UNOG-DCAF Special Discussion

**Arab Spring and Democratization: the Role of Security Sector Reform**

Room XII
Palais des Nations
21 November 2012

14:45  Welcome coffee
15:00  Welcome and introduction
   • Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Director-General, UNOG
   • Dr. Theodor H. Winkler, Ambassador, Director, DCAF
15:15  Opening address
   • H.E. Mr. Ali Laarayedh, Minister of the Interior of Tunisia
15:40  Moderated discussion / Questions and answers
   Moderator
   • Ms. Mona Rishmawi, Chief of Rule of Law, Equality, and Non-Discrimination Branch, Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights
   Discussants
   • Mr. Sherif El Diwany, Chief Business Officer, Documenta
   • Prof. Haykel Ben Mahfoudh, University of Kairouan, Tunisia
   • Dr. Omar Ashour, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
16:45  Closing remarks
Since late 2010, an unprecedented wave of change has swept across much of the Arab world. The “Arab Spring” has placed democratization processes high on the agenda of the international community after a period of uneasiness regarding this topic. At the same time, the Arab uprisings have demonstrated the crucial role played by the armed and other security forces in processes of change and democratization.

As part of an ongoing global debate on the implications of the “Arab Spring”, this Special Discussion aims to highlight the complex relationship between democratization and security sector reform processes.

Among the issues to be explored are:

- The role of the security sector in the process of democratization, with particular emphasis on the military, police and intelligence services and the relevant management and oversight bodies, including civil society;

- The relevance to democratization processes of other actors such as the justice sector, armed non-state actors and customary institutions, as well as private security providers and foreign military support;

- The role of the security sector in the process of transfer of power after the regime change.

The tenth in a series of joint annual events, the Special Discussion follows previous debates hosted by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) on different aspects of security sector governance.

These meetings have served to raise awareness of the complexities and challenges before the international community in this area and have produced practical proposals to inform and guide future efforts.

The working language of the event is English, and simultaneous interpretation into French will be provided.

Information and registration at politicalaffairs@unog.ch.