further strengthens the existing framework in the fight against money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of proliferation in Switzerland. The technical compliance with the FATF-Recommendations and the effectiveness of the Swiss system was acknowledged in the FATF Mutual Evaluation Report of Switzerland of 7 December 2016.

Furthermore, the Federal Act on Information Exchange between the Federal prosecution authorities and those of other Schengen States (Schengen Information Exchange Act, SR 362.2) aims to transpose into national law the European Union Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA of 18 December 2006 simplifying the exchange of information and intelligence between law enforcement authorities of the member states of the European Union. It came into force on 1 January 2010. This act is designed to simplify and accelerate the information exchange in order to prevent and prosecute violations of law, insofar as a special law or an agreement provides for the exchange of data between the authorities concerned. The information at the disposal of the competent federal and cantonal law enforcement authorities can be transmitted following a request from a Schengen State. The act also envisages an improvement of the automated information exchange by obliging the competent law enforcement authorities of the Schengen States to spontaneously provide all information likely to prevent and enable the prosecution of serious violations of law, such as trafficking in human beings, child pornography, terrorism and corruption. The existing Schengen Information System (SIS) has been upgraded to an improved technical version, the SIS

II, on 9 April 2013. The Ordinance on the N-SIS of 8 March 2013 regulates the operation of the system.

The revised Federal Act on Weapons, Weapons Accessories and Munitions (Weapons Act, WA, SR 514.54) which came into force on 12 December 2008, facilitates the fight against the improper use of weapons and guarantees that more controls will be carried out in this area. Since its entry into force, cantons are obliged to register all transactions.

On 28 July 2010, amendments to the Federal Act on Weapons, Weapons Accessories and Munitions (SR 514.54) came into force. Amendments were, inter alia, necessary for the incorporation of the amending Directive 2008/51/EC (which amends Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991) on control, acquisition and possession of weapons as part of the development of the Schengen acquis. The 2010 amendments introduce the compulsory marking of each elementary package of complete ammunition, an extension of the period for retaining records, the setting up of computerised weapon registers, as well as provisions regulating the seizure of unlawfully marked weapons. The United Nation's Firearms Protocol and the International Tracing Instrument have been integrated into the Federal Weapons Act. The provisions require that firearms destined to be imported to Switzerland must be provided with an importation mark. This mark enables the identification of the arms dealer who imported a specific firearm and the year a firearm was imported or marked. Firearms, their parts and components imported to Switzerland without proper marking will be confiscated by the competent authorities. To be able to efficiently trace firearms, the Central Arms Office has begun operating a database on firearm marks.

In the 2015, parliament passed the Federal Act on Improving the Exchange of Information between Authorities in relation to Weapons (Weapons Information Act). The act grants public prosecutors and courts the power to inform the army about persons who could pose a danger to themselves or others if permitted to carry a firearm. In addition, authorised offices will now be able to consult all cantonal weapons registers and the ARMADA database operated by the Federal Office of Police by means of a single search. A further aspect of the new law concerns the active notification of civil and military authorities on new entries in the ARMADA database, which contains information on the refusal or withdrawal of weapons licences and the confiscation of firearms. The act came into force on 1 July 2016. Under the Federal Ordinance on Explosives, marking for identification was already compulsory in Switzerland before the Montreal Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection had been signed.

In March 2017, the European Union amended its Weapons Directive, focusing on the issue of semi-automatic weapons, which were used during the Paris terrorist attacks in November 2015. These weapons are particularly dangerous because they can fire several shots without reloading. Access to such weapons should therefore be limited and the exchange of information between the Schengen countries should be improved. In September 2017, the Federal Council has sent a pragmatic legislative proposal for consultation which takes the Swiss gun ownership and marksmanship traditions into account, such as the right of conscripts to keep their military weapon at home. Gun clubs, collectors and museums will still be allowed to acquire certain semi-automatic weapons under specific conditions. The government report on the new law was submitted to the Federal Parliament on March 2018 and the debates *took* place during *three* parliamentary sessions *in 2018. On 19 May 2019, the Swiss people will vote in a referendum on the amendment of the Weapons Act.*

In September 2016, Swiss citizens endorsed a new Intelligence Service Act in a popular vote. The new act came into force on 1 September 2017. In line with the evolution of the threat situation, the new legal framework gives new authorities and powers to the FIS. In particular, the FIS is now able to use some of the measures that can be used by law enforcement agencies (wiretapping, CNO, etc.), which will be most effective, among others, against terrorist threats. These measures are subject to political, as well as judicial approval.

The ***Federal Ordinance of the Federal Staff for Civil Protection came into force 1 April 2018. It replaces the Federal Ordinance of the Crisis Management Board on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) and natural hazards from 2011. This Federal Crisis Management Board on Civil Protection covers all relevant risks and hazards in event management at the national level, including the effects of terrorist attacks if required.***

Under the *Federal Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration* (FNIA, SR 142.20), a foreign national can be banned from entering Switzerland in order to safeguard the country's internal or external security. Switzerland may also order the expulsion of a foreign national in order to safeguard the internal or the external security of Switzerland. This applies especially where Switzerland's security is at risk from terrorism, violent extremism or organised crime.

It should furthermore be noted that proposals have been submitted in relation to the planned implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its additional protocol, as well as the further reinforcement of the counterterrorism and organised crime legislations.

A new federal act on police measures to fight terrorism was under consultation until end of March 2018. Its purpose is to strengthen the existing measures in place by allowing police to take action outside formal criminal proceedings and prior to the opening of such proceedings or even after the execution of custodial sentences. The new proposed measures (i.e., obligation to report, ban on travelling abroad, contact ban) should essentially prevent persons who are in the process of being radicalised or who are already radicalised from travelling to foreign combat zones. These measures would aim to take these persons out of the criminal environment they are connected with. *The Federal Council will issue its report on the new law in the first session of 2019.*

Finally, discussions on measures to limit even further the dissemination of terrorist propaganda on the internet are under way and the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) should be able, in future, to decide to withdraw a Swiss domain name if violent propaganda material has been distributed via that domain name.

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Fighting terrorism in Switzerland is a task shared between the federal government, the cantons and the communes. It cuts across the various departments of the Federal Administration and is done in cooperation with foreign partners.

The Swiss Armed Forces may assist the civilian authorities in a subsidiary way if civilian personnel, material resources and capabilities are insufficient (Art. 67² of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (AOA, SR 510.10). Such support is granted by the Federal Council only in response to a request from the civilian authorities. The Armed Forces' missions to support civilian authorities are always under civilian leadership. If more than 2,000 Armed Forces personnel are engaged or if the support lasts for more than 3 weeks, parliamentary approval is required. The engagement of the Armed Forces can help to increase the political authorities' freedom of action by controlling important areas, locations and installations of vital importance, protecting the population against the substantial use of force and providing assistance in the event of disasters or other emergencies. Additionally, the Armed Forces may provide support for large scale events that require enhanced security measures (e.g. World Economic Forum in Davos, OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel) and reinforce the Swiss Border Guard or the protection of foreign embassies on Swiss territory. Finally, *the Swiss Air Force maintains the nation's air sovereignty through airspace* surveillance and *air* policing. Within this framework, the Armed Forces are part of the 'National Security Co-operation'. In extreme circumstances, such as an evident and imminent terrorism threat, the Armed Forces can, pending parliamentary approval, be called to active service. In cases of emergency, the Federal Council may decide on such a deployment, but parliament has to be convened immediately if more than 4,000 Armed Forces personnel are called up or if the deployment lasts for more than 3 weeks (article 77 AOA).

Switzerland concluded bilateral treaties on cross border co-operation against non-military airborne threats (e.g. renegade aircraft) with France in 2004 (SR 0.513.234.91), with Italy in 2006 (SR 0.513.245.41), with Germany in 2007 (SR 0.513.213.61) and with Austria in **2019** (SR 0.513.216.31). These treaties provide a legal basis for enhanced co-operation in fields such as Recognised Air Picture *data exchange*, the identification and observation of unknown aircraft and, with permission and under the control of the receiving State, cross border operations including the use of warning flares (except for Germany). However, the firing of ammunition at an aircraft remains exclusively within the competence of the State in control of the airspace. Similarly, Switzerland has signed several memoranda of understanding with partner countries

on the deployment of in-flight security officers (sky marshals) on civilian flights.

After the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, several parliamentary initiatives requested a stronger role for the national security agencies, as well as an increase of their resources and instruments. Consequently, the Federal Council tasked the Federal Department of Justice and Police in November 2001 with submitting proposals to improve the resources to fight terrorism. In June 2002, the Federal Council approved the report 'Situation and Threat Analysis of Switzerland after the Terrorist Attacks of 11 September 2001' and divided the topic into two sub-topics, the second including 'terrorism/extremism'. In October 2004, the Federal Council acknowledged the first considerations and commissioned the Federal Department of Justice and Police to prepare a draft act for consultation. The adoption of the respective legal and criminal provisions is considered one of the main priorities.

In 2001, the special unit Task Force Terror USA was set up by the Office of the Attorney General and fedpol to coordinate criminal investigations and to ensure co-operation with foreign authorities. By 1 January 2004, because of the high workload and topicality within the fedpol, the Task Force Terror USA was replaced by a permanent *investigative division within the Federal Office of Police (Department of Justice and Police, DFJP – fedpol)*. This is where specialised information and expertise are accumulated and related investigations are coordinated. While the *investigative division* deals with prosecution, the Federal Intelligence Service (FIS) within the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) performs preventive duties and intelligence gathering in the field of counter-terrorism.

The Money Laundering Report Office (MROS) is the national authority for receiving, analysing and disseminating Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) and other information regarding potential money laundering or financing of terrorism. It also exchanges relevant information with similar entities on the international level.

In January 2017, an operational coordination body for counterterrorism was created at federal level for the purpose of implementing Switzerland's Counterterrorism Strategy and for enhanced cooperation and coordination within Switzerland. This body, which comprises all relevant services of the federal administration under the chairmanship of the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) and in which the cantons also take part, is called "Operational Coordination TETRA" (for TErrorist TRacking) and perpetuates the work of the previous Task Force TETRA, which was set up in 2014. The Operational Coordination TETRA coordinates all counterterrorism activities of services such as the Federal Intelligence Service (FIS), the Office of the Attorney General of the Swiss Confederation (OAG), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA; Swiss Counterterrorism Coordination) and the Federal Customs Administration in the case of the Swiss Border Guard.

1.4 Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining *inter alia* to:

The Swiss CT Strategy

Switzerland is committed to fighting terrorism and its causes by pursuing the following strategic objectives: it prevents terrorism on its territory, it prevents the export of all forms of terrorism and all support for terrorism from its territory; it supports the international community in its efforts to prevent terrorism; it rejects terrorist blackmail; it is prepared to cope with acts of terrorism, and it is recognised internationally as a reliable and prudent player that is committed to international law.

In conformity with the four pillars of the UN CT Global Strategy, Switzerland has developed its international co-operation and a wide range of effective instruments to combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

Switzerland's National Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2015, is built on four pillars: "prevent"; "prosecute"; "protect"; and "prepare". The main objective of this strategy is formulated as follows: No

terrorist acts are perpetrated in Switzerland. Its territory is neither misused for terrorist financing, nor for the provision of logistical support or the planning of terrorist activities within Switzerland or abroad.

