

## **Resolution on intensified partnership between ombuds institutions for the armed forces with a view to reinforcing the rights of military personnel in the context of international cooperation**

The global security environment has undergone profound change in recent years, a development that is continuing. Military cooperation between nations has greatly increased, both inside and outside alliances. Various countries' armed forces are already cooperating today, for example on international missions, on international command staffs and in binational and multinational formations.

In the context of such cooperation, tensions may surface between military personnel from different nations. Problems may arise from variations between the legal provisions of individual states. A number of other fundamental issues are conceivable.

National rights, such as rights of complaint or participatory rights of military personnel but also disciplinary powers, do not apply as soon as the matter relates to more than one country.

Efforts that have been made, albeit in rare cases, by the governments concerned to resolve such matters by diplomatic means disregard the potential of the ombuds institutions for the armed forces.

The undersigned institutions and organisations therefore agree to intensify their cooperation with a view to being able to assist military personnel in the depicted situations.

- **The ombuds institutions of each nation deploying troops shall recommend to its armed forces that, in all forms of cooperation and integration, they regularly inform the armed forces of partner nations, in appropriate instruments such as technical arrangements or statutes, what their respective national ombuds institutions are and what rights national military personnel enjoy by virtue of those institutions.**

- **The ombuds institutions shall, wherever necessary, seek solutions together in cases of dispute. They shall inform each other of planned visits to troops engaged on international missions and on their findings from such visits. They shall report to each other on the problems that have come to their attention in the framework of their nations' military cooperation.**
- **The ombuds institutions shall notify DCAF of all cases with an international dimension that are known to them and of the action taken. DCAF shall publish an annual digest of these cases.**

**Such information and case details shall be exchanged and published in a suitable form, for example using anonymisation, with due regard to data-protection requirements and to national and international confidentiality rules.**

The ombuds institutions shall ensure that this resolution is publicised nationally and internationally.

Signatures of the sponsoring ombudspople/organisations

_____	_____	___/___/___
Name	Organisation	Date
_____	_____	___/___/___
Name	Organisation	Date