

# VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES

ON SECURITY + HUMAN RIGHTS

## THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Established in 2000, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (Voluntary Principles) is a multi-stakeholder initiative (MSI) involving governments, companies, and non-governmental organizations that promotes 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. Specifically, the Voluntary Principles guide companies in conducting a comprehensive human rights risk assessment in their engagement with public and private security providers to ensure human rights are respected in the protection of company facilities and premises.

### Overview of the Voluntary Principles:

- MSI composed of multinational oil, gas, and mining companies, governments, and key international non-governmental organizations
- Practical guidelines to help extractives companies manage risk effectively at the international, national, project level
- Platform for mutual learning, joint problem solving, and building best practices on security and human rights challenges with companies, governments, and NGOs
- Framework to build capacity of key players to address these issues in complex environments.

### Why Implement the Voluntary Principles?

While the duty to protect human rights rests with governments, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights as outlined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, by acting with due diligence to avoid harming people and addressing adverse impacts with which they are involved. Extractives companies often operate in complex environments with little guidance on the ground on how to observe their human rights responsibilities. The Voluntary Principles helps companies identify human rights risks and take meaningful steps to address those risks in a manner that helps ensure respect for human rights in their operations.

The Voluntary Principles provide a framework for companies to manage risk effectively by:

- Conducting a comprehensive assessment of human rights risks associated with security
- Engaging appropriately with public and private security service providers and surrounding communities in complex environments
- Instituting human rights screenings of and trainings for public and private security forces
- Developing systems for reporting and investigating allegations of human rights abuses

Join this important initiative to contribute to the advancement of security and human rights. For more details please go to [www.voluntaryprinciples.org](http://www.voluntaryprinciples.org).

## PARTICIPANTS

### Governments

Australia  
Canada  
Colombia  
Ghana  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States of America

### Corporations

Anglo American  
AngloGold Ashanti  
Barrick Gold Corporation  
BG Group  
BHP Billiton  
BP  
Chevron  
ConocoPhillips  
ExxonMobil  
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold  
Glencore  
Hess Corporation  
Marathon Oil Company  
Newcrest Mining Limited  
Newmont Mining Corporation  
Norsk Hydro  
Occidental Petroleum Corporation  
Pacific Rubiales  
PanAust  
Premier Oil  
Repsol  
Rio Tinto  
Shell  
Sherritt International  
Statoil  
Total  
Tullow Oil

### Non-Governmental Organizations

The Fund for Peace  
Human Rights Watch  
International Alert  
LITE-Africa  
New Nigeria Foundation  
Pact  
Partners for Democratic Change Int.  
Partnership Africa Canada  
Pax  
Search for Common Ground

### Observers

Colombian Mining & Energy Committee  
on Security and Human Rights  
DCAF  
IFC  
ICRC  
ICMM  
Institute for Human Rights and Business  
IPIECA