- *Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (Pillar I), Switzerland is strongly engaged in development programmes worldwide, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes, notably ensuring mediation in various conflict zones. It supports initiatives at the level of international or regional organisations, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and the OSCE. On 4 December 2017, Switzerland adopted the National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, which falls within the first pillar of the strategy.*
- *Concerning the prevention and fight against terrorism (Pillar II), Switzerland is, as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), implementing the Recommendations of the FATF on the fight against money laundering, the financing of terrorism and proliferation. As a member, it is periodically subject to an evaluation by peer FATF member states of its anti-money laundering and terrorism financing system. Switzerland underwent its fourth mutual evaluation by FATF in 2016. The Mutual Evaluation Report of Switzerland has been published and is accessible through the following link: <https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/46552.pdf> or on the FATF-Website. Switzerland has effective legislation to permit rapid co-operation in the sphere of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, in particular for the purpose of blocking funds. It has also introduced a federal act on the division of forfeited assets (LVPC),³ which lays down the procedure for dividing those assets between Switzerland and foreign States.*
- *Switzerland contributes to strengthening the UN system for building the capacities of States to prevent and combat terrorism (Pillar III). Notably, it supports the global and regional work and initiatives of the UNODC, the GCTF and the OSCE. Switzerland supported the development of capacity-building and best practices within OSCE by contributing to the drafting, translation and launch of a guidebook entitled “Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that lead to terrorism”.*
- *Finally, respect for human rights and the rule of law (Pillar IV) is the fundamental basis for Switzerland’s fight against terrorism: it is essential that counterterrorism efforts and policies are carried out within the framework of international law and particularly of human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law, maintaining a balance between prevention and repression. Switzerland promotes exchanges on issues relevant to accountability, transparency and legality in the fight against terrorism, and also supports training on human rights and counter-terrorism for police officers from South Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. This programme has been developed with the participation of ODIHR.*

Within the four areas of Prevention, Repression, Protection and Crisis Preparedness, the strategy defines six strategic goals for achieving the main objective. The strategic goals are:

- Switzerland prevents terrorism on its territory
- Switzerland prevents the export and support of terrorism from its territory
- Switzerland supports foreign partners in preventing terrorism
- Switzerland refuses to be blackmailed by terrorists
- Switzerland is prepared to cope with terrorist attacks
- Switzerland is a reliable, prudent partner at an international level, and committed to international law

Along strategic lines of action (consisting each of several specific measures), the strategy describes how to achieve these strategic goals, and finally the main objective.

The Swiss CT Coordination and the Swiss Ambassador-at-large for International Counter-Terrorism

³ LVPC, RS 312.4; the text of this Federal law is available, in three languages, at the following address: http://www.admin.ch/ch/fr/rs/312_4/index.html

The Operational Coordination TETRA coordinates intelligence, law enforcement, specific cases and preventive measures and processes concerning terrorist activities against and within Switzerland. TETRA, as a working method, has significantly contributed to an enhanced and more effective communication between the relevant actors.

Key cantonal, communal and federal actors released the National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Radicalisation and Violent Extremism⁴ in December 2017. The Action Plan recommends twenty six measures in the following areas: knowledge and expertise, cooperation and coordination, prevention of violent extremist ideologies and extremist groups, disengagement and reintegration, and international cooperation. The measures aim to detect at an early stage, prevent and disengage during and before criminal proceedings, as well as during and after prison terms. The Action Plan targets first and foremost local actors, who are asked to implement the measures in the following five years.

Switzerland's international efforts in the fight against terrorism are carried out by the Swiss Ambassador-at-large for *International* Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit within the Directorate for International Law of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The CT Coordination is responsible for developing and coordinating Swiss foreign policy in this matter and manages the commitment of the Swiss Government to improving co-operation with foreign States and international organisations in the fight against terrorism. It is to be underlined that this coordination function is exercised without prejudice to the material competence of the other federal services, which retain responsibility for these issues within their respective operational domains.

Money Laundering and Financing of terrorism

Within the framework of the implementation of the revised FATF recommendations, on 29 November 2013 the Federal Council created a permanent inter-agency working group with the aim of coordinating all national efforts pertaining to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in Switzerland, thereby conducting, on a regular basis, a national risk assessment. The working group is composed of representatives from the relevant agencies attached inter alia to the Federal Department of Justice and Police, the Federal Department of Finance and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, at directorate or office level.

Border controls

As an Associated State to the Schengen Co-operation, Switzerland has external as well as internal borders defined by the Schengen acquis:

- At the external Schengen borders (international airports), all passengers are checked. For persons enjoying the Community right of free movement (basically passengers holding a passport from the Schengen area and their family members), those checks remain rather cursory with the main aim being to ensure that the person and the travel document shown are the same. Third country nationals in contrast are subjected to thorough immigration checks in accordance with the Schengen regime. Customs inspections are carried out by the FCA, either by uniformed border guards or by customs officials.
- At the internal Schengen borders (mainly land borders, but also airports as far as Schengen flights are concerned), identity checks are in principle not required anymore. Such checks may only be made on an initial suspicion or if deemed necessary due to a general risk assessment or for self-protection due to a risk assessment. The additional control checks concern all international flights within and outside the Schengen area at 22 designated airports including the Swiss-French Basel-Mulhouse Airport (EuroAirport). Since Wednesday, 25 November 2015 and until further notice, all departing and arriving passengers at EuroAirport, apart from travellers to and from airports situated on French territory, have

⁴ <https://www.ejpd.admin.ch/dam/data/ejpd/aktuell/news/2017/2017-12-04/171204-nap-e.pdf>

undergone systematic border controls by the police. Checks on private merchandise are carried out by the uniformed border guard, while civilian customs officials control the entering cargo. Principal points of entry into Switzerland are manned 24/7. Other border crossing points operate during opening hours or are subject to random controls by mobile units. The Swiss Border Guard is authorised to conduct mobile police controls in a clearly defined area along the Swiss borders. Checks take place on public roads, on trains and at the green border. Helicopters and Swiss Armed Forces drones are used in certain cases.

Since 1 May 2009, the Ordinance on the Control of Trans-Border Cash Movements (SR 631.052) has applied in relation to customs inspections. It allows the temporary confiscation of cash that might be related to terrorism. In this regard, the Federal Customs Administration (incl. Swiss Border Guard) cooperates with the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland (MROS) and the relevant police forces.

Due to bilateral agreements with its direct neighbouring states, Switzerland enjoys enhanced co-operation in the fields of police, customs, and migration.

Travel document security

Switzerland attributes great importance to its measures against the counterfeiting of its travel documents. It was one of the first countries connected to the INTERPOL-database on lost and stolen travel documents (SLTD).

Furthermore, on 17 May 2009, Swiss citizens accepted by referendum the Federal Decree on the implementation of the EC-Regulation 2252/2004, amended by EC-Regulation 444/2009 of 28 May 2009 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States which are part of the Schengen acquis. As of 1 March 2010, Switzerland issues exclusively 2nd generation e-passports with an electronically stored facial image and two fingerprints. In order to participate in the global effort to enhance travel document security, Switzerland has become member of the International Civil Aviation **Organisation** Public Key Directory Board (ICAO-PKD) and established an active connection to the ICAO-PKD for the up- and download of certificates in January 2011. These certificates are made available online to border guards and law enforcement authorities in Switzerland. The chair of the board was held by Switzerland from May 2012 until October 2017. The board endeavours to promote the use of this important security infrastructure. In order to contribute to this effort, Switzerland remains on the Executive Body of the ICAO-PKD. To contribute to the future development of secure travel documents, Switzerland also participates in the relevant ICAO working groups, such as the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) and the Implementation and Capacity Working Group (ICBWG).

Besides issuing state-of-the-art travel documents, Switzerland has actively participated since 2010 in the EU-FADO-Database (False and Authentic Documents) and makes this information available to border-guard and police authorities.

Container and supply chain security

Switzerland applies security standards corresponding to those of the EU. To this end, Switzerland and the EU concluded a treaty which recognises their standards. This treaty came into force on 1 January 2011. The objective was to abstain from security measures in bilateral trade between Switzerland and the EU. A similar agreement with Norway came into force on 1 July 2017.

The acknowledged equal security standards between Switzerland/Norway and the EU allow for trilateral trade between Switzerland/Norway and the EU without advance-declaration. Instead, the direct trade in goods between Switzerland and non-EU States (except Norway) will be handled by the security regulations. Moreover, Switzerland created a status of Authorized Economic Operator equal to that in the EU and therefore recognised by the EU and by Norway.

Security of radioactive sources

The Swiss legislation on radiological protection fixes a procedure of licences and inspection for the use of ionizing radiation (radioactive sources and radiological installations). The licensing authority is the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). According to the Code of Conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the FOPH manages an inventory of high activity sealed radioactive sources (**HASS**), which lists the most dangerous sources present in various Swiss companies. The FOPH regularly collects information on their state and location and enforces specific security measures to prevent sabotage or the theft of such sources. **Currently, a new directive regarding physical security against theft and sabotage of HASS is being implemented by the FOPH. This directive sets a minimum standard for the number and type of barriers, detection of non-authorised access, personnel trustworthiness checks and emergency response. All HASS licensees have to provide a security plan by the end of 2019.** Disused radioactive sources are managed by the state. The transport, import and export of these sources are carried out according to international legislation and the specific guidance of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, border controls to prevent the illicit entry of radioactive material into Swiss territory take place regularly. Companies with enhanced probability of finding orphan sources (e.g. scrap metal dealers or waste incineration plants) have to be equipped with detection devices. Orphan sources that have been discovered are then immediately collected and placed under safe and secure management. All provisions related to radiological security have been integrated into the Radiological Protection Ordinance of 26 April 2017, in force since 1 January 2018, as well as further technical ordinances.

Use of the internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes

For the information exchange in cases of imminent threats involving information and communication technologies against the Swiss National Critical Infrastructure (NCI), the Reporting and Analysis Centre for Information Assurance (MELANI) is the Swiss Government's information sharing platform: The Federal IT Steering Unit (FITSU) within the Federal Department of Finance has the strategic lead over MELANI. The GovCERT.ch within the FITSU provides MELANI's technical expertise, while the Operations and Information Centre within the Federal Intelligence Service (FIS), located in the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS), operates MELANI's operational tasks. MELANI's customer-base or target-group is private companies and government bodies which are considered part of Switzerland's national critical infrastructure (NCI), and which rely on or provide network services. They recruit from various sectors, such as finance, energy, transportation, industry and government. The public private partnership (PPP) between MELANI and these NCIs is heavily based on confidentiality, trust and mutual information exchange between the NCI and MELANI, and intra-sector information sharing between the NCIs.

Information shared by MELANI and its constituency is derived from different sources. On the side of MELANI, these are mainly technical pieces of information, commonly coming from CERT channels as well as confidential information received by partner intelligence services.

In 2018, the Federal Council adopted the second national strategy for the protection of Switzerland against cyber risks. Within this national cyber strategy, MELANI is mandated to enhance the integral threat assessment within the cyber domain on a national level. This is attended by strengthening the cooperation with public authorities, the private sector and operators of critical infrastructure.

Hostage Taking; Blackmail

Fedpol's Special Task Force for hostage-taking and blackmail (SOGE) deals with crisis situations involving blackmail resulting from criminal acts subject to federal jurisdiction and therefore compels the federal authorities or foreign authorities to act. SOGE follows and assesses the situation, prepares political decisions and requests to the Federal Council, and presents the Federal Council with proposals for solving the crisis. In addition to that, fedpol, together with the Crisis Management Centre of the Federal Department

of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Intelligence Service, acts as first response in case of kidnappings of Swiss citizens abroad. In addition to having a specialised crisis management unit, a special quick response pool of specialists offers a 24/7 deployment possibility in the event of such kidnappings or other crises.

Explosives

Under the Montreal Convention from 1991, plastic explosives need to be marked in Switzerland for the purpose of detection. Furthermore, Switzerland also marks civil explosives. Only explosives which contain these microscopic particles can be legally placed on the market. The particles are designed to survive the explosion and can be collected for forensic analysis. The taggants are fluorescent and consist of multiple coloured layers, representing a unique identification code (production place, time span and lot). Finally, all explosives are marked with bar codes for identification and traceability throughout Europe. Fedpol is responsible for the certification of explosives and pyrotechnical devices placed on the market in Switzerland. It ensures that the legislation (for example regarding marking) in this area is enforced, issues import and manufacturing licences and checks that the compliance requirements are fulfilled. Fedpol also operates a database on all incidents occurring in Switzerland involving explosives and pyrotechnical devices, and provides other agencies and private individuals with advice.

In addition, fedpol operates the Swiss national Bomb Data Center, is actively involved in the international Bomb Data Center Working Group (IBDCWG) and Network and participates in the relevant Interpol and Europol bodies.

