

**Government of Canada Annual Report to the
Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative
(2017 calendar year)**

A. Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

Commitment to the Rules of the VPI

1. Statement of commitment or endorsement of the Voluntary Principles

Canada is committed to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights as a tool to help anticipate and mitigate risks associated with the deployment of public and private security in the extractive sector. Canada also strongly supports the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) and recognizes the value of being a VPI member, most notably afforded through important opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue, mutual learning and collaborative problem-solving in a way that builds relationships that make it possible to effectively respond to challenges related to security and human rights as they arise.

Canada is pleased that the VPI is increasingly focused on in-country implementation, while continuing its important work to promote the Voluntary Principles themselves and to improve the governance of the VPI such that it is increasingly efficient, accountable and transparent. We welcome the discussions that have taken place within the Steering Committee in the past few months regarding possible expansion of membership and changes to the VPI dues structure.

2. Statement of commitment to implement National Plan (s)

N/A

Engagement in the VPI

3. Describe government engagement in the VPs Initiative

Canada's engagement in the VPI is a responsibility of Global Affairs Canada, a government department led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of International Trade, and the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, each of whose portfolios intersect with the Voluntary Principles.

- Overall coordination of Canada's involvement in the Voluntary Principles Initiative and promotion of the Voluntary Principles for the Government of Canada is the responsibility of the Natural Resources and Governance Division at Global Affairs Canada.
- The Responsible Business Conduct Division at Global Affairs Canada is responsible for the promotion of the Voluntary Principles to Canadian companies, leveraging Canada's network of over 150 trade offices and 900 trade commissioners worldwide.
- Staff across the Department is responsible for international diplomacy and the multilateral or bilateral promotion of human rights, which includes the Voluntary Principles as a tool for

preventing and mitigating human rights violations.

- Global Affairs Canada draws upon a number of internal contact points to develop and coordinate its engagement on the Voluntary Principles, including various thematic, geographic, and legal divisions, as well as Canadian embassies, and other Canadian government departments.

Canada has been an active member of the Government Pillar of the Voluntary Principles Initiative since 2009, and joined the Steering Committee in 2015. Canada chaired the VPI in 2011-2012 and 2016-2017. Key achievements of Canada's 2016-2017 chairmanship of the VPI include:

- The creation of In-Country Implementation Pilot Groups (ICIPGs) meant to facilitate coordination and improvement of implementation efforts on the ground in Ghana, Myanmar and Nigeria, based on the existing implementation working group in Peru;
- The development of the first-ever value proposition for the VPI that prefaces the VPI's 2016-2019 Strategy adopted by the Plenary in March 2017; and
- The advancement of VPI governance issues, including through the adoption of a revised Framework for the Admission of Observers.

Canada organized an Annual Plenary Meeting in Ottawa in March 2017, attended by approximately 150 representatives of governments, companies, and NGOs, including representatives of six invited guest governments (Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, and Peru). Topics of discussion were focused on implementation of the VPs, including in complex environments, offshore oil and gas contexts, and resource-rich countries. Sessions also addressed the VPs and maritime security, community engagement in times of unrest, and the role of investors in leveraging the VPs. Five companies and one NGO also provided verification presentations on their implementation activities as part of the reporting and verification mechanism, which is a requirement of membership.

Transparency and Dialogue

4. Describe how government shares information about efforts to assist in implementation of the Voluntary Principles with other participants and the public

At the 2017 Annual Plenary Meeting of the VPI, Peter Boehm, then Deputy Minister for International Development at Global Affairs Canada, outlined Canada's priorities and implementation efforts regarding human rights promotion and responsible business practices.

Other departmental senior representatives shared information through various public communications and at national and multilateral fora (see section C for more information about promotional efforts).

As an active participant in the VPI, Canada shares information about implementation assistance through an annual public report, as well as by providing updates to the Steering Committee directly or via the Secretariat. Please see (9) for more information on steps taken by Canada in accordance with the Government Pillar Verification Framework.

More general information is made available to the public online via websites maintained by Global Affairs Canada and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (www.csr.gc.ca and

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csr-rse.nsf/eng/home> respectively), which promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles and showcase Canada's CSR Strategy and international CSR standards, including the Voluntary Principles.

