

APPENDIX I

Resolution for Good Private Security Governance

RESOLUTIONS FOR GOOD PRIVATE SECURITY GOVERNANCE DURING 2023 ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA



These resolutions draw from the Nigerian Private Guard Companies Act of 1986 and Private Guard Companies Regulation of 2018, the good practices of the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers. (The Code).




BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

1 PLANNING



Cooperation with the Public Security Agencies
Establish internal mechanisms to ensure cooperation between public and private security.
Set external channels so that private security can contact the public security agencies during the highly volatile context of elections.



Cooperation with the media
Media will develop a tool and training for private security providers on effective monitoring.



Right to Work and Access to Workplace
Private Security should be allowed to continue the normal duty they perform even during elections including monitoring their beats and access to work places.



Monitoring
In planning security during elections, all stakeholders should consider the key role of private security providers in monitoring and reporting incidents, namely as witnesses of incidents in key electoral venues.



Liability planning
Private security providers should ensure that appropriate insurance and financial reserves cover potential liabilities, as the personnel should not have to bear the cost of potential harm due to the volatile context.



Contingency and risk management Plan
For high risks areas should be updated. Private security should also contribute to efficient emergency response in case of an accident in election venues.



Right to vote of private security personnel
should be safeguarded by planning adequate schedules during the elections period.

2 TRAINING

Private security companies, in coordination with the government, civil society, and media will ensure that the personnel receives targeted training for the election context according to national law and international norms.

3 SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

Private security providers will provide for adapted equipment for the personnel to ensure their safety (e.g. introducing a helmet in the uniform if they are located in high-risk areas during the elections period). Private security providers will conduct health and safety assessments of the different postings and take appropriate preventative measures before the elections.

DURING THE ELECTIONS

4 PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

Private security personnel will be provided with sufficient safeguards against sexual exploitation and abuse, according to their specific needs.

Private security personnel will notify authorities immediately in case of risk or occurrence of gender-based violence or abuse to themselves or third parties during the elections.

5 USE OF FORCE

Use of Force by private security providers will be strictly confined to the principle of self-defense.

In such cases, private security personnel will apply the principles of necessity, proportionality, and precaution.

Private security personnel will actively de-escalate violence in instances where they are required to complement the efforts of public security regarding crowd control, namely avoiding illegitimate use of force.

6 DETENTION OF PERSONS

Detention and apprehension by private security personnel will be strictly to defend themselves or others against an imminent threat of violence or following an attack committed against them or property under their protection. The person held must be treated humanely and consistent with national and international law.

The private security personnel must hand over the person to the public security agency. The private security personnel should record the circumstances of this incident and notify the superiors.

AFTER THE ELECTIONS

7 INCIDENT REPORTING AND REMEDIES

Private security providers will contribute to effective grievance mechanisms, including prosecution and investigation of any incident during the elections, by sharing relevant on-the-ground information with the public security agency.