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Participants in the Voluntary Principles Initiative Gather for Discussions on Outreach and Implementation and Welcome Five New Participants and One New Observer

28 March 2014 (Montreux, Switzerland): Participants in the Initiative of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the “Voluntary Principles Initiative”), a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on security and human rights concerns, convened in Montreux for a two-day Annual Plenary Meeting on 26-27 March 2014.

During this week’s meetings, participants focused their discussions on initiatives and activities consistent with a strategy document adopted by the Voluntary Principles Plenary in order to guide its activities through 2016. Pursuant to this strategy document, participants agreed to work together 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.

At the 2014 Annual Plenary Meeting, participants specifically discussed:

- The efforts of participants to engage governments around the world in discussions regarding the benefits of Voluntary Principles participation and implementation, including the governments of France, Chile, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, and Uganda, all of which attended the meetings as guests of the Plenary;
- Participant initiatives to implement, or promote the implementation of, the Voluntary Principles in countries around the world, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, and Uganda.
- Plans to implement the strategy for 2013-2016 that was adopted by the Plenary in late 2013; and
- Revisions to the entry criteria for NGO participants that will enable smaller, more local, NGOs to participate in the Initiative.

During the two days of meeting, participants were also honored to hear:

- An opening address by Yves Rossier, State Secretary in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; and
- A plenary address by Alexandra Guáqueta, Chair of the U.N. Working Group on Business and Human Rights

The Plenary Meeting also offered participants the opportunity to welcome six entities that had joined the Voluntary Principles Initiative since the 2013 Annual Plenary Meeting:

- Norsk Hydro, an aluminium mining company based in Norway;
- PanAust, a copper and gold mining company based in Australia;
- Repsol, an oil and gas company based in Spain;
- IAMGold, a gold mining company based in Canada;
- LITE-Africa, a NGO based in Nigeria; and
- Institute for Human Rights and Business, a center for dialogue and analysis on business and human rights challenges, based in the United Kingdom.

Finally, participants welcomed the Government of the United Kingdom as the new Government Chair for the Voluntary Principles Initiative. The United Kingdom will serve as the Government Chair until the 2015 Annual Plenary Meeting. Participants offered their thanks to the Government of Switzerland for its service as Government Chair from March 2013 to March 2014.

Background on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Participants in the Voluntary Principles Initiative include representatives from three pillars: governments, companies, and NGOs. There are currently twenty-four participant companies, eight participant governments, and ten participant NGOs.

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. Implementation of the Voluntary Principles entails steps to:

- Conduct comprehensive assessments of the 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.

The Voluntary Principles were established in 2000 in an initiative launched by the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the U.S. Department of State. 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. By



ensuring that human rights are upheld, 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 questions on how to participate, contact the Secretariat at VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com.

For more information about the Voluntary Principles, visit www.voluntaryprinciples.org.

Participants in the Voluntary Principles Initiative include:

Governments:

Australia
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
IAMGold
Marathon Oil
Newmont Mining Corporation
Norsk Hydro
Occidental Petroleum Corporation
PanAust
Rio Tinto
Shell
Statoil
Total
Talisman Energy
Tullow Oil

NGOs:

Fund for Peace
Global Rights
Human Rights Watch
International Alert
LITE-Africa
Pact
Partners for Democratic Change International
Partnership Africa Canada
Pax
Search for Common Ground

Observers:

DCAF (Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)
Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)