Chair’s Summary of Proceedings
Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
Annual Plenary Meeting
March 29, 2012

On March 28-29, 2012, the Government of Canada hosted in Ottawa the Annual Plenary Meeting of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, an international initiative that provides human rights guidance to oil, gas, and mining companies on their engagement with public and private security providers.

The Plenary reaffirmed their shared commitment to the Voluntary Principles through collaboration on strategic outreach and on-the-ground implementation.

During the meeting, the Plenary:

- Approved the creation of a formal non-profit administrative organization, the Voluntary Principles Association, based in The Hague, The Netherlands;
- Hosted an Open House for the diplomatic community to share the benefits of membership in the Voluntary Principles;
- Invited guests from governments (from capitals), extractive companies, and NGOs to participate in Plenary deliberations;
- Welcomed Total, S.A., as a new Participant, as well as the Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the International Finance Corporation as Observers, which have all joined the initiative since the last Plenary Meeting;
- Discussed best practices and challenges on human rights and security issues, and strategies for engaging the governments of other countries where oil, gas, and mining companies are headquartered or operate;
- Received an update on an independent pilot project led by Barrick Gold with twelve other oil, gas, and mining companies and one NGO to consistently measure the ways that these Voluntary Principles Participants fulfill the commitments they make as Participants in the Voluntary Principles. This voluntary group will test the indicators this year, and will keep the Plenary apprised of its progress;
- Received reports and held discussions on challenges and progress made by Participants regarding the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, Yemen;
- Authorized the Steering Committee to approve the annual work plan and budget by the end of April and to renew the Secretariat’s contract for one year;
- Were consulted regarding the creation by the Steering Committee of a Working Group of the Steering Committee, with provision for participation by others, to review the scope of work of the Secretariat to align it with outreach and implementation priorities; and,
- Welcomed the Netherlands as Government Chair for 2012-2013.
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. Plenary Participants include representatives from three pillars: governments, companies, and NGOs. There are currently seven participating governments, twenty companies, and ten NGOs participating in the initiative. For questions on how to participate, contact the Secretariat at VoluntaryPrinciples@foleyhoag.com or visit www.voluntaryprinciples.org.

**Governments:**
- Canada
- Colombia
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States

**Corporations:**
- 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
- Rio Tinto
- Shell
- Statoil
- Talisman Energy
- Total

**NGOs:**
- Amnesty International
- The Fund for Peace
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
IKV Pax Christi
International Alert
Oxfam
Pact
Partnership Africa Canada

Observers:
Center 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