Explosives precursors

Based on a report written by fedpol, the Swiss Federal Council took the decision to propose a law to Parliament by the end of **2019** that restricts access to explosives precursors (regulations analogous to the EU Regulation No 98/2013) and that clarifies the process for reporting suspicious transactions. The new act will not come into force before **2022**. Immediate interim measures have been taken until the new law comes into force. Vendors of products containing explosives precursors can report suspicious incidents on a voluntary basis to the newly established National Contact Point at fedpol. fedpol has informed the economic operators that they can report suspicious transactions and other events involving explosives precursors.

Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organisations

Fedpol, the State Secretariat for Migration and the Federal Intelligence Service cooperate closely in order to prevent individuals involved in terrorist activities and/or supporting a terrorist **organisation** from entering Switzerland. Both fedpol and the State Secretariat for Migration can consult their internal security partners to use a number of administrative measures (e.g. entry bans, expulsions, etc.) to prevent (potential) terrorists from entering or residing in Switzerland. Whilst the Federal Intelligence Service does not issue entry bans, it can propose that fedpol do so, based on prior assessment. The above mentioned offices are also attentive to the activities of individuals in Switzerland who may attempt to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals associated with terrorism. In the past, the Swiss authorities have investigated and prosecuted a network involved in such activities.

Switzerland remains at risk of being used as a financial and logistical base to support jihadi groups in planning and carrying out terrorist attacks. As of **February 2019**, the Office of the Attorney General of the Switzerland (OAG), together with the Federal Criminal Police of fedpol, is conducting around **35-40** proceedings against individuals suspected of membership and support of criminal **organisations** with a terrorist background. Investigations have especially been conducted against Swiss residents suspected of supporting criminal/terrorist **organisations** by recruiting foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and facilitating their journeys, of being FTFs themselves and of planning attacks within Switzerland. Since 2016, the OAG has secured six convictions at trial on terrorism-related charges, all of them regarding either the groups “Al-Qaida” or “Islamic State” (IS). **Now that** the group “IS” in Syria and Iraq **has effectively been defeated**, investigations have increasingly focused on potential returnees.

2. Stationing of Armed Forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on the stationing of your State's Armed Forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

The temporary stationing of Swiss military personnel on the territory of other OSCE participating States in the context of peace support operations is governed by the agreements between the respective OSCE participating State and the responsible international organisations (e.g. the OSCE and/or the United Nations).

In relation to peace operations, the Federal Council determines if deployed personnel are to be armed. Since members of the Swiss Armed Forces are not allowed to participate in combat and coercive operations in peace enforcement operations, they are only armed for self-defence and for the accomplishment of the mandate. If an armed mission abroad involves more than 100 members of the Armed Forces or lasts more than 3 weeks, approval by the Parliament is mandatory.

The temporary deployment of Swiss military personnel on the territory of other OSCE participating States in the context of training co-operation (e.g. joint courses or exercises) is governed by bi- or multilateral agreements with the respective states or by the 'Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty *Organisation* and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces' dated 19 June 1995 (PfP-SOFA) along with its amended protocol, *ratified by the Federal Council on 26 March 2003*.

The Swiss Armed Forces have been engaged in Kosovo in the international Kosovo Force (KFOR) peace support mission, with a company-size unit (Swisscoy), since October 1999. On 23 November 2016, the Federal Council passed a further extension of the Swisscoy mandate until the end of 2020. It *was* the Government's intention to maintain its contribution to KFOR yet to reduce it gradually in troop numbers. *Parliament accepted the Federal Council proposals on 8 June 2017*. By April 2018, the contingent *had been reduced* from 235 to 190 military personnel and by November 2019 *it will be cut* from 190 to 165. Any change in posture has always been made in accordance with KFOR requirements. To this end, the reduction concerns only capabilities which are no longer needed by the mission. SWISSCOY is composed of voluntary military and civil personnel who are armed for self-defence. The deployment consists of elements of logistical support and transport (including airlift capacities), engineer support in the field of explosive ordnance disposal as well as liaison and monitoring capacities. The Swiss Armed Forces man four liaison and monitoring teams (Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Malishevo and Prizren) and the command post of the most exposed regional detachment, JRD-North in Mitrovica. The Swiss Armed Forces also provide KFOR with an efficient means of airlift with its two Super Puma helicopters.

Currently, 20 members of the Swiss Armed Forces are deployed in the European Union Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation ALTHEA). Some operate as staff officers in the EUFOR HQ in Sarajevo, while the majority are deployed in two liaison and observation teams (LOT, Mostar and Trebinje).

As an additional contribution to EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, Switzerland provides elements of a multinational Mobile Training Team (MTT) for capacity building in ammunition and weapons storage site management. The MTT is Swiss-led and consists of ammunition and weapons experts from Austria, Sweden and Switzerland. The MTT project is fully integrated into the international community's effort to assist the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in disposing of its surplus weapons and ammunition and introducing a sustainable life-cycle management system (incl. national procedures and structures). The efforts of the MTT focus on stockpile management, but also include physical security aspects, particularly with regard to the use of lethal and non-lethal means during guard duties in accordance with international humanitarian law and the OSCE Code of Conduct. Since the beginning of 2013, Switzerland has also seconded the Special Ammunition and Weapons Advisor (SAWAD) to COM EUFOR. He is in charge of advising both COM EUFOR and the BIH Minister of Defence on issues related to weapons and ammunition.

Additionally the Swiss Armed Forces have engaged **56** individuals (Military Experts on Mission [UNMEM], Military Staff Officers [MSO], mine awareness - and training experts) in **12** peace-support operations or headquarters (UN, OSCE) abroad (March 01, **2019**).

With regard to civilian police support, Switzerland has been present in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina for several years: in Kosovo at first under the umbrella of United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and afterwards within the missions of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland currently provides the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) with one border guard officer and one criminal justice advisor.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Switzerland's engagement in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation is aimed at strengthening international security and at contributing to a *rules*-based international order. It further endeavours to promote efficient and effective international *organisation* and a functioning multilateralism through transparency and confidence. In accordance with its humanitarian tradition, Switzerland also advocates multilateral arrangements which contribute to the respect of international humanitarian law and human rights, the mitigation of harm caused by armed conflicts, the protection of civilians and human security. *The 2016 report by the Federal Council provides a comprehensive view of Switzerland's arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy* (https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/aussenpolitik/sicherheitspolitik/Abruestungsbericht-2017_EN.pdf)

Switzerland is an advocate of disarmament and arms control treaties that are non-discriminatory and as verifiable as possible. As a rule, it gives precedence to instruments which are binding under international law over agreements that are purely political, although it also considers the latter to be binding and is resolute in its implementation of them. On this basis, Switzerland ensures implementation through various instruments at national and international level, including:

- *Regular reporting to the Parliament (in each legislative period) and comprehensive answers to parliamentary questions;*
- *Regular inter-ministerial coordination on various levels, including long-term planning of projects and budget funds (where necessary);*
- *Definition of national strategies and action plans (related to particular arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation domains), including strategic objectives and tasks/milestones to be achieved within a certain period;*
- *Regular consultation and provision of information among government stakeholders, services and Swiss Armed Forces formations and units relevant for operational implementation (i.e. in the domain of Confidence and Security Building Measures, ammunition destruction, explosive ordnance disposal, export control, border control, CBRN expertise, etc.);*
- *Regular national reporting on the implementation of the commitments under the regimes along predefined procedures (for UN Member States, OSCE participating States, et al.);*
- *Active implementation of confidence and security-building measures CSBM "to the letter and spirit" of the relevant agreements (i.e. Vienna Document 11), including voluntary measures;*
- *Active promotion of multilateral measures that strengthen implementation and (where agreed) its verification.*

Switzerland is a member of the Europol firearms committee and participates in the Europol Focal-Point

“Firearms”. Because of many secured weapons in Europe with a link to Switzerland and the likelihood of illegal deliveries of weapons to Switzerland, Switzerland is examining a participation in the EMPACT-Priority “Firearms” of Europol and to the iArms system of INTERPOL. Further, Switzerland is using the Evofinder-system to compare firearm traces internationally.

3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.

Switzerland supports the re-launching of discussions on the future of conventional arms control in Europe, which it considers a vital element of cooperative security. It also supports and is actively engaged in the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in Europe within the framework of the OSCE.

Within the OSCE framework, Switzerland contributed to the preparation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as well as the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA). Since 2014, Switzerland has supported the OSCE projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia with *around* CHF **500,000**. In addition to financial contributions, Switzerland also endeavours to provide technical expertise for selected projects (e.g. 2014-16: training on transportation of dangerous goods incl. ammunition in Moldova).

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

The lead for foreign and security policy, and hence for military posture and defence expenditures, lies with the government, i.e. the Federal Council. Within the parameters set by the Federal Constitution, the Federal Council develops and presents its policy periodically in a report on Swiss security policy. This paper is drafted within the administration, but a wider public may be involved through a precursory study group, hearings or a consultation with an advanced draft. The report covers the whole spectrum of Swiss security policy: threats and dangers, the international environment, interests and objectives, basic strategy and the instruments of security policy as well as organisational and resource matters. It determines a general outline for the military posture.

These reports define the guidelines for Swiss security policy for the next five to ten years. The last such report was published in August 2016. As usual, the draft of the report was submitted to the cantons, parties and associations for consultation prior its approval by the Federal Council. The report was presented to Parliament for debate in the course of 2017 (not for formal approval as it is merely a policy document of the government). The focus of the new report is on analysing Switzerland's security policy environment.

In this context (and before 2016), the Federal Council proposed an adaption of the defence capability to the geostrategic threat level as well as the financial and demographic situation, allowing for a reduction in structure and strength. It concluded that Switzerland had to retain only a core military capacity and the expertise required to be able to repel military aggression. Since a purely conventional military threat against Switzerland in the distant future cannot be ruled out completely, Switzerland will retain its core military capacity and military expertise to be capable of repelling such aggression. Subsequently, the Federal Council proposed to Parliament the concept of the future Armed Forces within the planning parameters of 100,000 armed forces personnel and an annual defence budget of 5 billion Swiss Francs. The ensuing amendments to the Federal Act on the Armed Forces were approved by parliament in early 2016. The legal amendments and along with them the adapted concept for the Armed Forces came into force on 1 January 2018.

Parliament has the final say on defence expenditure, as part of the federal budget. The budget proposal submitted by the Federal Council is first discussed in the related parliamentary committees of both chambers (in the case of the defence budget by the Committees on Finance) before being presented to the plenary session. *Within the framework of the annual federal report by the Federal Council on the armed forces*, Parliament votes on requests for appropriations on procurement programmes for the Armed Forces (including weapons and ammunition) and military construction programmes (both drafted by the DDPS).

1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take account of the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

Given its peaceful relationships with other countries, its *neutrality and* centuries-long tradition of military non-aggression, its relatively small demographic and geographic size, and the openness of its political and resource allocation process, including the process of formulating security and defence policies, Switzerland reinforces its engagement to international peace and security. Switzerland also participates in international peace support operations based on a UN or an OSCE mandate.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police and private military and security companies?

As a general setting, there are a number of parliamentary respectively external as well as internal controlling mechanisms that supervise the forces', services' and federal offices' accomplishment of tasks. The parliamentary supervision committees guarantee an external control of the offices. Secondly, the federal departments are legally obliged to supervise their own endeavours internally.

Armed Forces

Democratic control of the Swiss Armed Forces is ensured by the primacy of rule of law, parliamentary control, and transparency in defence matters. Important decisions related to the Armed Forces, such as engagements of the Armed Forces and all major acquisition and budgetary projects, are subject to parliamentary approval.

The Swiss Armed Forces are firmly controlled by democratic oversight:

- *The armed forces structure is approved by the Federal Assembly down to battalion level;*
- *There is full transparency regarding armed forces engagements and activities: indeed, all major armed forces engagements are subject to parliamentary approval (see chapter 2.1 below);*
- *Major armament, ammunition procurement or infrastructure projects are subject to parliamentary approval;*
- *All senior officers are appointed by the government;*
- *Military justice is independent and only administratively subordinated to the Head of DDPS. The judges of the Military Supreme Court are appointed by Parliament;*

In addition, the Federal Act on Freedom of Information in the Administration (SR 152.3) also applies to the Armed Forces. It stipulates that any person has the right to inspect in situ or to request a copy of official documents. Every document requested is assessed individually and has to be made available, unless Art. 7 applies. This provision stipulates that the right of access is limited, deferred or refused if such access to an official document affects inter alia the execution of specific measures taken by an authority in conformity with its objectives, or is likely to compromise the domestic and international security of Switzerland.

