

**Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights**  
**Report for LITE-Africa (Nigeria)**  
**Calendar Year 2017**

Submitted by  
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January, 2018

## **Introduction**

This report is consistent with the NGO pillar reporting guidelines, and it highlights LITE-Africa's commitment to the Voluntary Principles Initiative and procedures for supporting the verification process. It also include efforts at promoting the Voluntary Principles and contributions to the in country implementation efforts as well as lessons learnt over the reporting period.

LITE-Africa envisions a world in which the principles of democracy and human rights guide the vision and actions of governance in heightening peace and development. This vision is consistent with the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) as it provides a useful guidance to companies and security providers. It also serves as a tool for multi-stakeholder dialogue. For over ten years, LITE-Africa have continued to play a key role in bringing together different stakeholders from the public and private sectors in Nigeria to promote issues of business and human rights and the VPs through various programs.

LITE-Africa has consistently worked with government, security providers, community stakeholders and civil society organisations in promoting the VPs. Since 2006, we have continued to provide capacity building and guide policy reforms towards integrating human rights into corporate operations through our work with the various pillars and other stakeholders in Nigeria.

We have also continued to use our annual Business and Human Rights Forum to bring companies, CSOs, government and community members together for improved collaboration and joint problem solving. The In-country Implementation working Group (ICPG) provides the space for LITE-Africa to deepening our engagement and contribution to the VPs in Nigeria and beyond.

### **A. Commitment to the Voluntary Principles**

#### **A.1. Engagement in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the past year.**

LITE-Africa participated in a number of steering committee activities including the steering committee strategic retreat in The Hague where LITE-Africa participated in a panel discussion on extractive resources for prosperity and responsible sourcing from fragile areas. LITE Africa also participated in a number of pillar calls, as well as the in-country working group efforts. Since the listing of VPs priority countries in 2016; LITE-Africa has jointly co-chaired the in-country implementation working group efforts and meetings at different levels in Nigeria. Importantly, we developed a concept note and a two year action plan with a developed budget in collaboration with a member of the government pillar.

LITE-Africa also participated in a government pillar delegation meeting on steering committee visit in Nigeria.

## **A.2. Efforts to increase transparency, both internally and externally, regarding efforts to implement or support implementation of the Voluntary Principles.**

LITE-Africa made public its efforts at promoting the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs), security and justice reform, as well as transparency and accountability efforts through its website, research publications, annual reports, media publications and development of IEC materials. LITE-Africa contributed to increased transparency mechanism in Nigeria through citizens' report card assessment report of public institutions conducted in the nine states of the oil rich Delta region on open government mechanism. LITE – Africa also publish VPs basic readers and launch VPs call to action portal. LITE-Africa's call to action on the VPs, VPs basic reader and Citizens' Report Card report on open government mechanism and public service delivery as part of transparency and accountability efforts are all available to the public in hard and soft copies and through the organization's website.

## **A.3. Efforts to engage in dialogue with other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.**

LITE-Africa engaged both government, corporate pillar and NGO members to discuss specific issues on the VPs in-country implementation activities and meetings in Nigeria and the expediency of pillar members to take up active roles in the in-country implementation efforts. LITE-Africa met with members of the Corporate Pillar and the government pillar to discuss Voluntary Principles implementation in Nigeria and the launch of the In-Country Pilot Group. A key outcome of such engagement with the government pillar was the cross-pillar consultative meeting.

LITE-Africa also participated in a meeting on the state of private security in Nigeria and NGO forum organised by ICoCA and also participated in the panel discussion on DCAF private security regulation and context in Africa in Pretoria South Africa and Accra, Ghana. The meetings provided opportunity for a robust appraisal of the state of security and robust dialogue with other members of the VPs initiative, particularly the issue of regulation and context.

## **B. Procedures**

### **B.4. Summary of the findings of the verification process as outlined in the NGO Pillar Verification Framework.**

LITE-Africa updated participants on implementation support through presentation of voluntary principles verification process in in fragile areas. LITE-Africa also provided support for the VP implementation and promotion through open discussions and publication of annual report which was made available to the public.

