

# Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights: Annual Report 2014



**F**ounded in 1957, The Fund for Peace (FFP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent NGO based in Washington, D.C. whose mission is to research the underlying causes of conflict and develop tools and programs to help alleviate the conditions that can cause conflict.

## A. Commitment

### 1. Statement of commitment or endorsement of the Voluntary Principles.

A founding member of the Voluntary Principles, FFP is strongly committed to continuing its support of the Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights (VPs). We publicly endorse the VPs on our website and undertake efforts to raise public awareness of their existence as well as to

support information sharing between those involved regarding implementation. We greatly welcome feedback from other participants as to how we could more strongly support the VPs going forward.

## B. Policies, Procedures, and Related Activities

### 2. Relevant policies, procedures, and/or guidelines to implement the Voluntary Principles.

During 2014, FFP continued to pursue multiple activities related to the promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Principles. These activities included:

- Key aspects of the VPs, such as security & human rights and risk assessments, are the focus of dedicated Security, Rights & Development Roundtable (formerly the Human Rights & Business Roundtable) discussions.
- Continued to develop and deliver training programs on the VPs.
- Continued to represent the NGO Pillar on VPs Steering Committee.
- Participated in discussions related to the VPs and security sector reform.
- Took the lead in drafting the NGO Roles & Responsibilities Document and the NGO Verification Framework.
- Examined first-hand the application of the VPs in industries other than oil, gas, or mining.

### 7. Examples of promoting awareness of the Voluntary Principles throughout the organization or government.

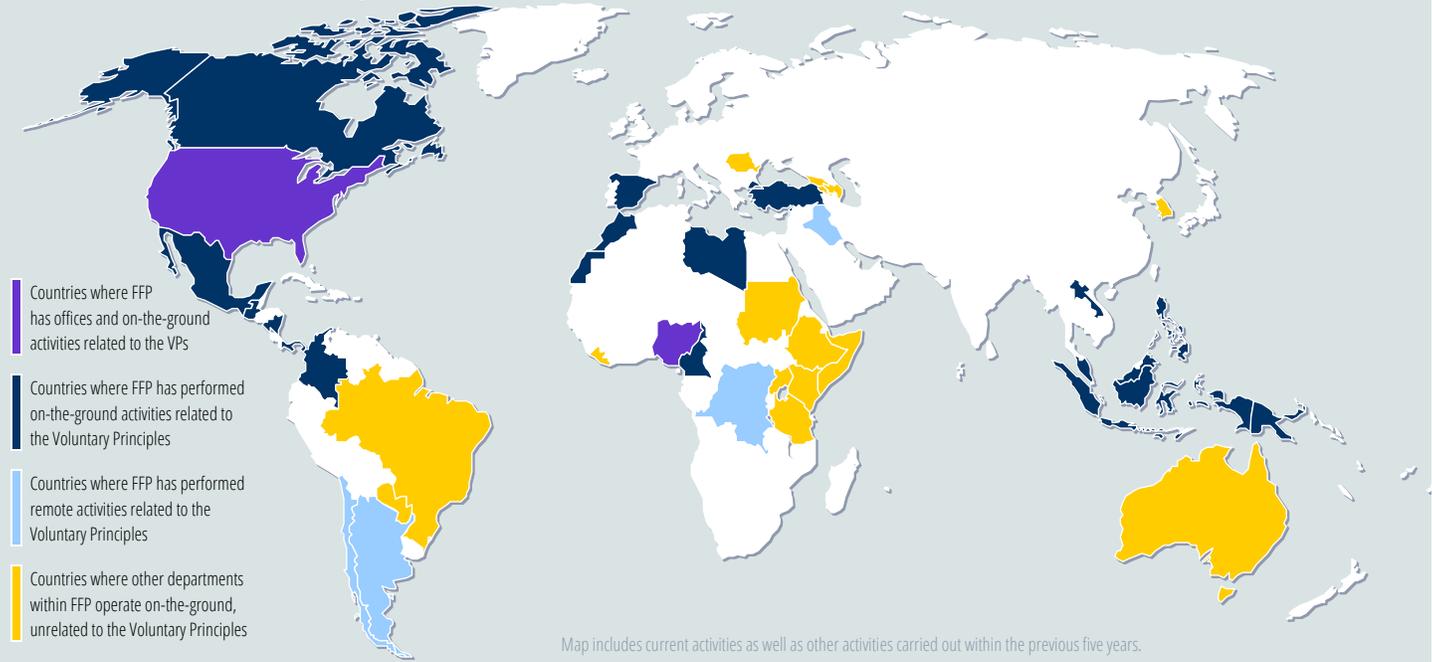
The extractive industry has been a focus of the FFP's Security, Rights & Development Roundtable because extractive companies are more likely to operate in conflict-sensitive environments and need support to understand the conflict issues and ensure that their operations do not exacerbate the risk of conflict. Sessions of the Security, Rights & Development Roundtable frequently focus on key aspects of the VPs and each staff member is familiar at different levels with the VPs. All FFP staff are invited to the Roundtable to encourage greater understanding of the issues.

