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The Voluntary Principles Initiative Announces the Formation of the Voluntary Principles Association: New Organization Will Facilitate Efforts by Extractive Sector Companies to Protect Human Rights

November 21, 2012 (The Hague, The Netherlands): Participants in the Initiative of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the “Voluntary Principles Initiative”), a multi-stakeholder initiative that provides guidance to extractive companies on maintaining security within a framework that ensures respect for human rights, are pleased to announce the formation of the Association of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the “Voluntary Principles Association”).

Formally created on November 21, the Voluntary Principles Association is a non-profit organization based in The Netherlands. The Association is intended to address certain administrative needs of the Voluntary Principles Initiative in order to enhance the Initiative’s capacity to pursue its objective of facilitating the collaborative work of companies, governments, and non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) seeking to find solutions to complex security and human rights challenges.

Several Voluntary Principles participants participated in a signing ceremony in The Hague formally creating the new association, including representatives of Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti, Barrick Gold, BP, Pact, Shell, IKV Pax Christi, and the Government of The Netherlands. Roel Nieuwenkamp of the Government of the Netherlands, the current Chair of the Voluntary Principles Initiative, stated at the time of the ceremony,

The Voluntary Principles Initiative is one of the most important institutions for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business in this high risk sector. Over the past ten years, the number of governments, companies and NGOs that have endorsed the Voluntary Principles has nearly tripled in numbers. The formation of the ‘Voluntary Principles Association’ is an important step forward to help its members in administrative and financial areas and will prepare the Voluntary Principles Initiative for further expansion in the future.

The Voluntary Principles Initiative currently has twenty member companies, seven member governments, and twelve member NGOs. In the past year the Voluntary Principles Initiative has welcome three new members: Total, a multinational oil and gas company; Global Rights, a NGO based in the United States that focuses on human rights capacity building in Africa, Asia,



and Latin America; and the Pearson Centre, a NGO based in Canada that focuses on peace and security issues in countries around the world.

Participation in the initiative is voluntary. For questions on how to participate, contact the Secretariat at VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com.

For more information about the VPs, visit www.voluntaryprinciples.org.

Background on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Established in 2000, the Voluntary Principles provide guidance to extractive companies on ensuring the safety of their personnel and the security of their installations in insecure environments while also respecting human rights. They provide practical guidance to companies on how to:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of human rights risks associated with security, with a particular focus on complicity.
- Institute proactive human rights screenings of and trainings for public and private security forces.
- Ensure that the use of force is proportional and lawful.
- Develop systems for reporting and investigating allegations of human rights abuses.

By ensuring that human rights are respected, the Voluntary Principles aim to mitigate potential tensions between extractive companies and the communities within which they work.

The Corporate Social Responsibility practice of Foley Hoag LLP serves as the Secretariat for the Voluntary Principles.

For more information, visit www.voluntaryprinciples.org.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES INITIATIVE:

Governments:

Canada
Colombia
The Netherlands
Norway
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Companies:

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
Total
Talisman Energy

NGOs:

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

Observers:

DCAF (Geneva Centre 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