

*Chair's Summary of Proceedings*  
*Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights*  
*Annual Plenary Meeting*  
*March 29, 2012*

On March 28-29, 2012, the Government of Canada hosted in Ottawa the Annual Plenary Meeting of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, an international initiative that provides human rights guidance to oil, gas, and mining companies on their engagement with public and private security providers.

The Plenary reaffirmed their shared commitment to the Voluntary Principles through collaboration on strategic outreach and on-the-ground implementation.

During the meeting, the Plenary:

- Approved the creation of a formal non-profit administrative organization, the Voluntary Principles Association, based in The Hague, The Netherlands;
- Hosted an Open House for the diplomatic community to share the benefits of membership in the Voluntary Principles;
- Invited guests from governments (from capitals), extractive companies, and NGOs to participate in Plenary deliberations;
- Welcomed Total, S.A., as a new Participant, as well as the Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the International Finance Corporation as Observers, which have all joined the initiative since the last Plenary Meeting;
- Discussed best practices and challenges on human rights and security issues, and strategies for engaging the governments of other countries where oil, gas, and mining companies are headquartered or operate;
- Received an update on an independent pilot project led by Barrick Gold with twelve other oil, gas, and mining companies and one NGO to consistently measure the ways that these Voluntary Principles Participants fulfill the commitments they make as Participants in the Voluntary Principles. This voluntary group will test the indicators this year, and will keep the Plenary apprised of its progress;
- Received reports and held discussions on challenges and progress made by Participants regarding the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, Yemen;
- Authorized the Steering Committee to approve the annual work plan and budget by the end of April and to renew the Secretariat's contract for one year;
- Were consulted regarding the creation by the Steering Committee of a Working Group of the Steering Committee, with provision for participation by others, to review the scope of work of the Secretariat to align it with outreach and implementation priorities; and,
- Welcomed the Netherlands as Government Chair for 2012-2013.

Since their inception, the Voluntary Principles have been used by extractive companies to strengthen their capacity to address complex security and human rights issues in their operations around the world. Plenary Participants include representatives from three pillars: governments, companies, and NGOs. There are currently seven participating governments, twenty companies, and ten NGOs participating in the initiative. For questions on how to participate, contact the Secretariat at [VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com](mailto:VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com) or visit [www.voluntaryprinciples.org](http://www.voluntaryprinciples.org).

**Governments:**

Canada  
Colombia  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States

**Corporations:**

Anglo American  
AngloGold Ashanti  
Barrick Gold Corporation  
BG Group  
BHP Billiton  
BP  
Chevron  
ConocoPhillips  
ExxonMobil  
Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold  
Hess Corporation  
Inmet Mining  
Marathon Oil  
Newmont Mining Corporation  
Occidental Petroleum  
Rio Tinto  
Shell  
Statoil  
Talisman Energy  
Total

**NGOs:**

Amnesty International  
The Fund for Peace

Human Rights First

Human Rights Watch

IKV Pax Christi

International Alert

Oxfam

Pact

Partnership Africa Canada

**Observers:**

Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

International Committee of the Red Cross

International Council on Mining & Metals

International Finance Corporation

International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association