As in previous years, key staff learned more about the implementation of the VPs as FFP undertook conflict and human rights assessments for companies and worked on projects to develop training tools. We currently have three staff members with deeper understanding of the VPs, who are also working on various projects – both national-level implementation work and corporate and project-level work with corporations.

### 8. Examples of promoting and advancing implementation of the Voluntary Principles internationally

As in previous years, FFP has promoted the VPs directly with companies who are not currently VP participants, at the project and

## Where The Fund for Peace Operates



corporate level. Sometimes the discussions are about joining the VPs formally, but we focus first on the adoption of the (small “p”) principles themselves in the companies’ policies and procedures. We have spoken about the value of the VPs with companies in the oil and mining sectors, as well as outside the extractive industry.

Further, we have engaged with a number of diverse stakeholders regarding the Voluntary Principles.

- Staff working on our conflict early warning networks in Nigeria continue to explore opportunities for the VPs in those countries. We are continuing to look for opportunities to engage the companies and civil society on the issue of security and human rights in those countries, given that we will have a presence both through field visits and our early warning network.
- Participated in a research, policy, and multistakeholder engagement program led by the German Marshall Fund aimed at increasing the focus on the security nexus within the VPs.
- Spoke on a panel at the Inter-Governmental Forum on Mining &

Metals in Geneva, Switzerland regarding the VPs and host country engagement.

- Spoke on a panel at the Atlantic Dialogues in Marrakesh, Morocco on the role of the VPs in security and human rights.
- Participated in high-level meetings with the governments of Honduras and Morocco and included the VPs in the talking points to ministers and national human rights commissions.
- Worked with World Bank staff throughout the year to ensure that the Voluntary Principles are included in recommendations to countries developing their mineral sector with World Bank support.

Beyond meeting with various interested stakeholders one-on-one, FFP frequently publicizes the VPs in lectures and panel discussions related to issues such as corporations operating in conflict-sensitive areas; conflict and human rights impact assessments; and multisectoral collaboration and partnerships. These events typically take the form of university classes, or conferences organized by industry, governments, international

organizations, and civil society. In many of these cases, the theme of the presentations was the VPs and multisectoral collaboration in general. In all cases, the Voluntary Principles were highlighted.

## C. Country Implementation

### 9. Overview of country operations selected for reporting

FFP has one field office in Port Harcourt, Nigeria but also undertakes in-country activities pertinent to the VPs in other countries as well. We continued to explore further opportunities to support in-country activities in 2014.

Site visits with security and human rights components occurred in:

-  Honduras
-  Morocco
-  Nigeria
-  Papua New Guinea

## 10. Engagements with stakeholders on country implementation

FFP has engaged numerous individuals and organizations on the VPs and continues its work to support their implementation in countries as opportunities arise. These have been touched upon in previous sections.

