

VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES STRATEGY 2014-2016

I. Vision

The Initiative of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (“Voluntary Principles Initiative”) is a multi-stakeholder initiative in which governments, companies, and non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) commit to implement or support the implementation of a set of principles that guide oil, gas, and mining companies on providing security for their operations in a manner that respects human rights.

Established in 2000, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (“Voluntary Principles”) guide companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provide a commonly accepted framework of normative principles and policy guidance, which informs the implementation and development of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

Voluntary Principles Participants aim to: promote the provision of security in a manner that respects human rights; continue to focus on implementing the principles on the ground; increase host government and country outreach; increase the number of Participants in the Initiative; and improve accountability.

To achieve these aims and enhance the Voluntary Principles Initiative’s credibility, Voluntary Principles Initiative Participants believe that the Voluntary Principles Initiative needs to:

1. increase its positive impact on the ground;
2. demonstrate its benefits and outcomes;
3. leverage peer review as a way of identifying and sharing good practices and addressing challenges;
4. encourage Participants to report within the Voluntary Principles Initiative and publicly, as applicable, on their performance;
5. encourage engagement, particularly by governments, with high-level public security officials and public security-related ministries on the Voluntary Principles in countries where extraction occurs;
6. expand membership in the Initiative with particular focus on adding governments from resource extraction countries;
7. study and evaluate the consistency of the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles Initiative;
8. further increase cooperation among companies, governments and NGOs and other stakeholders as appropriate; and
9. clarify roles and responsibilities of members of each Pillar.

The Voluntary Principles have provided guidance to extractive companies, NGOs, and governments in the field of security and human rights since the year 2000. Participants strive to continuously improve their efforts and to credibly address the challenge of security and human rights.

II. Objectives and Actions 2014-2016

In order to deliver this vision, we have agreed to the following objectives and actions:

1. Outreach objectives:

- a. Secure new Participants;
 - i. Expand membership in the Initiative, particularly in the Government Pillar, from the countries where resource extraction occurs;
 - ii. Collate and share information on the benefits of Voluntary Principles implementation and Voluntary Principles Initiative participation;
- b. Review existing Entry Criteria;
- c. Strengthen civil society participation at national and international level; and
- d. Increase cross-Pillar cooperation.

2. Implementation objectives:

- a. Enhance cross-Pillar cooperation in-country;
 - i. Process for ongoing Implementation Guidance Tools (“IGT”)/ Voluntary Principles training on the ground;
 - ii. Multi-stakeholder fora on security and human rights issues at local and national level where appropriate;
- b. Enhanced discussion of implementation during Annual Plenary Meeting;
 - i. Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”) and other approaches;
- c. Enhance engagement with government security entities;
 - i. More complete guidance for public security; and
- d. Identify characteristics of and lessons learned from other multi-stakeholder initiatives that may serve to enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the Voluntary Principles Initiative, and how their implementation efforts may relate to those of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

3. Verification: Building on the existing accountability framework within the Voluntary Principles Initiative (*i.e.*, the annual reporting requirement; the dispute resolution process; the Participation Criteria), the objective is to have a credible process to verify fulfillment by all Participants of their Voluntary Principles Initiative roles and responsibilities including public reporting and engagement, where applicable.

Elements of this process:

- a. Credible method for assessing implementation;
- b. Plans for internal/external communication of results;
- c. An update to the existing reporting guidelines to align them with Participants’ roles and responsibilities;
- d. Mapping of existing accountability efforts; and
- e. Regular “lessons learned” exchanges.

4. Consistency with the U.N. Guiding Principles

- a. Assess inconsistencies with the U.N. Guiding Principles and options for addressing them, at both the Pillar and Initiative level where appropriate, with respect to each Pillar’s responsibilities within the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

III. Review of the Strategy 2014-2016

The Steering Committee will review the strategy on at least an annual basis and report back to the Annual Plenary Meeting.