Paramilitary forces

Switzerland has no paramilitary forces.

Internal security forces

Switzerland has no internal security forces.

Intelligence services

Switzerland has two intelligence services which are both within the DDPS:

- The Federal Intelligence Service (FIS) operates on the basis of the *Intelligence Service Act (SR 121)*, the *Ordinance on the Federal Intelligence Service (FISO, SR 121.1)* and the *Ordinance on the FIS Information and Storage Systems (ISSO-FIS, SR 121.2)*. This law as well as the regulating ordinances came into force in September 2017.

- The FIS is also the home agency for the central offices for dual-use goods, war material and nuclear and radioactive materials. These offices are tasked, based on their specific legislation, to collect information to prevent the illicit use of the goods in their defined area of responsibility.
- On the basis of articles 99 and 100 of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces (AOA) (SR 510.10) the Military Intelligence Service and the Service for Preventive Protection of the Armed Forces (MIS&SPPAF) provide joint intelligence on military-strategic and senior command level in order to respond to the specific needs of the Ministry of Defence (DDPS), the Chief of the Armed Forces and its Staff. It is attributed to the Operations Command and is subordinated to the head of the MIS&SPPAF (fulfilling therefore and thereby also the J2 Tasks). MIS analysis and production is predominantly focused on situation awareness and threat analysis regarding all theatres and missions where members of the Swiss Armed Forces are deployed. *MIS* also *follows up* the development of armed forces worldwide and *develops* scenarios for the possible medium-term development of situations. As part of the organisation, *the SPPAF* deals with counter intelligence issues within the Armed Forces.
- *The FIS and MIS&SPPAF activities are subject to continuous checks and are supervised by an independent supervisory authority, the Federal Council and the Federal Administration. The independent supervisory authority operates on the basis of the Intelligence Service Act (SR 121) and the Ordinance on the Supervision of Intelligence Activities (OSIA, SR 121.3)*
- An internal oversight unit in the DDPS supervises the Federal Intelligence Service and the Military Intelligence Service. The main aspects of this supervision are the legal compliance, *appropriateness* and effectiveness of the Services' *activities*. The unit reports directly to the Head of the DDPS. Simultaneously with the new law for FIS, this (internal) oversight unit *is* replaced by an independent oversight that is not bound by directions and guidance of the DDPS.

Parliamentary oversight of the intelligence services is exercised by a *sub-committee* of the Control Committee of the Federal Assembly. It periodically inspects the intelligence services' structure, budget and activities, including interagency co-operation. The *sub-committee* supervises mainly the legal aspects as well as usefulness and effectiveness of the intelligence services' activities. It publishes an annual report on its findings but is not authorised to alter government decisions.

Due to the particular nature of its tasks, the FIS is supervised by a Special Parliamentary Investigation Commission.

Police

Switzerland's federal structure is also mirrored in the organisation of policing responsibilities. According to Art. 57 of the Federal Constitution (SR 101), both the Confederation and the cantons are, within the limits of their respective competencies and by coordinating their efforts in the field of internal security, responsible for the security of the country and for the protection of the population.

According to Art. 3 of the Federal Constitution (SR 101), the cantons are sovereign unless their sovereignty is limited by the Federal Constitution. As the Federal Constitution does not assign the issue of police forces and police authorities to the Swiss Confederation, these are primarily cantonal competences. Each canton has its own sovereign police force. Additionally, some major cities have their own local forces.

However, specific tasks have been transferred to federal level. The Federal Office of Police (fedpol) is responsible for safeguarding national security. This responsibility encompasses prosecution, particularly in connection with organised crime, the coordination of investigation procedures within the state borders as well as in international cases, investigations in cases of serious crimes involving organised crime including drug trafficking, money laundering, corruption, counterfeiting and economic crimes, investigation of suspected acts of terrorism, financing of terrorism, crimes connected with explosives, illegal intelligence activities, offences against the Federal Act on War Material (War Material Act, WMA SR 514.51), the Federal Act on Nuclear Energy, the Federal Act on the Control of Civil and Military Goods (SR 946.202),

and the Federal Aviation Act (SR 748.0) and the coordination of inter-cantonal criminal investigations, the information exchange with INTERPOL, Europol and the Schengen framework and analysis in the areas of its competencies. Fedpol can also issue bans on entry, decide on expulsions in order to preserve the internal or external security of Switzerland, issue limitations to outward departure from Swiss territory and order the confiscation of materials containing propaganda inciting violence.

Fedpol, especially through the Federal Security Service, works with the cantonal authorities to ensure the security of federal officials and facilities, as well as people and buildings granted protection under international law. A variety of measures are implemented to protect heads of state and government, ministers, royalty, federal councillors, federal judges, federal officials at special risk and federal parliamentarians.

Police forces can be supported by the Swiss Border Guard as well as the railway police (part of the Swiss Federal Railways). In general, fedpol cooperates closely with cantonal police services in matters involving the cantons.

As mentioned above, policing powers are exercised by the cantons, which are considered sovereign states within the Swiss Confederation. Law enforcement in Switzerland is therefore the responsibility of all 26 cantons, each of which has a cantonal police force. Some cities also operate their own police force as provided for by cantonal law. The 26 cantonal police forces and numerous city police forces are not subordinated to the federal authorities and their commanding officers report to the head of the respective cantonal or city department of police, who is a member of the cantonal or city government.

On 1 January 2011, the Federal Criminal Procedure Code (CPC, SR 312) came into force. Criminal procedure in Switzerland as well as the competences of the police force at federal and cantonal level are now regulated by federal law. Until the end of 2010, each canton had its own criminal procedure rules.

Private military and security companies

For the detailed information exchange on private military and security companies (PMSC) according to the Working Paper to Improve the Reporting on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC.DEL/29/15), please refer to Annex II: Voluntary information on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSC).

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for carrying out these procedures?

Democratic control of the Swiss Armed Forces and the police forces is ensured by their subordination in all respects to the democratically elected political authorities at both cantonal and/or federal level. Thus, the Swiss Armed Forces and the police forces are effectively controlled by the following democratically elected constitutional bodies:

- *the Federal Council (Government, accountable to the Federal Assembly);*
- *the respective cantonal government;*
- the Federal Assembly (Parliament);
- *the respective cantonal parliament.*

In addition, Swiss voters, who elect the Parliament, can also use the following constitutionally based direct democratic instruments:

- *the popular initiative to amend the Constitution;*
- *the optional referendum to oppose an amendment to an existing law, or the adoption of a new law.*

Accordingly, Swiss citizens can also use these instruments to intervene on security and defence policy matters.

The Government

The Federal Council is the Swiss government. Its seven members and the Federal Chancellor are elected by Parliament. Their term of office is four years and they may be re-elected. The Federal Council deals with the ongoing task of governing the country and implements the laws and other decisions adopted by parliament. Each of the seven members of the Federal Council is head of one of the seven federal departments, which together with Federal Chancellery make up the Federal Administration, to which the Armed Forces belong. The Federal Council sets strategies and goals and then draws up the relevant draft legislation. The views of broad sections of the population and industry are gathered in a consultation process. The Federal Council then submits the proposal to Parliament, which debates and reaches decisions on it. The Federal Council also manages the Confederation's finances through the budget and the state accounts. The final decisions on these matters also rest with Parliament.

A concentration of power is avoided in the government; the members of the Federal Council are currently drawn from four political parties. Accordingly, the Federal Council takes decisions as a collegial body: the members seek consensus to win majority support for their policies. They are also expected to defend the position of the Federal Council, even if it is contrary to their personal view or that of their party (principle of collegiality). In contrast to systems in other countries, there is no clear distinction between government and opposition.

In this context, the Federal Council sets the orientations and goals on all defence matters. Armed Forces guidelines, proposals for amendments to the Act on the Armed Forces, procurement and infrastructure requests are submitted to the Parliament for approval (security policy reports are submitted to parliament for acknowledgment). Deployments of the Armed Forces both within Switzerland and abroad are decided by the Federal Council. Major deployments are however subject to parliamentary approval: pursuant to Art. 70² of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (Armed Forces Act, SR 510.10), approval by parliament is required if more than 2000 Armed Forces personnel are called up or if the mission is expected to last more than three weeks; pursuant to Art. 66b¹ of the Armed Forces Act, this threshold is fixed at three weeks and 100 Armed Forces personnel for peace support deployments.

Along with the DDPS, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) are regularly and closely involved in the definition of security policy and the military and civil protection positions. The Security Committee of the Federal Council is composed of the heads of DDPS, FDJP and FDFA. It assesses the security-related situation for Switzerland and coordinates security-related matters of business across the Federal Departments.

Parliament

Parliament comprises the National Council and the Council of States. The two Councils have equal powers; together they form the Federal Assembly. Parliament enacts legislation and monitors the activities of the Federal Council and the Federal Supreme Court. The main role of Parliament is to enact legislation. However, it is also responsible for releasing funding (budget), approving the state accounts, overseeing the Federal Council and the federal courts and the Federal Chancellor, concluding international agreements for which the Federal Council is not responsible and fostering relations with foreign parliaments.

Furthermore, Parliament members can initiate a parliamentary initiative to propose that Parliament itself enacts a law – either by formulating the idea or even drafting the law itself. Using a "motion", council members can prompt the Federal Council into drafting legislation. A "postulate" is used to ask the Federal Council to examine whether a new law or decree should be drafted or measures taken, while an interpellation is a request to the Federal Council for information on federal government matters, including defence and security policy.

There are nine special committees, whose main task is to make a preliminary examination of legislative

proposals. They are each responsible for a specific topic, such as transport, legal affairs, foreign affairs, and security policy. In addition, the finance committees and the control committees oversee the federal finances and activities of the Federal Council and the Federal Administration. Specifically, the committees provide an opportunity for matters to be discussed in greater detail, to clarify specific issues, hear experts from the administration or from interest groups concerned, and address questions to federal councillors. They also serve as a testing ground to see whether a majority can be found for certain positions or ideas across party lines.

The Security Policy Committees are inter alia responsible for the Armed Forces, internal and external security issues, military and civilian peace support in the security policy field, as well as armament policy. Accordingly, they receive information regularly from the Federal Council on major security and defence policy topics. Also, the Security Policy Committees prepare plenary discussions on related Federal Council proposals to Parliament by recommending their approval or rejection to their respective chamber.

Cantonal Parliaments and Governments

Because police authority is exercised by the cantons, democratic control over the police forces is exercised by the cantonal parliaments (legislature) and governments (executive). The specific procedures and responsible authorities / institutions for ensuring democratic political control over the police are established by cantonal law.

The electorate's political rights

All Swiss citizens who are 18 or over have the right to vote at national level. In addition to parliamentary elections, which are held every four years, the electorate can express its views up to four times a year in popular votes on specific political issues, including security and defence policy matters. In most cases, there are several proposals to be voted on at each ballot. This makes the electorate Switzerland's supreme political body.

A vote must be held on any amendment to the Constitution (mandatory referendum). Amendments to the Constitution require the consent of a majority of the People and of the cantons (double majority). On the other hand, a vote is only held on a revised or new law if a referendum is demanded (optional referendum). The new law is accepted if a majority of the electorate vote in favour of it (simple majority).

Accordingly, the Swiss citizens can have a final say on parts of the measures related to establishing, manning, funding and equipping the Armed Forces. However, the annual defence budget or the procurement programs are not per se subject to an optional referendum. By means of a popular initiative, Swiss citizens may even decide on fundamental questions, through constitutional amendment, i.e. whether Switzerland should have any Armed Forces at all.

Minister of Defence

The Head of the DDPS *is an elected Federal Councillor. She* is politically responsible for the department's activities and thus also for overall defence planning.