LITE-Africa actively engaged in a number of steering activities including the strategic retreat, calls and pillar calls, and raised the need for a renewed engagement on the VPs and expansion of the membership to accommodate renewed interest which has led to a review of membership

criteria. LITE-Africa is a co-chair of the in-country implementation pilot group efforts in Nigeria, working in collaboration with other pillar members, LITE-Africa has developed a concept note and a two years action plan for the ICPG efforts in Nigeria.

LITE-Africa also engaged a member of the corporate pillar on VPs implementation efforts in Nigeria and supported the pillar member by providing trainings on the VPs and human rights to both public and private security providers and employees of the company in different locations, including offshore operations across Nigeria.

## **C. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles**

### **C.5. Efforts to raise awareness of and promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles with both internal and external stakeholders.**

#### *Awareness and promotion with external stakeholders*

LITE-Africa raised awareness and promoted understanding of the Voluntary Principles with both internal and external stakeholders through public awareness, conferences, and capacity building of public and private security providers. LITE-Africa promoted the VPs by engaging government at the national level in Nigeria on the voluntary principles which led to government buy in and representation in the in-country implementation efforts.

LITE-Africa raised awareness of the VPs at the annual general meeting of the African Coalition on Corporate Accountability (ACCA), which draws membership from across Africa. LITE-Africa encouraged members at the ACCA to leverage on the opportunities created by the VPs in engagement on issue of corporate accountability to promote human rights in the region.

LITE-Africa also raised awareness and promoted the VPs at a private security governance workshop in Accra which drew participants from across Africa.

LITE-Africa also promoted the VPs through dissemination of VPs basic readers in south-south, south-east and north central geo-political zones of Nigeria including the federal capital territory to different stakeholders including public and private security providers, local communities, traditional rulers, civil society organisations, women groups, non-state security providers, members of professional association, herdsmen and local farmers as well as the media and government officials at town hall meetings and at a national conference on peace and security in Nigeria organised by LITE-Africa. The dialogues provided valuable tool for security forces and local communities emerging from herdsmen/ crop farmer's conflict on the one hand and communal ethnic militias to combat lawlessness and promote the rule of law. The peace architecture initiative is supported by the EU and ECOWAS.

LITE-Africa publishes newsletters, fliers and posters periodically to help in educating Nigerians on the VPs and also encourage implementation

*Awareness and promotion with internal stakeholders*

LITE-Africa raised awareness among internal stakeholders by building the capacity of public and private security providers and employees of a member of the corporate pillar in both land and offshore locations in Nigeria. Over 400 personnel including public and private security providers and employees of the companies were trained in the year 2017. Public security providers including men and officers of the Nigerian Police, and Nigerian Army constituted 42 percent of the trainees.

**C.6. Efforts to engage and facilitate participation of non-member CSOs, affected communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the Annual Plenary Meeting or workshops.**

LITE-Africa engaged non-member CSOs in Nigeria through coordination of the Nigerian CSOs coalition on business and human rights to raise awareness of the VPs and encourage CSOs active participation in the in-country implementation efforts in Nigeria. LITE-Africa is also engaging some other pillar members of the possibility of supporting non-member CSOs and other relevant stakeholders' participation in the annual plenary meeting. LITE-Africa and some members of the government pillar hosted a cross-pillar meeting involving non-members CSOs and relevant stakeholders to kick-start the in-country implementation in Nigeria.

Affected communities have been an integral part of LITE-Africa's VPs effort, traditional rulers, women groups and marginalized groups in Delta, Enugu and Benue states were engaged in the workshops organised by LITE-Africa within the period.

A key outcome of LITE-Africa's engagement effort of non-member CSOs, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders is the increased number of CSOs membership and applications from Nigerian CSOs.

**C.7. Efforts to promote the adoption of the Voluntary Principles into relevant government or corporate policies, as well as international standards and/or guidelines.**

In an effort to promote the adoption of VPs in Nigeria, LITE-Africa engaged the Nigerian Government on the VPs in-country implementation working group efforts which has secured the buy-in of government. Although LITE-Africa's engagement of government led to the setting up of an inter-ministerial committee to reconsider Nigeria's position on the VPs in the previous year which led to a favourable committee's recommendation to government, a number of concerns have been raised about the government financial commitment in the present economy downturn of the nation.