B. Policies, Procedures and Related Activities

Rule of Law

5. As related to the Voluntary Principles, describe relevant policies, legislation, procedures, and/or guidelines relevant to promoting and protecting human rights, consistent with international human rights obligations

Specific to the VPs:

The Voluntary Principles is one of six internationally recognized CSR guidelines promoted in *Doing Business the Canadian Way: A Strategy to Advance Corporate Social Responsibility in Canada's Extractive Sector Abroad* (www.international.gc.ca/csrstrategy), adopted in 2009 and updated in 2014. The Government of Canada's CSR Strategy makes clear that Canadian extractive sector companies are expected to promote Canadian values, and operate both at home and abroad with the highest ethical standards. This includes respecting human rights and all applicable laws and international standards, operating transparently and in consultation with host governments and local communities, and conducting their activities in an economic, social and environmentally responsible manner.

The Government of Canada also actively participated in the development of the International Code of Conduct (ICoC) for Private Security Service Providers and joined the International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA) in January 2017. Canada sees this as an important step to ensuring that private security service providers understand, respect and act in a manner that is consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law.

Domestic promotion and protection of human rights in general:

Canada has obligations under numerous international human rights treaties, including seven of the core UN human rights treaties, as well as commitments as an OAS member state under the *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*.

Canada takes these obligations and commitments seriously. Under Canada's federal system of government, the federal government shares responsibility for implementing human rights with provincial and territorial governments.

Canada has a strong domestic framework for the protection of human rights, and one that includes numerous guarantees for vulnerable groups:

- First, human rights are constitutionally entrenched in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (adopted in 1982). The *Charter* applies to all government activities, at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels. It does not apply to strictly private actors.

The *Charter* contains mostly civil and political rights, and several social, economic and cultural rights, including: freedom of religion, expression, association and peaceful

assembly; the right to vote and stand for election; mobility rights; the right to life, liberty and security of the person; privacy; due process and fair trial rights; equality and non-discrimination; and official languages rights.

- Second, Canada’s Constitution contains additional protections for the rights of Aboriginal peoples of Canada. These include rights over lands and to self-government.
- Third, human rights are also protected through many types of legislation at the federal, provincial and territorial levels. Important among these is anti-discrimination legislation – known as “human rights legislation or codes” in Canada – which is in place in all jurisdictions in Canada. These laws prohibit discrimination on grounds including race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, age and disability. They apply to public and private sector employers and service providers.
- Finally, human rights are implemented in Canada through numerous federal, provincial and territorial government policies and programs.

For more information about Canada’s domestic legal framework for human rights protection, please consult Canada’s core document on the website of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2018 version to be published soon):

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2fCORE%2fCAN%2f2013&Lang=en

International promotion and protection of human rights in general:

Canada promotes respect for human rights through multilateral international assistance efforts, trade related activities, bilateral engagement and by opening our human rights record to international scrutiny.

Voices at risk: Canada’s guidelines on supporting human rights defenders

In December 2016, Global Affairs Canada published Voices at risk: Canada’s guidelines on supporting human rights defenders. This tool is a how-to guide for supporting human rights defenders with practical advice for officials at Canadian missions abroad and at headquarters, as well as a clear statement of Canada’s commitment to promoting all human rights, including by supporting the vital work of human rights defenders. They are intended to complement and support the ongoing work of Canada’s diplomatic corps.

Voices at Risk reflect the experience gained over the years by Canadian representatives working across the globe to support human rights defenders and are informed by the work and advice of Canadian civil society organizations. The ultimate goal is to ensure that Canada continues to provide effective support to people around the world who are working for human rights—from helping human rights defenders be more effective advocates to helping protect them from harm.

Our missions abroad regularly raise human rights defender cases with local authorities and discuss protection measures, including requesting updates on investigations. Our missions use the same approach for human rights defenders cases associated with corporate activities, irrespective of the nationality of the company involved.

The Guidelines have helped Canadian embassies abroad to develop their human rights advocacy activities, such as enhancing the visibility of human rights defenders, providing safe space for dialogue, attending trials and hearings, and using social media to advance supportive messaging. Some embassies have reported that the guidelines have facilitated collaboration with other states and with civil society on human rights issues. For example:

- The Embassy of Canada to Guatemala used the Guidelines to develop an Embassy-wide action plan. The Guidelines helped the mission to generate its own activities and frame the mission's human rights actions.
- The High Commission of Canada to Pakistan and the Embassy of Canada to Thailand drew upon the Guidelines for their multilateral engagement with partners by promoting human rights defenders' visibility, providing safe space for dialogue, attending trials and hearings, and using social media to advance supportive messaging.

For more information about Canada's international efforts to promote and protect human rights, please see: http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/rights-droits.aspx?lang=eng.