The DDPS is charged with the execution of all decisions related to matters of defence and civil protection adopted by the Federal Council. It is also responsible for preparing reports on security policy, defence guidelines, and the Federal Acts and ordinances concerning the Armed Forces and Civil Protection.

Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police

Like the minister of defence, the minister of justice and police is an elected Federal Councillor. The department portfolio includes the Federal Office of Justice (FOJ), the Federal Office of Police (fedpol), the

State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT). In her function, the minister of justice and police is responsible for the political and strategic orientation of those offices as well as for the development of their co-operation with foreign countries and international institutions.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

Military forces

Under Art. 58 of the Federal Constitution and Art. 1 of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (AOA SR 510.10), the Swiss Armed Forces are tasked with defending the country and its people, supporting civilian authorities, safeguarding air sovereignty and contributing to international peace and stability.

The Swiss Armed Forces are based on the militia principle with the exception of very few and small professional units. The bulk of the Armed Forces are temporarily activated on an annual basis for routine training and exercises after which they are de-activated.

With the exception of limited-scale disaster relief in support of and under operational control of the civilian authorities, all operational activities, including the call-up of troops outside the regular training schedule must be mandated by the Federal Council. Parliamentary approval is mandatory for major deployments (see chapter 2.2 above).

In peacetime, the Armed Forces are subordinate to the minister of defence. All general officers are appointed by the Federal Council. A military commander-in-chief will be elected by Parliament if a major call-up of troops is required to defend Switzerland or to counter major disturbances of public order. The Federal Council remains the supreme executive and directing body and decides on the competences granted to the military commander-in-chief.

Members of Parliament can draw attention to Swiss Armed Forces acts that in their view may be contrary to the Constitution. Parliamentary approval is necessary for all government decisions concerning the role and stance of the Swiss Armed Forces, the defence budget as well as procurement programmes and new military infrastructure.

Emphasising the individual accountability of all members of the armed forces, Art. 32³ of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (Act on the Armed Forces, AOA, SR 510.10) stipulates that members of the Armed Forces must refuse to execute orders that are contrary to domestic or international law.

Paramilitary forces

Switzerland has no paramilitary forces.

Security forces

Switzerland has no internal security forces.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Military forces

Liability to military service is an integral part of universal conscription. It begins with recruitment. All male Swiss citizens are obliged to serve in the Armed Forces. Liability to military service encompasses all types of service (training service, assistance service and active service as well as some parts of the voluntary peace-keeping services) as well as off-duty obligations. Women may voluntarily apply for military service.

Recruitment procedures are defined in the Federal Council Ordinance on Military Service Liability (SR 512.21) of 22 November 2017. The minimum age to be recruited is 18 years. Recruitment is the responsibility of the Chief of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces Personnel (AF Pers) division, inside the Training and Education Command (TEC), is responsible for recruitment and determines the number of recruits required for the various functions and branches. The Medical Services division is subordinated to the Armed Forces Staff and is responsible for medical doctrine and the medical guidelines for recruitment.

Since 2003, conscription begins with the registration of conscripts at the age of eighteen. Prior to recruitment, all conscripts are called-up for an information day and interested women are also invited. Recruitment also includes a written orientation to all future conscripts and women at the age of sixteen. The actual recruitment, starting at the age of nineteen, is organised at a federal level at 6 permanent **recruitment centres** under the supervision of the Recruitment Command. Recruitment takes place between 12 months at the earliest and 3 months at the latest before the intended start of basic training and lasts up to 3 days. These recruitment days count towards the number of days that an able conscript must complete. The main purpose of this recruitment is to register the physical, psychological, intellectual and professional potential in a performance profile. For the assignment to the Armed Forces, the performance profile is compared with the requirement profile. At this stage, it is determined whether the conscript may serve as a single-term conscript or not (as opposed to a conscript that completes recruit school and subsequently attends annual refresher courses). Moreover, the potential for, and the interest in a cadre function as an officer or a non-commissioned officer (NCO) is also evaluated. On the same occasion, it is determined whether conscripts who are not fit for military service can serve within the framework of civil protection, which does not count as liability to military service. As part of the next development step of the Swiss Armed Forces in 2018, these procedures will be analysed, overhauled and adapted to current requirements and needs.

The Recruitment Command:

- manages recruitment at Swiss Armed Forces level at 6 permanent recruitment centres;
- evaluates the requirement profile for the roughly 270 functions in the armed forces;
- supervises the conduct of the roughly 5,000 aptitude tests and about 500 technical examinations;
- conducts the evaluation of the potential candidates for a cadre function for the following levels:
 - cadre level I: for NCOs
 - cadre level II: for senior NCOs or subaltern officers
 - cadre level III: for unit commanders (captains)
 - cadre level IV: for battalion commanders (LTC) and GS officers
 - cadre level Z: for contracted military personnel (conscript officers and NCOs contracted for a limited time period);
- co-operates with 26 cantonal military authorities;
- deals with requests for military service without weapons for conscientious objectors.

For the organisation of recruitment, the Recruitment Command has the following offices:

- Six permanent recruitment centres.
- The military authorities of the cantons and the regional command in charge are responsible for registering, enrolling and informing the conscripts prior to recruitment. They are also responsible for the organisation of the information day prior to recruitment and for the call-up for recruitment.
- The Medical Services division in the Armed Forces Staff is responsible for military medical examinations. It nominates the chief physician in charge, his deputy physician and the medical personnel supporting the Recruitment Command and the recruitment centres.

- The Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO) conducts physical performance tests within the framework of the recruitment days.

Recruits who are fit for military service are usually called up at the age of 20 for basic military training (recruit school) according to the directives of the Armed Forces Personnel in the Training and Education Command. Call-up is given via a personal marching order, which contains information on the date, time and location. According to the Federal Council Ordinance on Military Service Liability (SR 512.21) recruit school lasts 18 weeks for the conscripts over all branches and 23 weeks for land forces grenadiers and parachute reconnaissance. Recruit schools have 2 starting dates: January and June. All conscripts may request additional leave days for professional purposes (e.g. job interviews, university applications, etc.). In exceptional cases, students can complete the recruit school in 2 parts.

According to the Federal Council Ordinance on Military Service Liability, some of the conscript soldiers (maximum 15% of all conscripts per year) have the opportunity to fulfil their entire compulsory service of 300 days (for sergeants 507 days, for senior NCOs *as well as* for subaltern officers 668 days) in one single term (single-term conscripts). In principle, the number of service days for conscripts in refresher courses and for single-term conscripts is equal. The additional days to be accomplished by single-term conscripts compensate for their advantages of supplementary leave days. After the completion of the compulsory service days, single-term conscripts normally remain in units of the Armed Forces for another 4 years. After these 4 years they are discharged from the army but still remain for another 3 years in compulsory military service *before being permanently discharged*.

The Armed Forces Personnel, AF Pers, is authorised to grant postponement of recruit school on request, for family, professional or educational reasons.

At the end of the recruit school, the newly trained soldiers are assigned to units of the Armed Forces. They are then called up by personal marching order for refresher courses until they have completed their total number of compulsory service days.

Since 1 January 2018, an alarm can be sent to several specifically selected units by electronic means. This allows a quick call up in the case of a major event or catastrophe.

As a rule, the marching order has to be sent to the person liable for military service at least 6 weeks before service starts. In addition, the refresher courses' agenda for the forthcoming year is always published by means of a poster on the public information board in every town and village in Switzerland in autumn every year. For persons liable for military service, this public poster is in itself equivalent to a marching order and obliges them (and their employers) to adjust their civilian activities. Since 2006, each person liable for military service receives an announcement 20 weeks before service. Anyone who fails to respond to a public call-up or marching order without being excused is reported to the military justice authorities for prosecution.

Dismissal from civilian employment is null and void during a period of military service. If the term of service exceeds 11 days, dismissal within 4 weeks before and after service is also null and void. In addition, service personnel have a legal claim to a compensatory payment for loss of income.

Paramilitary forces

Switzerland has no paramilitary forces.

Security forces

Switzerland has no internal security forces.

3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

Exemptions

The following groups are exempt from military service for the duration of their tenure or employment:

- members of parliament and of the Federal Council;
- the clergy, unless they serve voluntarily as chaplains in the Armed Forces;
- essential personnel in the health services;
- professional personnel in the rescue services, fire brigades and police;
- border guards;
- postal staff and staff of transport companies with a federal concession;
- persons employed in those parts of the administration that are in extraordinary situations making them responsible for general defence.

Exemptions are only possible after basic military training has been completed.

Alternatives to compulsory military service

Service duties are fulfilled by completing compulsory military service, civil defence or alternative civilian service. Conscripts who do neither military nor civilian service have to carry out civil protection duties and are required to pay a contribution (compensatory military contribution) as compensation for the military service which they have not performed.

Since 1996, conscientious objector conscripts who feel unable to serve in the Armed Forces may be assigned to alternative civilian service. This service is performed outside the Armed Forces in civilian institutions. The conscientious objectors serve civilian purposes and are assigned to duties of public interest. They are mainly employed in the following fields: health and social services, nature conservation and environmental protection, forestry and agriculture, development co-operation and humanitarian aid. The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) is responsible for civilian service issues; its ***Federal Office for Civilian Service*** decides whether a candidate is to be accepted or not.

Civilian service duty lasts 50% longer than regular military service.

In **2018, 8,248** applications for assignment to civilian service were submitted (**2017: 8,651**, 2016: 8,032, 2015: 7,519, 2014: 7,357). In **2018, 6,205** applications were approved and **2,060** rejected (**in 2017: 6,785, 1,954 rejected**; in 2016: 6,169; 1,580 rejected; in 2015: 5,836, rejected 1,609; in 2014: 5,757, rejected 1,641). In **2018, 19,989** persons liable to military service performed civilian service (**2017: 20,144**; 2016: 19,939; 2015: 18,223; 2014: 14,850). As of the end of **2018**, a total of **50,878** people were liable to perform civilian service (**2017: 47,978**; 2016: 44,069; 2015: 40,807; 2014: 37,111). 0.1 per cent of these were women (**44**).

Since 1 April 2009, there are new regulations in the admission procedure for civilian service: those wishing to perform civilian service are no longer required to submit detailed evidence of their conscientious objection to military service. Readiness to undertake civilian service, which lasts one and a half times as long as military service is regarded as sufficient proof for conscientious objection. Due to the new rules, the number of candidates for civilian service has risen considerably. On 1 February 2011, new regulations were introduced at ordinance level. A delay of reflection and confirmation of the application before the admission was established. In July 2016, new regulations about the procedure for admission were introduced at act and ordinance level. Candidates for civilian service can submit their application online by the website of the ***Federal Office for Civilian Service*** and have to visit an introductory course before admission.

Legal status, rights of appeal, remuneration, grounds for exemption and penalties for breaches of duty largely correspond to those that apply to persons performing military service. Only the civilian criminal courts have jurisdiction, and not the military courts. There is a right of appeal to the Federal Administrative Court against all decisions made by the ***Federal Office for Civilian Service***. Persons performing civilian

service may contact the **Federal Office for Civilian Service** at any time if they have a grievance against the employing enterprises. The **Federal Office for Civilian Service** conducts inspections of the employing enterprises to ensure that the civilian service projects are being carried out properly.

Laws or other relevant documents regulating exemptions or alternatives to compulsory military service:

- The Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (Act on the Armed Forces, AOA, SR 510.10), particularly articles 2, 17, 18, 26 and 145;
- The Federal Act on Alternative Civilian Service (SR 824.0).

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

Principles on the legal status of military personnel

Art. 58 of the Swiss Federal Constitution stipulates: “Switzerland has armed forces. They are primarily organised according to the principle of a militia⁵.” Military personnel continue to be entitled to their constitutional and legal rights during military service. This applies, in particular, to the protection of privacy, freedom of religion and conscience, the right to freely express one’s opinion as well as to exercise one’s political rights. However, basic rights and freedoms are restricted as far as it is necessary to guarantee an undisturbed course of military service. Members of the Armed Forces may express their opinion freely. This also includes opinions about the armed forces and military service. But the free expression must not prevent tasks from being carried out, nor interfere with the rules of obedience, discipline, team spirit and service operation. On the other hand, it is forbidden for members of the Armed Forces to organise or participate in political meetings, declarations, propaganda, or collect signatures for political purposes. The Armed Forces Act and the Service Regulation of the Armed Forces provide the legal basis for these restrictions.