## 12. Examples of supporting outreach, education, and/or training of relevant personnel, private security, public security, and/or civil society

In 2014, FFP continued its work, in partnership with various companies to assist with — or review — implementation of the VPs, or issues that are closely related.

For the first time in 2014, FFP engaged in a partnership with a non-extractive company on VPs implementation. In partnering with a company in the agribusiness sector on direct VPs implementation, FFP believes this is a pioneering (if not the very first) example of a VPs member working directly on VPs implementation with a company that is not an oil, gas, or mining company.

FFP also continues to engage in partnerships with companies that are not currently participants of the VPs, although as part of these partnerships, FFP is strongly encouraging such corporate partners to consider applying for formal participant status (where possible, with companies in the oil, gas, and mining sectors) in the near future. In all such partnerships, FFP is being compensated for its time and direct travel expenses.

FFP also views its Security, Rights & Development Roundtable as a key component of its outreach efforts, as the Roundtable provides a forum for outreach and education on the VPs, a safe environment for diverse stakeholders to discuss the VPs, and is a platform for sharing good practices related to VPs implementation. We also view the Roundtable as being inextricably linked to the VPs, as the Roundtable was such a pivotal and influential forum for the creation and early development of the VPs.

The Roundtable was the first forum designed for multinational businesses and mainstream human rights organizations to discuss issues of common concern in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and confidentiality. As the Roundtable enters its 20th year, it will also undergo one of the most significant changes in its long history. When FFP founded the Human Rights & Business Roundtable in 1996, the relationship between business and human rights was a hot topic, and one that called for much debate. Nearly two decades later, though human rights remains a core theme, the Roundtable has broadened its scope of issues, particularly around implementation and good practices. The Roundtable now examines issues as diverse as sustainable livelihoods and foreign direct investment — though these issues can certainly have a human rights angle, such topics are inarguably much broader than that.

Thus, 2014 marked the change of the “Human Rights & Business Roundtable” to become the “Security, Rights & Development Roundtable” to better represent the nature of the issues that we discuss, and to also be more reflective of where modern discourse on corporate practice has moved. We have phased the word “business” out of the name, not because business has ceased to be a key stakeholder in human rights issues, but instead because we recognize that a multitude of stakeholders have immense responsibility and potential for positive change on the issues we examine: business is simply one (albeit important) stakeholder. We believe this also reflects an evolving understanding of the VPs, as being an initiative that is solely the responsibility of business to being an initiative whose implementation and ultimate success relies on the efforts and cooperation of all stakeholder groups.

As a further reflection of an evolution in the VPs, the Roundtable has begun shifting its focus from being exclusively about the extractive industry, to being a forum where other sectors can learn from the extractive industry's experiences, and vice versa. In 2014, we welcomed participation from

business sectors as diverse as manufacturing and finance, for example. This of course mirrors the broadening of the VPs to be an initiative that other, non-extractive sectors have begun to view as being beneficial to their own work in regard to security and human rights. Though the Roundtable will continue to give special attention to the oil and mining sectors, we will double our efforts to include other industries in order to learn from the lessons those other sectors have to offer, and to allow those other sectors to benefit from our dialogue. The Roundtable will thus continue to be an invaluable resource for corporations, civil society, government, and international organizations to work together to promote sustainable development.

Please refer to the box on the following page for details on the Roundtables convened during 2014 and those topics that are planned for 2015. FFP wishes to thank Barrick Gold, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Hess, Kosmos Energy, Newmont Mining, and Shell for their continued support of the Roundtable, as well as the over 50 civil society organizations, government agencies, international organizations, academic institutions, and companies from a variety of sectors, for their continued and valued participation.