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy

In June 2017, Canada launched a new Feminist International Assistance Policy. This feminist approach places gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the centre of international assistance efforts. Canada views this approach as the most effective way to target the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion. The Policy also commits Canada to providing international assistance that is human rights-based and inclusive, which means that all people must enjoy the same fundamental human rights, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, or any other aspect of identity. In keeping with this policy, Canada is working to implement a feminist approach to natural resource management. This includes addressing the structural barriers that prevent the most marginalized and most vulnerable, including women and girls, from equally contributing to, and benefitting from, sustainable natural resource management.

6. As related to the Voluntary Principles, describe (where appropriate and feasible) if the government has conducted or assisted with security sector reform, strengthening of the rule of law, and developing institutional capacities

Global Affairs Canada conducts a wide variety of programming abroad contributing to overall improvement of governance, some of which contributes to security sector reform, strengthening of the rule of law, or developing institutional capacities.

Canada considers that in many developing countries, when managed well, natural resource extraction can create inclusive economic and development opportunities. When managed poorly, it can cause instability, conflict, and lasting environmental damage. Respect for the rule of law is essential to achieving poverty reduction, inclusive economic growth and long-term sustainable development and stability.

Responsible natural resource management requires active engagement to prevent corruption and human rights abuses. Canada's domestic experience with responsible natural resource development is widely respected and, as such, often sought out. Governments and other stakeholders frequently ask Canada to provide technical expertise for strengthening institutional capacity, and regulatory and policy advice to support responsible natural resource development in their regions.

Examples of ways in which Canada contributes to strengthening host country natural resource governance include:

- Canada supports the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), which aims to provide technical advice and assistance on mineral development issues to the African Union, African Regional Economic Communities and member states. The Centre addresses a wide range of mining issues, including the improvement of mineral policy and regulatory frameworks, mineral sector governance, artisanal and small-scale mining, and human and institutional capacity building.
- Canada also supports the Canadian Bar Association in an Inclusive Resource Development Project in East Africa. The project aims to increase sustainable economic growth for communities hosting natural resource development, including women and vulnerable groups, in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. By training lawyers on advocacy and international best practices related to negotiation, contracts and employment in the natural resource sector, the project helps to improve the transparency and accountability of laws and expand the benefits accruing from natural resource development to local communities.

In the context of Canada's International Assistance Review public consultations, a strong case was made for Canada to strengthen the rule of law in partner countries, in part given Canada's comparative advantage thanks to an interaction of common law, civil law and Aboriginal law traditions. In 2016-17, Canada spent CAD\$34.12 million of its international assistance programming on issues related to legal and judicial development.

For example:

- In Mali, Canada aims to help women, children and other victims of conflict gain better access to justice and contribute to re-establishing peace and stability. This includes supporting Malian civil society organizations to ensure that Mali's criminal justice system is able to fairly judge cases of corruption and human rights' crimes. Canada seeks to ensure better respect for the human rights of Malians, fight corruption and impunity from crime, and support leaders, especially women and youth, in their reconciliation and conflict prevention efforts.
- In the West Bank, Canada is helping to build the courthouse infrastructure necessary to improve Palestinians' access to justice. The construction of courthouse facilities in Hebron and Tulkarem is intended to improve the delivery of timely and effective justice services in the West Bank.
- In Jamaica, Canada is strengthening the justice system to help foster an improved sense of security for Jamaicans. Specifically, Canada is strengthening justice institutions to better contribute to social order; promoting legislative and policy reforms that better position the state to ensure security; and encouraging communities to provide input into justice system reform, to help foster improved personal security.

7. Within the context of the Voluntary Principles and in accordance with national and international law, describe how the government takes appropriate steps to prevent, investigate, punish and redress human rights abuses within its territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including extractive companies and public and private security providers

There are various avenues of redress for individuals who believe they are victims of human rights abuses committed in Canada by third parties. These include:

As described in (5), all governments in Canada —federal, provincial and territorial—have adopted legislation prohibiting discrimination on various grounds in regard to employment matters, the provision of goods, services and facilities customarily available to the public, and accommodation. Individuals can pursue and seek redress for violations of anti-discrimination codes by third parties through federal and provincial/territorial human rights commissions, tribunals or the courts.