LITE-Africa also engaged the highest commands of the Nigeria Army, Police and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp on the need to adopt the VPs in their rules of engagement and in deployment of personnel, particularly to oil corporations. One key outcome of such engagement in the previous years was the development of grievance mechanism or complain

response units in the police and army through the provision of dedicated hotlines for members of the public.

## **D. Country Implementation**

### **D.8. Efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the countries where you work.**

LITE-Africa created a multi-stakeholders dialogue on peace and security architecture in the federal capital territory, south-south, south-east, and north central communities that were emerging from some of the worst form of violent conflict and herdsmen/ crop farmers insecurity. The peace architecture dialogues brought together policy makers, security agencies, community leaders, traditional leaders, non-state armed groups, professional bodies, herdsmen and farmers, ex-militants as well as women and other marginalized groups to confront common security challenges in the communities ranging from, inter-communal violence and herdsmen/ crop farmers conflict. The workshops were held in Abuja, Delta, Enugu and Benue states of Nigeria. The dialogues provided valuable tool for security forces and local communities emerging from conflict to combat lawlessness and promote the rule of law. The peace architecture dialogues were supported by EU and ECOWAS.

LITE-Africa also promoted transparency and accountability mechanism in public resource management in the oil rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria through the promotion of activities aimed at strengthening advocacy and civic engagement on effective public resource management and coordination among government ministries, agencies, departments and other public institutions. Key outcome of this intervention was the improvement in public transparency and accountability through the continued development of comprehensive quarterly reports, and interactive online portal in key public agencies in the oil rich Delta region.

LITE-Africa also build the capacity of public security forces, including the Army, Navy and the Nigerian Police on human rights, the VPs and other international humanitarian laws, including the UN code on the use of force and fire-arm for law enforcement agencies which has contributed to strengthening the rule of law, particularly around the extractive industry in the Delta.

LITE-Africa also engaged in a number of media activities in national dailies to raise public awareness and encouraged citizens' demand for the rule of law, security reform and improved transparency and accountability in government. LITE-Africa also hosted a number of twitter conferences to promote the rule of law.

The in-country implementation group effort which LITE-Africa is a co-chair is also focused on strengthening the rule of law in Nigeria.

**D.9. Efforts to conduct and monitor risk assessments for potential human rights violations in the areas where you work.**

LITE-Africa's Human Rights Clinic has continued to respond to cases of human rights violation and abuses, support dispute resolution within the extractive sector and facilitate dialogue especially between oil producing communities and security agencies protecting oil facilities in the Niger Delta. The center monitors and coordinates its activities and continues to provide a non-judicial remedy mechanism to the public. The clinic also receive complaints from the public on human rights related issues and channels such complains to relevant security agencies for remedies.

LITE-Africa also conducted security risk assessment in six communities in three states of Nigeria where control recommendations were made available to relevant government agencies and heads of security. LITE-Africa also provided a conflict, security and human rights situation analysis of the herdsmen and crop farmers' conflict, the Warri South West inter-communal crisis in Delta State and military operations and deployment in the Niger Delta. Potential conflict and security risks identified were undermined by relevant government and security agencies which resulted in avoidable human rights violations and escalation of the security and conflict situation in Benue state and most part of the southern region.

Over the years, LITE-Africa has identified lack of capacity and resource as a potential risks for human rights violation by security operatives. This explains why LITE-Africa has continued to intensify effort at building the capacity of public and private security providers, particularly the ones deployed to oil facilities to minimize the risk of human rights violation in their areas of work.

**D.10. Efforts to strengthen policies, procedures and guidelines related to the implementation of the Voluntary Principles.**

LITE-Africa's approach to the VPs is a two-way approach based on the context and peculiarities of communities where we work in Nigeria as we depend on feedback from stakeholders including communities, government and companies to support our programme design approach. LITE-Africa's strategy rest on these principles:

LITE-Africa's strategy rest on these principles:

- Empowering communities to hold duty bearers accountable and demand for greater accountability;
- Strengthening civil society to increase knowledge and expand engagement through joint and shared learning space;
- Partner with extractive companies to strengthen and expand knowledge and engender policy reform;
- Partnering with government to ensure compliance; and
- Creating effective mechanisms for dialogue, joint problem solving and networking.

