

The Hague, 5 October 2016

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MILITARY OMBUDS INSTITUTIONS ADRESSED INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

The 8th International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces (ICOAF), which ended today in Amsterdam, focused on the role of Ombudsman Institutions before, during and after international missions. With the inclusion of old and new institutions from 29 states, the conferees had a productive exchange aimed at strengthening their institutional expertise.

During the conference the members of states gathered practical recommendations to enlarge the trust of the local populations, the armed forces personnel but also in between the Ombuds Institutions itself to be able to protect and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms. Strong leadership and agility of the Ombuds Institutions were also found important to be effective in the complex international context the institutions have to work in. The good cooperation between the Dutch Inspector General, the Dutch National Ombudsman and the German parliamentary commissioner for the Armed Forces, who visited the troops in Mali together, was an illustrative example for the conference members.

The conference was jointly hosted by the Inspector General of the Royal Netherlands' Armed Forces, the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands and DCAF from 2 till 5 October 2016. The ninth ICOAF will take place in London, United Kingdom in October 2017.