- Canada's Criminal Code, which applies in every jurisdiction in Canada, is another important means of preventing, investigating, punishing and providing redress for human rights abuses by third parties, most notably in relation to the right to life and security of the person.
- Legislation in relation to labour and employment, adopted by all governments in Canada, helps to ensure that workers in both the public and private sectors have a safe and healthy workplace, are subject to fair employment practices, and can organize collectively.
- Some jurisdictions in Canada also have laws in place to protect individuals' privacy rights vis-à-vis both public- and private-sector entities.
- Certain protections in the common law (that is, judge-made law, which applies in most jurisdictions across Canada), such as procedural fairness and property rights, have a long history in Canada. The common law contains remedies for abuses by third parties of some human rights - for example, damages (including compensation) may be sought for certain intentional or negligent behaviour that causes harm, wrongful dismissal from employment, defamation of character, libel or infringement of property rights.

More specifically in relation to the VPs and the extractives sector, Canada has established two dispute resolution mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and help communities and Canadian extractive sector companies resolve differences. These are housed in Canada's National Contact Point or NCP, established in 2000 as part of our commitment to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and in the Office of the Extractive Sector CSR Counsellor, established in 2009 as part of Canada's CSR Strategy, "Doing Business the Canadian Way: A Strategy to Advance Corporate Social Responsibility in Canada's Extractive Sector Abroad."

The Canadian NCP and the CSR Counsellor are key elements of the Government of Canada's efforts to foster constructive relationships between Canadian extractive sector companies and project-affected stakeholders. It should be noted that these Canadian mechanisms are not meant to replace local processes, nor do they preclude the use of court systems, either locally or in Canada, to seek legal restitution. At the same time, Canada recognizes that access to dialogue facilitation, including through

the NCP and Office of the CSR Counsellor, can be cost-effective, expeditious and effective alternatives to formal legal avenues for victims to seek remedy.

- Canada's NCP provides an internationally recognized forum for parties to discuss problematic issues arising from business activities, regardless of sector. It offers dialogue facilitation as a mechanism for issue resolution.

Canada's NCP has received nineteen requests for review, four of which are currently in the initial assessment phase. In cases where the NCP offered its good offices, constructive engagement from parties occurred in seven instances, and one case has resulted in the company being suspended from eligibility for government trade advocacy support abroad.

- The Office of the CSR Counsellor is focused on early-stage dialogue facilitation, referring more complex disputes to the Canadian NCP. The Extractive Sector CSR Counsellor works to prevent, identify and resolve disputes in their early stages. The Counsellor advises stakeholders on the implementation of widely-recognized international CSR guidelines, and works toward early and constructive dialogue to address disputes between Canadian extractive firms and project-affected stakeholders outside of Canada. He has a dual mandate to:
 - Review the CSR practices of Canadian extractive sector companies operating outside Canada; and
 - Provide advice and guidance for all stakeholders on implementing CSR performance guidelines, including the Voluntary Principles and the five other standards benchmarked in Canada's CSR Strategy.

A company's decision not to engage with the NCP or Office of the CSR Counsellor has real consequences. Companies that do not embody best CSR practices and refuse to participate, or do not engage constructively, in either of Canada's two dialogue facilitation processes will lose access to Government of Canada trade advocacy and economic support in foreign markets.

Verification and Accountability

8. Describe progress on the execution of National Voluntary Principles Action Plan

N/A

9. Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process as outlined in the Government Pillar Verification Framework

As an active participant in the VPI and pursuant to the Government Pillar Verification Framework, Canada shares information about implementation assistance through an Annual Report.

In January 2017, Canada made a Verification Presentation within the VPI, which covered Canada's:

- Development assistance in sustainable natural resource governance;
- Support to the VPI;
- Objectives for engagement in the VPI and our achievements so far;
- Promotion and outreach related to the Voluntary Principles; and
- Next steps.

C. Promotion/Implementation

10. Public communication of commitment to the Voluntary Principles

- In May 2017, the CSR Counsellor Office for the Extractive Sector launched the [Extractive Sector CSR Standards Navigation Tool](#), designed to help Canadian companies, civil society organizations, communities, host country governments and CSR practitioners more easily access the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and other international guidelines on good practices. The tool organizes potential social responsibility issues with mining on a thematic basis (e.g. water, security and human rights, corruption, etc.) and navigates the user to the international guidelines that are relevant to that theme.
- CSR websites maintained by Global Affairs Canada and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles (www.csr.gc.ca and <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csr-rse.nsf/eng/home> respectively).
- Various communications products and social media posts are used by Canadian embassies and headquarters to promote the Voluntary Principles. During the 2017 Annual Plenary Meeting, the High Commission of Canada to Kenya and Global Compact Network Canada recognized Canada's chairmanship of the VPI on Twitter.
- In 2017, Canada's commitment to, and promotion of, the Voluntary Principles was also highlighted in speaking remarks delivered by Canadian officials at natural resources and/or responsible business events throughout Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, as well as at the OECD.