List of rights of military personnel⁶

Protection of privacy	Right to respect for one’s personality and to the greatest possible preservation of one’s personal sphere
Right to information	Right to regular information on security and military policy issues
Counselling and care	Military personnel requiring help are given pastoral, medical, psychological and social advice and support
Right to military pay, board and lodging as well as special privileges	Special privileges are: - no postal charges during service - free public transportation during service
Military insurance	Right of compensation from military insurance in the event of accident or illness in the context of military service
Compensation for loss of income	Right of compensation for loss of income due to military services
Suspension of debt enforcement proceedings during service	Article 57 of the Federal Act on Debt Enforcement and Bankruptcy of 11 April 1889 (SR 281.1)
Protection against abusive dismissal from employment	Article 336 para. 1 let. e of the Federal Act completing the Swiss Civil Code of 30 March 1911 (Book 5: Code of Obligations; SR 210)
Protection against untimely dismissal from employment	Article 336c para. 1 lit. a of the Federal Act on the Amendment of the Swiss Civil Code of 30 March 1911 (Book 5: Code of Obligations; SR 210) (cf. above section

⁵ Applicable definition of militia: citizens enrolled for military service, called out periodically for drill but serving full time only in war and emergencies. Not to be confused with paramilitary groups or irregular, non-constitutional fighters!

⁶ Service Regulation of the Armed Forces, articles 93-101.

	3.1)
Right of complaint / legal assistance	Right of proceedings within an order of law to protect the individual against unlawful administration or against abuse of power by the administration or a military superior, and a compulsory defence counsel in the case of a trial before a military court

List of decrees relating to legal assistance of military personnel

Issue	Regulation of process / List of decrees
<u>Service complaint procedure</u> Service complaint of Armed Forces personnel is permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - against orders of military superiors - against certain directives of military authorities (e. g. decisions on conscription and promotion) - in all cases where Armed Forces personnel consider themselves unjustly treated 	Articles 36-40 of the Federal Act on the Armed Forces and the Military Administration (Armed Forces Act , ArmA SR 510.10) of 3 February 1995 Sections 102-109 of the <i>Armed Forces</i> Service Regulation (SR 510.107.0)
<u>Legal administrative proceedings</u> Legal assistance for certain non-monetary issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decisions on expulsion from the Armed Forces - Decisions on exemption from service 	Article 40 Armed Forces Act, Federal Act on Administrative Proceedings (SR 172.021) of 20 December 1968 and Federal Act on the Federal Administrative Court (SR 173.32) of 17 June 2005
Personal talk or confidential hearing with the commanding officer	Section 103 <i>Armed Forces</i> Service Regulations (SR 510.107.0)
Complaint against assessment of military fitness	Article 39 Armed Forces Act
Reconsideration of decisions regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - service postponements - advance services - voluntary services - dispensation from active service 	Article 38 Armed Forces Act
Means to contest a disciplinary penalty (disciplinary appeal)	Military Criminal Code of 13 June 1927 (MCC SR 321.0), articles 180 ff.
Means and proceedings for dealing with penal cases	Military Criminal Code of 13 June 1927 (MCC SR 321.0), Federal Act on Military Criminal Procedure (MCPA SR 322.1) of 23 March 1979 and Federal Council Ordinance on Military Criminal Judicature (MCJO) (SR 322.2)

The Military Criminal Code in its second book provides a list of sanctions, which includes detention from 1 to 10 days and disciplinary fines of up to CHF 500 during military service and up to CHF 1,000 between military service periods.

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) / the Law Of Armed Conflict (LOAC) is fully integrated in the Armed Forces Service Regulation (**SR 510.107.0**) and reflected in the Swiss Criminal Code (SR 311.0), in the Military Criminal Code (MCC SR 321.0) as well as in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (SR 0.312.1), which penalise war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. A major effort has been made to introduce the most important concepts into general military manuals on conduct and tactics. An instruction leaflet for all members of the Armed Forces has been issued in 5 languages (German, French, Italian, Romansh and English) and is distributed by unit commanders. Specialised manuals providing an overview of the legal framework for all missions of the Swiss Armed Forces, including an introduction to human rights and *IHL* have been published in German and French and have been distributed to all active officers and senior non-commissioned officers since 2005/2006. Armed Forces personnel are educated in the LOAC during basic training (recruit school) and in all military cadre schools.

- Basic training includes: basic knowledge of the Geneva and Hague Conventions including Additional Protocols I - III (laws and customs of war and corresponding behaviour). All soldiers are instructed by using the e-learning tool online on the Learning Management System (LMS) of the Swiss Armed Forces LOAC I containing an introductory theory and a test. The theoretical knowledge is put into practice during combat training exercises.
- NCO schools: Repetition and consolidation of knowledge gained during basic training, responsibilities of a group/squad leader.
- Prospective company commanders are trained in the LOAC and in the rules concerning the protection of cultural property (incl. interactive training with an e-learning tool on commanders' responsibilities).
- LOAC is part of the curriculum of the Swiss Armed Forces Training Centre (all courses for commanders and Staff Officers), the Swiss Military Academy and of schools and courses for legal advisors.
- Legal advisors attend the Military Course on International Humanitarian Law at the San Remo Institute.
- Peace Support Operations: Members of the Armed Forces participating in PSO receive instructions on the law relevant to their mission and on specific rules of engagement.

Information on LOAC will continue to be given to a wider public through interactive CD-ROMs and an internet website. The LOAC-website of the Staff Chief of the Armed Forces is available at www.loac.ch in French and German. The website on IHL of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is available at <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/intla/humlaw.html>.

An e-learning tool on IHL, legal aspects of PSO and human rights is available online on the Partnership for Peace Consortium, Advanced Learning Management Services (PfPC LMS, see <https://jadr.act.nato.int>, 'FDFA-DDPS IHL Course'). Switzerland offers a variety of courses on the LOAC to NATO and EAPC/PfP Partner nations (Course for military medical, medico-legal personnel and chaplains held by the Medical Services of the Armed Forces Staff, course CENTROC alternating with an IHL content for middle-rank officers in Geneva, workshop on the OSCE Code of Conduct). In all those courses, the LOAC is an important subject. Switzerland also works with the Sanremo Institute of International Humanitarian Law (IIHL) by providing financial assistance and teaching staff. From time to time, Switzerland also offers support as Host Nation for other IHL activities with third parties (such as, for example, the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations, which is run by the ICRC). *Switzerland also supported several courses on IHL at the GCSP's Security and Law Programme, for instance the Symposium for Senior NATO/PfP Legal Advisors (SSL) or the courses on "Air and Missile Warfare: Navigating the Legal Dimension (Advanced AMPLE)", "Legal Dimensions of Contemporary and Future Use of Force" and "Weapons Law and the Legal Review of Weapons"*.

At the beginning of 2014, Switzerland published an updated version of its "ABC of International Humanitarian Law". This publication is essentially a glossary of terms explaining the key concepts of

international humanitarian law. It is available both on-line and in brochure form and can therefore be consulted by anyone with an interest in international humanitarian law. An update of the “ABC of International Humanitarian Law” *was published in 2018 and is available in several languages online.*

The Interdepartmental Committee for International Humanitarian Law (ICiHL) is tasked with the exchange of experiences and information on IHL within the Administration and its implementation in Switzerland. It ensures optimum coordination among the federal authorities and maintains relations with the scientific community, civil society, and other *organisations* concerned with IHL, such as the ICRC *and the Swiss Red Cross*. The Committee also supports the ICRC with its annual update of its study on customary international humanitarian law. In so doing, the Committee compiles new declarations, legal texts, and judgments that have been issued in Switzerland.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that Armed Forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

All members of the Armed Forces receive rank specific instructions on the LOAC throughout their military training. They are fully aware of their obligations, duties, and their individual accountability. During instruction, special attention is placed on command responsibility and its current development.

Mission oriented ROE (Rules of Engagement) are reviewed during the instruction sequence preceding a mission. Pocket cards reminding each member of deployed units of the characteristics of a mission and its specific ROE are handed out.

During active service, all Armed Forces personnel make a commitment by oath or vow to observe the LOAC.

4.3 How does your State ensure that the Armed Forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

All Armed Forces deployments are subject to the provisions of the Armed Forces Act and, with the exception of very minor deployments, require parliamentary approval. Additionally, the open and free media, as well as the fact that the Swiss Armed Forces *are organised to the principle of a militia*, contribute to openness about deployments, which is a further element that prevents Armed Forces deployments that might limit the exercise of human and political rights. Human rights are also taught to Armed Forces personnel during basic training and in the context of specialised courses. In the case of Armed Forces deployment as support to the civilian authorities, the latter monitor the subsidiary deployment’s legality and legitimacy. Armed Forces personnel are – even in such cases – employed primarily on guarding and protection duties, freeing up police forces for duties where the risk of confrontation is higher.

4.4 What has been done to allow individual service members to exercise their civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country’s Armed Forces are politically neutral?

Generally, members of the Armed Forces have the same rights and obligations as citizens (*see also 3.3*)

These rights are guaranteed in the Armed Forces Act, Art. 28, and in the Armed Forces Service Regulation (*SR 510.107.0*, Art. 93-99). Conscripts who declare that military service is not compatible with their conscience can do alternative civilian service (*see also 3.2*).

Under the Constitution and the Armed Forces Act, the Armed Forces are subordinate to the civilian authorities. Their highest executive body is the Federal Council, which is governed by decisions that are taken by Parliament in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

As established in the Federal Constitution, federal authorities have to respect international law. This also applies to the Armed Forces. Their defence policy and doctrine are regularly evaluated with regard to its consistency with international law. Furthermore, by stipulating in the Federal Constitution that “the Armed Forces serve to prevent war and to maintain peace”, Switzerland reflects international law principles such as the prohibition of threat or use of force in international relations (UN Charter, art. 2 al. 4) or the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means (UN Charter, art. 2 al. 3).

On the implementation of international humanitarian law, see above Chapters 4.1 and 4.2. Further, an open public debate, the requirement for parliamentary approval for the Armed Forces budget and major acquisitions as well as operations, and the requirement of a UN or an OSCE mandate for peace support operations help ensure that defence policy and doctrine are in accordance with international law. This is reinforced by Switzerland’s neutrality and practice of restraint regarding military participation in operations outside Switzerland.

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

Switzerland published the “Commemorative Study: 20 Years of OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security”: This publication pays tribute to the unique and remarkable history, development, achievements and outreach of OSCE’s key document for the democratic control of the armed forces and the security sector. It is freely available at: <http://www.osce.org/cio/128961>

The Code of Conduct is an integral part of the Military Academy curricula at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. Equally, the ETH runs its own OSCE internet site where the Code of Conduct is one of the central themes. In addition, the internet website of Parliament, an official information site specially designed to provide information to the Swiss population, also refers to the Code of Conduct.

1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, such as replies to the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

The Code of Conduct and its provisions are selectively taught in Armed Forces officers’ schools. Due to the Swiss conscript system, where almost all soldiers are at the same time civilian citizens, this ensures a very wide dissemination of the provisions of the Code of Conduct among the Swiss population.

Furthermore, *organisations* and think tanks that are Swiss-based and partly funded by the Swiss government, such as the *Geneva* Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) or the Centre for Security Studies (CSS) of ETH, and the International Security Network (ISN), regularly publish research on the Code of Conduct.

Finally, the Code of Conduct is mentioned on the internet site of the Swiss Verification Unit, which deals with the obligations derived from numerous international regimes and treaties in the area of arms control and disarmament.

1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State’s Armed Forces?