## D. Lessons and Issues

### 14. Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organization

As in previous years, FFP was approached again this year by several companies (or consultants to companies) about the value of adopting the VPs and becoming participants in the formal process. We are encouraging their formal application to join the VPs although greater focus is given to local-level implementation in the first instance. FFP will continue to support in-country implementation as the opportunity arises in partnership with other VPs participants. FFP is promoting awareness of

## The Security, Rights & Development Roundtable in 2014



### Human Rights Compliance in the Supply Chain

February 19, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine various supply chain standards and how companies can help to ensure compliance on human rights standards by their supply chains.



### Measuring Impact in Implementation

April 21, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine the challenges of measuring the success or otherwise of the implementation of security and human rights programs, and how such success (or failure) can be reliably determined.



### Maritime Security and the Extractive Industry

June 17, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine a potential source of risk for nearly every company, including threats against off-shore exploration, relations with affected communities on the water, or even port security issues in the supply chain.



### Beyond Grievance and Feedback Mechanisms

September 15, 2014 — This Roundtable will dive deeper into this topic, including a focus on how companies taking preventive measures, including better relationships and engagement with the community, can help to reduce the incidence of grievances in the first place.



### Security Sector Reform and Stability

November 4, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine steps that companies can take to reasonably influence public security forces for the better, recognizing that the actions of those forces can heavily influence the stability of a company's operational environment.



### Managing First Contact

December 16, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine how to ensure that projects get off to a good start with all stakeholders, and how ensuring success at the beginning can help to achieve a stable operating environment in the future.

the VPs through its work on assessments with companies on their policies and procedures, its discussions with private security companies, public lectures and panels, and is specifically focused on getting more civil society actors into a position to support the implementation of the VPs in focus countries.

Additionally, through gained training experience, we are learning that as one gets closer and closer to the operational level, the high-level language of the VPs can lose

relevance and may even be potentially harmful. Military and police officials, for example, do not necessarily need to be taught international humanitarian and human rights law, as much as they need to be trained about proper behavior, use of force, and command and control. Additionally, showing them greater respect and discussing their needs and expectations, as opposed to coming to them with packaged training materials, carries a lot more traction.

## The Security, Rights & Development Roundtable in 2015



### Understanding and Addressing Poverty

February 18, 2015 — This Roundtable will examine how companies can better understand their impact on poverty, and how they can ensure that communities are lifted out of -- and not allowed to descend further into -- poverty.



### Informed and Educated Stakeholders

April, 2014 — This Roundtable will examine how informing and educating stakeholders can improve understanding, and even empower stakeholders such as artisanal miners, not only reducing conflict but fostering economic development.



### Renewable Energy and Human Rights

June, 2014 — This Roundtable will seek to understand how the challenges of the renewable energy sector converge with those of the oil, gas, and mining industries. and what lessons can be learned from the experiences of other industries.



### The Voluntary Principles Beyond Extractives

September, 2014 — The VPs have demonstrated significant impact on practices of oil, gas, and mining companies. But this Roundtable will examine how the VPs can be used by other non-extractive sectors, and how those sectors can be engaged.



### Human Rights in Certification Frameworks

October, 2014 — This Roundtable will address the issue of human rights in certification systems, and how such a broad and important topic can be assessed, particularly when some issues present significant challenges in how to quantify, let alone certify compliance.



### Improving the Security Landscape

December, 2014 — Though oil, gas, and mining operations are sometimes linked to conflict and insecurity, this Roundtable will examine how companies can help contribute to greater security in their areas of operation, even leaving a legacy of greater stability.

Further, we continue to emphasize the importance of engaging all actors in VPs implementation, and as such are redoubling our efforts in engaging with public security forces, who are often the source of many of the problems that the VPs seeks to address while at the same time perhaps the most neglected stakeholder in the initiative. We will also continue our outreach on the VPs to other sectors (beyond oil or mining) as we recognize that they often experience similar security issues and can thus benefit from VPs implementation themselves.