11. Describe how the government engages with external stakeholders on the Voluntary Principles

Canada regularly engages with Canadian stakeholders on issues related to sustainable natural resource management and standards such as the Voluntary Principles through different means:

- Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF Canada and Barrick Gold jointly launched on the margins of the 2017 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention the [Child Rights and Security Checklist](#), a tool designed to guide actors in reducing and mitigating security-related risks of human rights abuses of children and young people in particular. The second phase of the project, the *Child Rights and Security Handbook*, is currently in development.
- The Devonshire Initiative, a forum for leading Canadian NGOs working in international development and mining companies to come together in response to the emerging social agenda surrounding mining and community development issues;
- The annual Mining Day on the Hill in Ottawa, which provides an opportunity for high-level management to meet with representatives of civil society, associations and extractives companies (including the Mining Association of Canada) to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest, both in Canada and abroad.

- The Centre for Excellence (CfE), a multi-stakeholder body currently hosted by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, which has served as a focal point for the development and dissemination of practical tools and information for use by a broad range of extractive sector stakeholders.
(See www.cim.org/en/CIMSubSites/CentreForExcellence/NewHome.aspx)

Multilaterally, Canada promotes international CSR standards, including the Voluntary Principles, in a number of fora – the OECD, the G7, G20, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation, the Organization of American States, the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, the Francophonie, and the Commonwealth.

The following are some examples of Canada’s engagement with stakeholders in national and multilateral fora in 2017:

- Recognizing that early-stage consideration of, and engagement on, security arrangements can help mitigate related human rights impacts as companies move into the development phase, Canada provided training on security and human rights at the exploration stage at the 2017 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC). The session provided an opportunity for mining companies and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and best practices and to learn about operational level resources from Canada’s Trade Commissioners Service, the Voluntary Principles Initiative, and the International Committee for the Red Cross.
- In May 2017, Canada made reference to its engagement in the VPI during an official visit of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights to Ottawa. The working group’s end of visit statement recognized that the Canadian federal government has undertaken key initiatives to address business and human rights in the extractive sector and cited, as an example, Canada’s involvement in the VPI.
- Canada systematically promotes the Voluntary Principles through its embassies, and particularly through the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS). Canada makes extensive use of over 900 trade commissioners at embassies to actively implement Canada’s CSR approach, to bring diverse stakeholders together to discuss issues and share best practices, and to advise Canadian firms on responsible business practice. This includes funding embassy-led CSR initiatives, such as workshops, seminars and tool-kits designed to advance integration of CSR into day-to-day business activities, including the VPs. In the 9 years of Canada’s CSR Strategy, the CSR Fund has supported more than 400 projects globally totalling over CAD\$2 million.
- In this fiscal year^[1], 57 responsible business initiatives were led or supported by 39 Canadian embassies in Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

^[1] Note that the fiscal year refers to April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, and therefore does not align with the reporting period (calendar year 2017).

- Forty three of these initiatives (comprising workshops, seminars, roundtables and informational products) focused on the extractive sector and promoted Canada’s CSR Strategy and endorsed international guidelines and best practices, including the VPs.
- Examples incorporating the Voluntary Principles include the publication of a Responsible Investment Guide in Guatemala; a CSR campaign in Botswana; the promotion of the Mining Association of Canada’s (MAC) Towards Sustainable Mining® (TSM); and remarks delivered by Canadian officials at extractive and broader-CSR events in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. MAC announced during the VPI Annual Plenary Meeting in March 2017 that implementation of the VPs is now a requirement for all its members with operations abroad. Companies will have to report on their VPs implementation annually in MAC’s Towards Sustainable Mining Progress Report.

(Please see (13) for information about country-specific efforts.)

12. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles within the government

CSR forms an integral part of the training that Global Affairs Canada’s Trade Commissioners receive prior to being posted abroad. This includes a detailed briefing on Canada’s CSR Strategy, with reference to the six specifically-endorsed international CSR mechanisms, including the Voluntary Principles. In addition, the Department delivers thematic-specific CSR training and webinars to officers at Canadian embassies and at headquarters. Specific information on the Voluntary Principles continues to be developed for inclusion in training courses for Canadian trade commissioners attending international trade outreach events:

- In January 2017, a webinar on human rights and security challenges in complex environments was co-organized by Global Affairs Canada, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCFA) for trade commissioners based in resources-rich countries. This webinar provided an overview of the tools available to trade commissioners in support to their clients in the implementation of security and human rights good practices.
- In February 2017, a CSR training was provided to Canadian trade commissioners on the margins of the annual Indaba Convention, in South Africa.
- In February 2017, trade, political and development officers posted in Canadian missions in Latin America participated in an information session on the VPs.
- In March 2017, a CSR training was provided to trade commissioners on the margins of the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention, in Toronto.