Public access to information on the Swiss Armed Forces is guaranteed, first of all, by the fact that all politically or legally relevant documents and decisions are published on the internet and thus accessible to the general public (<https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/bundesrecht/systematische-sammlung.html>). *Because the Swiss Armed Forces are organised as a militia*, a large percentage of male citizens (and some women) are regularly present in the Armed Forces. *This further ensures regular dissemination*. Beyond that, the Federal Council and the DDPS regularly inform the public on all issues relevant to security policy and the military role and stance. Additionally, the Federal Act on Freedom of Information in the Administration (Freedom of Information Act, FoIA, SR 155.3) contributes towards transparency and thus towards the democratic control of the Armed Forces. This law allows anyone to request access to the administration’s documents. This request can only be refused for specific reasons such as:

- The documents relate to a political or administrative decision that has not yet been taken;
- The request concerns documents that are still being discussed or considered.

In addition, access to documents can be refused, for example, if it would endanger internal or external security, foreign policy interests or Switzerland’s international relations, the concrete application of an administrative decision, the economic or monetary policy of the country or the free formation of the administration’s opinion or will.

2. Contact information

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Federal Department of Defence,
Civil Protection and Sport DDPS
Swiss Armed Forces
Armed Forces Staff
International Relations Defence
Swiss Verification Unit

Mail: Papiermühlestrasse 20, CH-3003 Berne

+41 58 480 10 71 (phone)

+41 58 465 30 40 (fax)

verifikation.astab@vtg.admin.ch

<http://www.vtg.admin.ch/fr/actualite/themes/internationale-beziehungen.html>

2.2 Any other information:

Switzerland is committed to raising awareness of the “OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security” and ensuring that it is better implemented. In 2018, the following events and projects were realised:

- *Switzerland contributed to the “Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for participating States and Partners for Co-operation” in Bucharest, Romania. The objectives of the seminar in Romania were to raise awareness and promote the Code of Conduct among participating States, particularly from Eastern Europe and neighbouring regions. The seminar further addressed issues related to the democratic control of armed and security forces, security sector reform, parliamentary oversight and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law for armed forces personnel. The seminar was held in May 2018, co-sponsored by Switzerland, Germany and Austria.*
- *Switzerland contributed to the “Awareness Raising Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the Asian OSCE Partners for Co-operation” in November 2018 in Berlin, Germany, co-sponsored by Germany and Austria. This seminar aimed at initialising the promotion of the OSCE Code of Conduct towards the Asian OSCE Partners for Co-operation with special emphasis on regional CSBMs.*

Further, the following activities are planned for 2019:

- *Switzerland will contribute to the “Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for participating States and Partners for Co-operation” in Larnaka, Cyprus, from 20 to 24 May 2019.*
- *Switzerland will contribute to the “Commemorative event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary” planned for autumn 2019 in Budapest, Hungary.*
- *Ongoing preparation of the “Compilation of Practical Examples on Democratic Control of Armed and Security Forces” (CPE DCAF): In order to further improve the promulgation of the norms and principles of the OSCE Code of Conduct, Switzerland and several co-sponsors plan to provide a compilation of practical implementation examples of the provisions of the Code as another useful toolkit to support awareness raising, better implementation and outreach activities. The document is intended to be contemporary, practical and easy to implement. Furthermore, the document aims to identify and highlight practical and feasible examples of*

how to fulfil the norms and provisions enshrined in the Code, stemming primarily from more than 20 years of experience implementing the Code among the 57 OSCE participating States.

Previously, Switzerland, working mainly with Austria and Germany, co-organised and co-sponsored seminars in Kazakhstan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Ukraine, Latvia, Malta, Mongolia, Tunisia, Serbia, Montenegro and the USA.

Every year, Switzerland invites like-minded OSCE participating States to the “Conceptual and Planning Workshop on the Activities related to the OSCE Code of Conduct” in Bern, during which the schedule of activities for the current and the following year are planned.

With the translation of the OSCE Code of Conduct into Arabic, Germany and Switzerland hope to increase awareness of democratic control of the armed forces and IHL among the member states of the Arab League and in Northern Africa.

In addition, Switzerland *second*s a support officer to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in order to facilitate the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation regarding the implementation of and general activities related to the OSCE Code of Conduct. This secondment has been extended until further notice.

Lastly, Switzerland continues to support the “Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces”, which also promotes the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct.

Switzerland remains strongly committed to supporting multilateral or bilateral activities or assistance on the OSCE Code of Conduct with the aim of further raising awareness by fostering the universalisation of this cross-dimensional, norm-setting document, improving its implementation within the OSCE and actively promoting its outreach beyond the OSCE area.

Annex I: Voluntary information regarding implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (FSC.DEC/5/11 (Annex))

I: Prevention

1. Measures to increase armed forces personnel's understanding of the special needs and contributions of women in conflict.

Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girls' rights in the basic education of armed forces.

Diversity management is a management tool used by the Federal Office of Personnel to integrate the needs of the different stakeholders (gender, sexual orientation, language balance and age groups, as well as the protection of women's and girls' rights). According to an order from the Chief of the Armed Forces concerning the handling of diversity management, all members of the Armed Forces (career and militia) are to be trained in these matters.

Availability of specialised in-service training for armed forces personnel on the protection of women's and girls' rights.

Training courses on matters of equal opportunity, gender, issues relating to discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, and harassment, as well as bullying are compulsory for all Swiss Armed Forces cadres.

Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girls' rights in pre-deployment training for international peacekeeping missions.

Within the Swiss Armed Forces, the Swiss International Command (SWISSINT) is responsible for the planning and management, recruitment, support and control, and training of all military contingents and individuals engaged in peace-support operations abroad. Generally, all pre-deployment courses cover training on gender related issues. In gender specific training, the SWISSINT Training Centre (TC) has two different approaches to pre-deployment training: one for a domestic audience (KFOR and EUFOR) and another for an international audience (Military Experts on Mission [UNMEM].) and Military Staff Officers [MSO]). In training, the main focus lies on UN Res 1325 *as well as on* sexual exploitation and abuse issues (SEA) that a national contingent may have to deal with. Training (is consistent with) the UNDPKO guidelines (as the international Swiss Military Experts on Mission Course is a UN certified course).

Availability of plans to address and gather information from local women in areas at risk of conflict.

Gathering of information from the local female population is covered by the individual information collection programme of the respective missions, in which Swiss Armed Forces military personnel (*often female*) are deployed (e.g. KFOR, EUFOR-ALTHEA, UNTSO, UNMISS, MONUSCO).

Inclusion of systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflict, including gender-disaggregated socio-economic indicators and power over resources and decision making.

The main focus of any PSO mission is the assessment of the local security situation. Therefore, information gathered is generally reported to the respective HQ. This includes, if available, the analysis of gender related issues. The subsequent reports are not disclosed to the national HQs of the troop contributing countries, but to UN DPKO, NATO HQ (SHAPE) or the EUSG.

2. Measures to address the violation of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards.

Number and percentage of military manuals, guidelines, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures/protocols of national security forces that include measures to protect women's and girls' human rights.

In 2010, the Federal Council released a report⁷ on military ethics in the Swiss army, thereby fulfilling a parliamentary postulate of 2005 which aimed to raise awareness of the obligations of military personnel regarding the inviolability of human rights and fundamental rights, and therefore of women's and girl's rights as stipulated in the Federal Constitution. Chapter 3.4 and 4.5.4 **of the 2010 report** addresses equal opportunities for women and gender diversity. **The report** concluded that ethical and legal foundations are already laid down in the existing laws and ordinances and confirms that all Armed Forces Personnel are consistently given training on these matters. However, the Federal Council acknowledged, that an improvement involving a more systematic and holistic approach regarding implementation should be considered. Essentially, no serious loopholes which would require immediate action were identified regarding respect for and awareness of ethical and legal principles within the Swiss Armed Forces. Nevertheless, the Swiss Armed Forces, being a mirror of the civil society, will not remain unaffected by the problems and challenges of the modern and multifaceted globalised world. Therefore, youth violence and extremism are observed and monitored closely in order to avoid relevant abuses during military service.

Number and percentage of directives for peacekeepers issued by head of military units and standard operating procedures that include measures to protect women's and girls' human rights.

Besides pre-deployment training, the guidelines and SOPs of the specific mission contain regulations and measures concerning respect for human rights and the protections of women's and girls' rights.

II: Participation

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and involved in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defence. UN Charter

Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces.

Roughly **1.3 %** of the career personnel and **0.8 %** of the militia personnel are women. These figures are due to the fact that under the Federal Constitution, military service is not compulsory for female Swiss citizens. However, as members of the Armed Forces, their civilian skills can be used and enhanced. Once they have successfully passed through the recruitment process, female members of the Armed Forces commit themselves to fulfilling their service duties as laid down by current legislation. They can attain the same ranks and fulfil the same functions in the Armed Forces as their male counterparts.

Young women can apply to be called up as recruits from the age of 18. They must have attended recruit school by the time they are 25. Thereafter, female Armed Forces personnel carry out the same duties as their male colleagues. Men and women receive identical training. Moreover, women are equipped with the same personal weapons as the men in the same functions. They are also fully trained on all the weapons held by the unit.

⁷ (German: <http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber/message/attachments/20300.pdf>,
French: <http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber/message/attachments/20301.pdf>)

Number and percentage of women in the military forces disaggregated by rank.

<i>Rank structure</i>	<i>Rank category</i>	<i>Effective strength</i>			
		<i>Women</i>			<i>1 March 2019</i>
		<i>J</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	<i>Senior staff officers</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>
	<i>Staff officers</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>50</i>
	<i>Captains</i>		<i>76</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>77</i>
	<i>Subaltern officers</i>		<i>194</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>198</i>
	<i>Officers total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>326</i>
<i>NCOs</i>	<i>Senior NCOs</i>		<i>101</i>		<i>101</i>
	<i>Junior NCOs</i>		<i>266</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>271</i>
	<i>NCOs total</i>		<i>367</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>372</i>
<i>Junior ranks</i>	<i>Privates total</i>		<i>377</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>408</i>
<i>Overall</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>1'054</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>1'106</i>

J *General staff officer*
N *Officer*
R *Member of the red cross service*

Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (Targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc.).

At the age of sixteen, future conscripts and women receive a written explanation of the Armed Forces. Conscriptation begins with the registration for recruitment of conscripts at the age of eighteen. Prior to recruitment, all male conscripts are called-up and interested women are invited to an information day.

All functions are open to women in the Swiss Armed Forces. A prerequisite is, of course, that they have successfully passed through the recruiting process and have met the physical performance standards demanded for their chosen function. As regards their assignment to a particular function, account is taken of the candidates' wishes on the one hand, and the requirements of the Swiss Armed Forces on the other.

Establishment, promotion, maintenance and use of specialised rosters of female profiles in the military fields.

Roughly half of the women serving in the armed forces opt for a cadre career. This means that it is no longer a rarity for female cadre personnel to command sections, platoons, sub-units or even battalions.

Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

The Military Justice opened investigations in 3 cases that occurred in **2018** dealing with charges with a sexual background, including harassment, to the disadvantage of women serving in the armed forces.

Development of regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces.

For the period 2008 – 2011 the following focal points concerning equal opportunities were specified:

- career promotion of female cadres,
- continuation of awareness raising measures, and the
- implementation of binding action plans.

2. Measures to increase the number of women in peacekeeping forces.

Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank.

As of 1 March **2019**, out of a total of **250** peacekeeping forces personnel, **32 (12.80%)** are female: **10** women officers, **12** women NCOs, **9** enlisted women and 1 female civilian (HQ OSCE, Secretariat, FSC Support Officer).

Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed.

In contingents, the contingent commander, the senior national representative and the legal advisor are in charge of gender issues. In the case of individual deployments, the senior national representative is responsible. Out of 14 missions as of 1 March **2019**, 13 (92.86%) missions have a senior national representative responsible for gender issues. The only remaining engagement consists only of 1 personnel and has no specific appointment in this matter.

Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

The reports of operations are not a national responsibility; they are delivered to the respective mandator. In all missions, internal reports are only established on a case-by-case basis.

III: Protection

1. Increased access to justice for women whose rights are violated.

Number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed peacekeepers that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

In **2018**, one case involving charges with a sexual background, including harassment, to the disadvantage of a Swiss woman serving as uniformed peacekeeper was reported to the Military Justice.

