



***Summary of Proceedings  
Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights  
Extraordinary Plenary Session***

**September 16, 2011 (Ottawa, Ontario):** Participants in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the “Voluntary Principles”) gathered in Ottawa, Ontario, for an Extraordinary Plenary Meeting on September 15-16, 2011. During the meeting, the Plenary took a number of key steps consistent with the vision statement that Participants adopted at the 2010 Annual Plenary Meeting:

*Strengthen the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights’  
significance as a business and human rights best practice framework by:  
increasing our Participants’ base; strengthening accountability; and actively  
promoting universal respect for human rights.*

Namely, the Plenary:

- Adopted a set of Governance Rules for the initiative;
- Decided to pursue the formation of a legal entity for the initiative in The Netherlands;
- Celebrated Switzerland’s admission as a full Participant Government;
- Welcomed two new Participants, Inmet Mining and Partnership Africa Canada;
- Identified host government outreach and in-country implementation as a priority and created a Host Government Outreach Working Group, to facilitate outreach to potential government Participants;
- Acknowledged the launch of a voluntary collaboration by individual Participants to explore a practical approach to key performance indicators, supporting processes, and evaluating their effectiveness. The Participants in that collaboration were invited to make an initial report back to the Annual Plenary Meeting in March 2012 on their progress. This collaboration can inform future work on strengthening the initiative and help to guide implementation; and
- Welcomed the launch of the Implementation Guidance Tools, a practical guide developed by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA), with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In addition, the Plenary heard a report on progress made by Participants on the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Iraq, as well as a presentation on the Government of Colombia's efforts to promote the Voluntary Principles.

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. Members of the Plenary include representatives from three pillars: governments, companies, and NGOs. There are currently seven member governments, nineteen companies, and ten NGOs participating in the initiative. Participation in the initiative is voluntary. For questions on how to participate, contact the Secretariat at [VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com](mailto:VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com).

For more information about the Voluntary Principles, 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 Corporation  
Rio Tinto  
Shell  
Statoil  
Talisman Energy

**NGOs:**

Amnesty International  
The Fund for Peace  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
IKV Pax Christi  
International Alert  
Oxfam  
Pact  
Partnership Africa Canada  
Search for Common Ground

**Observers:**

International Committee of the Red Cross  
International Council on Mining & Metals  
International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association