Regular Natural Resource Management working group meetings within Global Affairs Canada offer the opportunity to share information related to extractives, including on the Voluntary Principles. In addition, Global Affairs Canada is a member of an interdepartmental working group on global supply chains, whose objective is to strengthen the federal government’s policy coherence related to business and human rights issues. These meetings also include representatives from Crown-Indigenous Relations

and Northern Affairs Canada; Natural Resources Canada; Environment and Climate Change Canada; and Canada Revenue Agency.

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada and Global Affairs Canada have an extensive internal CSR wiki that promotes staff awareness of Canadian government endorsed standards, including the Voluntary Principles. Background is provided for each standard.

13. Coordination in-country around the Voluntary Principles

As Chair of the VPI in 2016-2017, Canada actively participated in the creation of In-Country Implementation Pilot Groups in Ghana, Nigeria and Myanmar, with other members of the Steering Committee and of the wider VPI. In 2017, Canada has continued to be engaged in these groups.

- Nigeria: In 2017, the High Commission of Canada to Nigeria participated in regular meetings of the Nigerian Voluntary Principles In-Country Implementation Pilot Group, co-chaired by Switzerland and LITE Africa. The Group includes the participation of representatives from the three pillars (government, NGO and corporate) and discusses implementation of the VPs in Nigeria.
- Ghana: The High Commission of Canada to Ghana actively participated in meetings of the VPI Working Group in Ghana. The Working Group provided a platform to discuss key issues such as incursions into offshore oil/gas operation zones, illegal small-scale mining (known as Galamsey), and private security sector reform.
- Myanmar: The Embassy of Canada to Myanmar participated in a working breakfast of the VPI working group in Yangon and in a subsequent meeting. The mission also approached the Government of Myanmar in order to extend an invitation to the Annual Plenary Meeting in Ottawa in March 2017.

Other outreach, promotion, and implementation activities were conducted by Canada in a number of countries:

- Botswana: In 2017, Botswana became the first African country, and the third in the world outside Canada, to adopt the Mining Association of Canada's (MAC) *Towards Sustainable Mining*[®] (TSM) initiative. TSM is a corporate social responsibility program developed to improve environmental and social practices in the mining industry. The Botswana Chamber of Mines (BCM) has made adopting of TSM mandatory for all its members, and that includes seven Canadian mining companies operating in Botswana. The obligation of annual reporting on the VPs implementation in the *TSM Progress Report* will apply to Botswana as well. Canada provided financial support towards the implementation of the program.
- Colombia: In June 2017, Canada's CSR Counsellor for the Extractive Sector met with the [Comité Minero Energético en Seguridad y Derechos Humanos](#) during which the VPs were discussed. The Counsellor also discussed the VPs during bilateral meetings with Canadian extractive companies operating in Colombia. The Canadian Embassy also organized a CSR Seminar with the Colombia Canada Chamber of Commerce in June 2017 with various presenters/speakers including Canada's CSR Counsellor, Canada and Colombia's OECD