IV: Other information

Information on the development, implementation and evaluation of a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security was unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000. It is the first UN Security Council Resolution to expressly mention the particular effect which armed conflicts have on women and girls, and it underlines the importance of women's participation in peace processes. Switzerland's commitments at a bilateral and multilateral level in the context of UNSCR 1325 already include gender-sensitive project work specifically aimed at implementing UNSCR 1325. Switzerland is also committed to the deployment of gender experts as well as to internal measures in the areas of recruitment, training and internal policy with regard to gender equality. At a multilateral level and, among others, as a member of the "Group of Friends of 1325" **and the Women Peace and Security Focal Point Network**, Switzerland is actively involved in the promotion and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. **Since 2012 Switzerland has worked with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) to raise awareness of the parallels and the complementarity between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Security Council Resolutions on Women Peace and Security. The objective of the**

project is to strengthen the synergies between the Security Council and CEDAW for better implementation and accountability of the UNSCR 1325.

Switzerland is committed to the creation of framework conditions in the United Nations, as well as in other international and regional *organisations* such as the OSCE, that will enable women to participate in peace building efforts on an equal footing with men. This commitment to equal rights is based on quantitative criteria (proportion of women to men), as well as with regard to opportunities and the contribution to decision-making, position in the hierarchy, financial and other resources, security measures, capacity building, etc.

In order to strengthen and coordinate Switzerland's efforts, a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (NAP 1325):

(<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/de/home/dienstleistungenundpublikationen/publikationen/alle-publikationen.html/content/publikationen/de/eda/menschenrechte-humanitaeres-migration/frauen-friedensicherheit.html>) has been established (2007, revised versions in 2010, 2013 and 2018). The aim of the Swiss NAP 1325 is to ensure that gender aspects are taken into consideration in all areas of peace *and security* policy and in all concrete *peacekeeping and* peacebuilding measures. Switzerland's NAP 1325 is adapted on a regular basis and its content is subject to constant review. The latest implementation report was published in 2017 and can be found here:

https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/de/documents/aussenpolitik/menschenrechte-menschliche-sicherheit/bericht-nap-1325-2015-2016_DE.pdf.

Switzerland supports and promotes, directly and indirectly, programmes and projects designed specifically to ensure the effective participation of women in peace processes. Furthermore, efforts are to be made to systematically include gender aspects in all peace building programmes and projects, through the proper training of those in charge of programmes, the deployment of experts, etc.

Switzerland promotes the participation of women in peace processes by means of its policy with regard to recruitment and secondment as well as in its support for qualified candidates. This is to ensure that the experts seconded to civilian peace building operations as well as the participants in military peacekeeping operations will receive a high level of training in sensitisation on gender issues in preparation for their deployment on missions.

Annex II: Voluntary information on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSC) (FSC.DEL/2/15)

I. International Engagement

1. What are your States' international engagements aimed at promoting standards of good governance and good practices for PMSCs?

Information on engagement with voluntary initiatives aimed at promoting more effective regulation of PMSCs, such as the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICoC).

Information on your State's position on joining the Montreux Document and the ICoC Association (ICoCA).

Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) produced the Montreux Document of 17 September 2008 on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for States related to operations of private military and security companies during armed conflict. The Montreux Document is now endorsed by **55** States and three international **organisations** (the OSCE endorsed the Montreux Document on 22 November 2013). The Montreux Document Forum was launched during a constitutional meeting which took place on 16 December 2014 in Geneva. **Four** plenary meetings of the Montreux Document Forum have been held so far in Geneva, as well as one regional meeting of the Montreux Document Forum in Costa Rica. The **fifth** plenary meeting is going to take place in **September 2019** in Geneva. By providing a venue for informal consultation among Montreux Document participants, the Montreux Document Forum seeks to support national implementation of the Montreux Document and the development of implementation tools, as well as to bring more states to actively support it. The Forum further aims to strengthen dialogue on lessons learned, good practices and challenges related to the regulation of PMSCs.

On a parallel basis, Switzerland encouraged a follow-up by the PMSC industry to the Montreux Document. The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers of 9 November 2010 was launched by Switzerland and the private security sector, with the participation of civil society and other governments, with the aim of setting human-rights compliant industry standards and good practices. The **International Code of Conduct Association** (ICoCA), constituted as a Swiss association **in Geneva and** operating under Swiss law, is responsible for the independent governance and oversight of the ICoC's implementation. Its overarching purpose is to promote the responsible provision of security services as well as respect for human rights, national and international law in accordance with the principles set out in the Code. Currently, **83** private security companies, **7** governments and **30** NGOs are members of the ICoCA. In 2016, the core procedures of the ICoCA's oversight mechanism – certification, monitoring and complaints process – were finalised and approved by its members. The Geneva-based ICoCA secretariat has started operationalising these procedures as of the 1st of January, 2017.

Information on participation in the consultations of the United Nations 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 and information on your State's position on this international regulatory framework.

Switzerland has actively participated in each session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group. Switzerland will continue to participate in the discussion to be held under the new mandate of the working group. A binding instrument would create new obligations for States and would go further than the Montreux Document which, above all, rephrases the States' existing international obligations related to PMSCs. Switzerland considers that the Montreux Document and a possible convention, although different, are complementary initiatives which share a common objective: promoting compliance with international law. During the Montreux +5 Conference which took place in 2013, it was emphasised that the

multinational nature of private military and security companies constitutes a major challenge for national legislation. In this sense, additional discussions on the way to deal with certain issues such as jurisdiction and mutual legal assistance, including by way of an international binding treaty, are welcome.

Information on engagement with other voluntary initiatives such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs), the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Switzerland was admitted as a participating government to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) initiative in September 2011. From March 2013 until March 2014, Switzerland chaired the steering committee and hosted the plenary meeting on 26-27 March 2014 in Montreux. The Swiss presidency was appreciated by all stakeholders and facilitated several positive developments: A three-year strategy was agreed upon with the aim of strengthening the implementation of the VPs, the transparency and accountability, as well as of aligning the VPs with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Switzerland has reintegrated the VP Steering Committee in March 2018 and chairs it again in 2019-2020.

The Swiss Government supports the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) financially through the Global Compact Trust Fund and by funding specific activities on topics such as gender equality, the fight against corruption or the conduct of companies in conflict regions. In addition, the Swiss United Nations Global Compact Network, which has concluded a cooperation contract with the Swiss Government, plays an important role in the promotion of topics related to corporate social responsibility.

On 9 December 2016, the Swiss Federal Council adopted a report outlining a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Switzerland is one of the first countries to adopt such a strategy in order to promote coherence between business activities and human rights. The strategy focuses on the duty of the state to protect human rights and provide access to remedies. It contains 50 instruments aimed at ensuring that Swiss companies operating in Switzerland and abroad respect human rights, for example by including the topic of business and human rights in political consultations and ensuring that Swiss representations abroad raise companies' awareness of the issue. The report was drawn up following a broad consultation process involving the private sector, non-governmental *organisations*, social partners, the academic community and research institutes. The measures proposed in the strategy are set to be implemented on a four-year basis synchronised with the legislative periods.

II. Policy, Legislation, Regulation

2. Information on the policy, legislation, and regulations relevant to PMSCs that operate domestically and internationally, and how PMSCs are registered, licensed and monitored.

Specific laws, regulations, policies and other provisions relevant for PMSCs (as set out in the good practices of the Montreux Document)

Legislation pertaining to the export and import of PMSC services.

Due to several parliamentary interventions and based on a 2010 report on private military and security companies (PMSCs), the Federal Council concluded that regulatory action with regard to PMSCs which provide services abroad needed to be taken. On 27 September 2013, the Federal Assembly passed the Federal Act on Private Security Services provided Abroad (PSSA, **SR 935.41**) which came into force on 1 September 2015.

The aim of the PSSA is to contribute to the safeguarding of the internal and external security of Switzerland, the realisation of Switzerland's foreign policy objectives, the preservation of Swiss neutrality and respect

for international law, in particular, human rights and international humanitarian law. The Act applies to natural and legal persons that provide private security services abroad or services in connection with private security services provided abroad. Further, it applies to those who establish, base, operate, or manage a private security company in Switzerland and to those who exercise control from Switzerland over such a company. It does not, however, apply to companies providing security services within Switzerland, which are regulated by cantonal authorities.

Private security services as defined by the PSSA means the protection of persons and the guarding or surveillance of goods and properties in complex environments, security services at events, the checking, detention or searching of persons, searching of premises or containers, and seizure of objects, the guarding, caring for, and transport of prisoners, operating prison facilities, and assisting in operating camps for prisoners of war or civilian detainees, the advising, training and operational or logistical support for armed or security forces, the operating and maintaining of weapons systems, and intelligence activities.

The competent authority (see below) reviews the information provided by the company on a case by case basis and initiates a review procedure whenever there are indications suggesting that the envisaged activity could be in conflict with the purposes of the Act. All companies that fall within the Act's scope of application have a duty to declare their intended activities and are obliged to become signatories to the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC). The Ordinance on Private Security Services provided Abroad (OPSA, *SR 935.411*) specifies that companies are deemed to have acceded to the ICoC if they are members of the International Code of Conduct Association.

The PSSA further prohibits under all circumstances any activities carried out for the purpose of direct participation in hostilities abroad and the provision of services where it may be assumed that they will be used by the recipient in order to commit serious human rights violations.

In addition, the PSSA regulates the contracting of security companies for the protection of persons and the guarding of goods and properties by the federal authorities in complex environments abroad and defines the minimum requirements with respect to the companies concerned. In particular, the provisions determine the requirements with regard to the training, equipment and internal control mechanisms of the contracted private security companies. The PSSA requires the contracted companies to become a signatory to the ICoC. To complement the PSSA, the Ordinance on the Use of Private Security Companies by the Federal Government (OUPSC, *SR 124*) came into force on 24 June 2015. The ordinance regulates the contracting of security companies within Switzerland and in non-complex environments and defines similar requirements with regard to the contracted companies.

Information on institutions/organisations monitoring compliance.

The competent authority in charge of the implementation of the PSSA is the Private Security Services Section of the FDFA's Directorate of Political Affairs. The competent authority is responsible for the implementation of the PSSA and the administrative procedures it introduces. In addition, the competent authority takes part in the national and international dialogue on norms and standards applicable to private security companies and publishes an annual report which is publicly available on its website: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/foreign-policy/security-policy/bundesgesetz-ueber-die-im-ausland-erbrachten-privaten-sicherheit.html>

PMSCs operating within Switzerland are monitored by cantonal authorities according to cantonal laws. In the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the *Commission concordataire concernant les entreprises de sécurité* (Inter-cantonal commission on security companies) is responsible for monitoring private security companies.

III. Number of PMSCs

3. How many PMSCs are registered in your State and what services do they provide, both domestically and internationally?

List number of PMSCs headquartered or based in your State.

List number of foreign-based PMSCs providing services in your State.

Between 1 September 2015 and 31 December **2018**, **54** Swiss-based companies submitted **1,242** declarations of activities abroad in accordance with Art. 10 PSSA. Due to the fact that PMSCs operating within Switzerland are regulated by cantonal authorities, there are no official numbers regarding their activities. It is estimated that around 700 private security companies provide services on Swiss territory.

Provide information on the types of services they provide, e.g. transport, logistics, surveillance, protection of persons, goods and property, maintenance of weapons systems, operation of detention centres, etc.

Provide information on geographical concentration of PMSCs activity when services are being delivered abroad.

Most of the declared activities concern the protection of persons and the guarding or surveillance of goods and properties in complex environments. Private intelligence activities represent another important segment. A third significant group concerns activities related to the export and use of war material and dual-use goods and to expertise in the military sector in general. This third group involves services in the areas of logistical support for armed or security forces, operating and maintaining of weapons systems and advising or training members of armed or security forces. From a geographical perspective, the activities that are subject to the law are mainly focused in the region of North Africa and the Middle East, where about half of the activities declared since the PSSA came into force were carried out, in addition to Europe and Central Asia.

Provide information on what services your State outsources to PMSCs

Under Art. 30 PSSA and Art. 1 OUPSC, the Swiss Government is only authorised to contract with companies that provide private security services for the performance of protection tasks abroad, namely the protection of persons and the guarding or surveillance of goods and properties.