LITE-Africa engaged the Government of Nigeria to actively engage in the activities of the in-country implementation committee. LITE-Africa also participated in annual general meeting of the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (“ACCA”). The meeting drew participants from across the African continent. LITE - Africa emphasized the need for the ACCA to leverage on the opportunity provided by the Voluntary Principles in engaging regional governments.

**D.11. Efforts to engage with or support engagement with the public security sectors and/or private security sectors in the countries where you work.**

LITE-Africa engaged the military and police high command in Abuja and state commands on the need to strengthen the established human rights grievance mechanism in the different security formations across the country and suggested training modules that will assist the officers and men of the security agencies to keep attune with leading practices in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedom, as well as strengthening civil-security relations and grievance mechanism within the forces.

LITE-Africa also trained a total of 418 public and private security providers in the year 2017 of which 42 percent were police and soldiers.

LITE-Africa engagement at the International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security (ICoCA) in the year under review has further expanded engagement with security providers at a more global scale.

LITE-Africa also engaged the state and zonal commands of Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Army and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp in south-south, south-east and North Central States of Nigeria on security reform and peace keeping. The engagement led to peace architectural dialogues in Delta, Enugu and Benue states. The dialogues provided valuable tools for collaborative security-civil solutions to addressing security challenges in communities emerging from some of the worst form of violent conflict.

**D.12. Efforts to hold Voluntary Principles participants accountable for upholding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.**

LITE-Africa adopt a top-down and bottom-up approach in holding companies accountable as members of the VPs. At the top, LITE-Africa has continuously engaged a member of the corporate pillar in Nigeria on their roles and responsibilities as members of the VPI; Particularly on the need to carry out security and conflict risk assessment and uphold the right of local community members. One key outcome of this effort has been the company’s commitment to sustain internal awareness of the VPs through periodic trainings and strengthening of grievance mechanisms. To minimize risk, the VPs trainings are targeted at public and private security providers and company employees who are in daily contact with local communities. Specifically, the trainings are deployed at the period of changing of guard to

address the capacity gap of the new entrants. Our work with security forces have increased and place human rights agenda among policy makers.

At the bottom, LITE-Africa creates public awareness and sensitise local communities on the VPs through town hall meetings, workshops, print and electronic media programmes, social media platforms and distribution of IEC materials. These bottom-up efforts are aimed at empowering community members to hold corporations and government accountable and demand for VPs compliance and remedy measures in case of abuse. Our community sensitization efforts has led to increased awareness among the oil bearing communities in the Delta to fully understand how the VPs can serve as a tool for dialogue and joint problem solving between their communities and oil companies as well as with security agencies. This has improved community–company dialogue and would continue to serve as a successful platform for engagement.

## **E. Lessons and Issues**

### **E.13. Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organization**

We have learnt that it is beneficial to have more VPs focal persons and subordinates in an organisation. This practice will help to absorb the likely setback an organisation may suffer in the event of unforeseen circumstances and staff mobility.

The diversity and geographic spread of steering committee and conference calls participants enriched the implementation strategy of the VPs, particularly at the steering committee strategic retreat and in-country implementation efforts.

The in-country implementation efforts has significantly improved cross-pillar efforts on the VPs in Nigeria. It has also provided a new window of opportunity for continued engagement of the Nigerian government. The 2019 general elections also present a further window of opportunity for renewed engagement on the VPs, however it also has the potentials for heightened security situations in the country.

We have learnt that although the VP is specifically focused on security operations in the extractives, its application has wider implication for other sectors. Experiences from our trainings have shown that awareness of the VPs is increasing and non-security personnel of extractive companies are fast developing interest on utilizing the benefits of the VPs in their daily routine.

Our bottom-up approach on VPs implementation has continually informed us that community residents are highly enthusiastic on the VPs and anxious to learn more on how they can utilize it as a tool for dialogue.

In 2018, LITE-Africa plans to advance the VPs by deepening our engagement and providing greater leadership in the in-country efforts and implementation of the two years action plan. LITE-Africa also intend to expand its trainings programmes, and carry out promotional activities through the media, and cross-sector dialogues involving government, oil companies, organized labour, CSOs and local community members.

Finally, we will continue our outreach on the VPs to include non-extractive sectors that often experience similar security issues working closely with networks and alliances both locally and internationally.