- National Contact Points, and participated in a panel discussion with mining and oil & gas companies on issues in the extractive sector, including security and human rights.
- Cuba: The Embassy of Canada to Cuba discussed security and human rights issues with the Cuban government as well as a public firm mandated to provide security services at international natural resource installations. In addition, efforts were dedicated to promote the Mining Association of Canada's (MAC) *Towards Sustainable Mining*[®] (TSM) initiative, which includes a mandatory component on the VPs implementation.
 - Democratic Republic of Congo: The core priority of the Kinshasa VPs group in 2017 was the organization of two training and reflection workshops for the mining sector in Goma and Lubumbashi in November 2017. The Embassy of Canada to the Democratic Republic of Congo took an active part in the discussions surrounding the preparation of these workshops. The main objective of these workshops was to respond to the private sector's demand for better support in the DRC for VPs implementation. Discussions in Goma focused on the context of industrial exploitation and the artisanal sector, with a focus on human trafficking, while the workshop in Lubumbashi focused on the industrial sector. These two workshops brought together about 100 experts, representing the mining industry, provincial and local authorities, as well as various civil society associations.
 - Guatemala: The VPs were integrated in a Guide on Responsible Investment, drafted by Canada together with the Canada-chaired International CSR, Business and Human Rights Group in Guatemala and published in March 2017. The group discussed the VPs in work meetings. Canadian experts also raised the VPs during their public presentations to government, civil society and private sector audience. In addition to those efforts, the Embassy of Canada to Guatemala also reached out to the government, extending Canada's invitation to attend the VPI Annual Plenary Meeting hosted in Ottawa in March 2017.
 - Mexico: In 2017, Canada and Mexico continued discussions on various human rights issues. Amongst the topics raised, business and human rights was a common area of interest and cooperation for the two countries. Canada also encouraged Mexico to consider joining the Voluntary Principles Initiative.
 - Mozambique: The High-Commission of Canada to Mozambique conducted bilateral engagement with like-minded government partners as well as with local authorities to promote participation of Mozambique in the VPI, including participation in the Annual Plenary Meeting in Ottawa.
 - South Africa: In November 2017, the Johannesburg Trade Office of the High Commission of Canada in South Africa co-organised the 3rd edition of a successful panel discussion focussed on the implementation of CSR Strategies in mining, with the aim of stimulating dialogue on how to enhance impact and improve the benefits of social investments for both the mining industry and its stakeholders, including on security and human rights issues.
 - Spain: In October 2017, the Embassy of Canada to Spain participated in the 2nd Metallic Mineral Exhibition in Sevilla (South of Spain) to promote the Mining Association of Canada's (MAC) *Towards Sustainable Mining*[®] (TSM) initiative.

- Tanzania: The Ambassador of Canada to Tanzania and a senior trade commissioner visited Acacia Mining's North Mara mine to learn about the efforts undertaken by Acacia to advance community benefits through the company's CSR projects. During the visit, Canada engaged with Acacia on the VPs.

14. Describe how the government conducts outreach with domestic extractive companies to encourage them to implement the Voluntary Principles and join the Voluntary Principles Initiative

By virtue of Canada's CSR Strategy, all Canadian extractive companies are expected to adhere to the highest standards, including by implementing the Voluntary Principles. In order to promote such best practices, Canada makes extensive use of over 900 trade commissioners at our embassies to actively implement Canada's CSR approach, and to advise Canadian firms on responsible business practice. This includes advising mining and oil and gas companies on the Voluntary Principles and its provisions, when relevant.

As the 2017 Chair, Canada also invited a number of Canadian extractive companies to attend the 2017 Annual Plenary Meeting of the VPI as invited guests, so that they could learn about the Voluntary Principles and the VPI with a view to implementing the Voluntary Principles and potentially joining the Initiative.

15. Describe how government enables and supports companies in implementing the Voluntary Principles

The Government of Canada has a variety of initiatives in place to help Canadian companies better integrate CSR guidelines and standards into their operations, and to enhance the contribution of their activities to the broad economic growth of Canada and its trading partners, including developing and emerging economies. The Government also works with a broad range of CSR stakeholders to promote and increase understanding and awareness of recognized CSR standards, guidelines and best practices.

- Global Affairs Canada implemented a CSR Fund in 2009 specifically to support targeted in-market CSR activities such as seminars, workshops and roundtable discussions. These initiatives bring together a variety of stakeholders to discuss and address issues faced by Canadian companies, host countries and local communities, and to provide an opportunity for Canada to promote key international standards and guidelines. In the 8 years of Canada's CSR Strategy, the CSR Fund has supported over 350 projects globally.

Through our embassies, companies can have access to support for implementation of CSR best practices, including the Voluntary Principles. Recent examples of CSR initiatives undertaken by Canadian embassies include those listed in (4), (11), and (12).

16. Describe how government engages in conflict areas to assist Corporate Participants to help them identify, prevent and mitigate the human rights related risks of their security arrangements

In addition to supporting the Voluntary Principles, Canada has had leadership roles in a number of important norm-setting global efforts, including some that specifically address conflict areas. Specifically, Canada has provided funding for and supports the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas, which outlines a risk-based approach and provides suggested measures for risk mitigation as well as indicators for measuring improvement. In 2012-2013, Canada co-chaired the working group for the OECD Due Diligence guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector, which assists companies in identifying potential human rights impacts of security provisions and recommends implementation of the Voluntary Principles. Canada is also a strong supporter of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for trading of rough diamonds.

As described in (7) and (11), the CSR Counsellor's Office and the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) network are information and support focal points for Canadian companies operating abroad, including in conflict areas. Canada is actively engaged in various countries, including in countries experiencing conflict like Colombia and the DRC (see (13) for details).

In addition to activities led by Canadian embassies, Canada also supports the work of NGOs in conflict areas, including on issues related to natural resource management, and is an active supporter of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Risk Assessment

17. Describe how the government engages with companies on issues related to company risk assessment

As described above in (11) and (12), the TCS provides information and training as relevant and/or requested on the Voluntary Principles, as well as other guidelines that provide for risk assessment and mitigation such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Public Security

18. Describe government efforts to promote and allow for training of public security providers

Through the International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations (IPP) Program, jointly managed by Global Affairs Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Public Safety Canada, Canadian police officers are deployed to international peace support operations or other stabilization efforts. Prior to their deployment to UN peace operations, all candidates must complete training modules on various human rights considerations, including the promotion of gender diversity and briefings on sexual and gender-based violence.

Canada has deployed more than 4,000 police officers to peace operations since 1989. They assist in rebuilding and strengthening police services in countries that have experienced conflict or upheaval. They play a range of roles within each mission, from training and mentoring their police counterparts to leading teams of UN Police to investigating human rights violations. By building the capacity of foreign

police to maintain law and order, Canadian police, in cooperation with international partners, help create a safer and more stable environment.

19. Describe how government works with companies around engagement with public security forces

Canada's Trade Commissioner Service is a reference point for any Canadian companies operating abroad, and can provide information or support as required.

20. Describe how the government promotes and enables inclusion of Voluntary Principles language in agreements between companies and public security providers

Canada makes extensive use of over 900 trade commissioners at embassies abroad to actively implement Canada's CSR approach, and advise Canadian firms on responsible business practice. This includes advising mining and oil and gas companies on the Voluntary Principles and its provisions, when relevant.

Moreover, Canada is a vocal supporter of the Model Clauses for Agreements between Government Security Forces and Companies with Respect to Security and Human Rights, a tool that is included in our promotion of the Voluntary Principles and the VPI.

Private Security

21. Describe government efforts to promote and allow for training of private security providers

Canada is one of 18 Member States involved in the development of the "Montreux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States related to Operations of Private Military and Security Companies during Armed Conflict". Canada is also a member of the "International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers' Association (ICoCA)".

Consequently, on the margins of bidding processes, Global Affairs Canada looks favourably upon security firms which include human rights awareness and training as an integral part of their corporate mandate and/or mission statement and which can demonstrate, as part of the evaluation requirements of the Request for Proposal, a commitment to human rights through participation in training from recognized organizations. (Recognized training institutions may include the following: Amnesty International, International Labour Organization, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Committee on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Commission of Jurists, and the International Crisis Group.)

The Government of Canada and Global Affairs Canada require that all hired security guard contractors conduct an initial training that includes human rights.

22. Describe how the government develops appropriate policies and oversight for the government's own use of private security service providers

Through security vetting provisions, Global Affairs Canada ensures that the selected security providers determine the suitability of personnel to provide protective services, including human rights screening. At a minimum, the providers must verify and confirm the applicant's full name, date and place of birth,

educational qualification, and perform background checks to determine with a reasonable degree of certainty that they: have not been convicted of a crime; have not been dishonourably discharged; have not had other employment or engagement contracts terminated for documented violations; have not had a history of other conduct that, according to an objectively reasonable standard, brings into question their fitness to interact with the public from a position of authority or provide protective service.

Prior to commencement of these checks, the providers shall obtain from all applicants access to references, vital statistic records, prior employment records and other relevant documents for the purpose of these checks. This includes records relating to posts held with the military, police, or public or private security providers. This may also include criminal and civil records history; sexual offender indices and government and industry sanction lists.

D. Lessons and Issues

23. To help determine what best practices and lessons learned can be leveraged going forward, provide a summary of issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the government (e.g. successful/unsuccessful engagement and implementation; from lessons learnt any changes to future priorities and plans for continues or emerging opportunities).

Lessons learned on outreach:

- Based on past years' experiences, when conducting outreach to other governments, it is important to be clear as to whether one is encouraging implementation of the Voluntary Principles, or also encouraging an application for VPI membership.
- Outreach is more efficient when efforts are focused on a limited number of governments and when the embassy on the ground is engaged and ready to provide support.