

**Government of Canada Annual Report to the  
Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative  
(2018 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, particularly in the extractive sector. Canada also strongly supports the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) and recognizes its value in promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, mutual learning and collaborative problem-solving in a way that builds relationships that make it possible to respond effectively to challenges related to security and human rights.

Canada is pleased that the VPI has maintained a focus on in-country implementation and promotion of the Voluntary Principles. We welcome the discussions that have taken place within the Steering Committee throughout 2018 to expand the membership of the VPI through improved communications and production of practical tools, and to move toward improved verification and impact assessment.

**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 160 trade offices and 1300 trade commissioners worldwide.
- Staff across the Department are 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 abuses.

- 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 high commissions abroad, and other Canadian government departments.

Canada has been an active member of the Government Pillar of the Voluntary Principles Initiative since 2009, and most recently joined the Steering Committee in 2015. Canada chaired the VPI in 2011-2012 and 2016-2017.

In 2018 Canada began organizing the Canada Working Group on the Voluntary Principles in order to convene Canadian affiliated VPI members and organizations that demonstrate a strong effort to implement or support the Voluntary Principles. The newly formed Working Group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss VPI business and to engage in conversation on broader security and human rights issues to share ideas and approaches. Canada looks forward to continue organizing this Working Group in 2019.

### ***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**

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 relevant working groups of the Steering Committee. 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](http://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](http://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. Through

Canada's CSR Strategy, Canadian diplomats and trade commissioners actively promote the Voluntary Principles to Canadian natural resource companies that would benefit from their application.

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. Canada encourages increased collaboration between the VPI and ICoCA.

#### Domestic promotion and protection of human rights in general:

Canada is party to the seven principal United Nations human rights conventions and covenants (also known as treaties). As a party to these treaties, Canada agrees to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, without discrimination of any kind.

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

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

- Human rights are constitutionally entrenched in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (adopted in 1982), which sets out those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society. The *Charter* applies to all government activities, at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels and includes protections related to fundamental freedoms; democracy; mobility; life, liberty and personal security; equality; official languages; minority language education rights; Canada's multicultural heritage and Indigenous peoples' rights.
- Canada's Constitution contains additional protections for the rights of Aboriginal peoples of Canada. These include rights over lands and to self-government.
- 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:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2FCORE%2FCA N%2F2013&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2FCORE%2FCA N%2F2013&Lang=en)

#### International promotion and protection of human rights in general:

One of the obligations in the United Nations Charter is to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms. Canada fulfills this obligation through bilateral engagement,

multilateral international assistance, and through active cooperation with relevant United Nations mechanisms such as visits of special rapporteurs and the UN's Universal Period Review process.

### **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 by ensuring that Canada continues to provide effective support to people around the world who promote human rights—from helping human rights defenders be more effective advocates to helping protect them from harm.

Canada is currently reviewing and reforming its Voices at Risk policy in order to react to the experiences various missions have had in working with human rights defenders, and to adopt the best practices and lessons learned. The incoming policy will include a cross-cutting section on increased risks that are faced by women human rights defenders.

For more information about Canada's international efforts to promote and protect human rights, please see: [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_developpement-enjeux\\_developpement/human\\_rights-droits\\_homme/rights-droits.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/rights-droits.aspx?lang=eng).

### **Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy**

In June 2017, Canada launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Canada's feminist approach recognizes that advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the most effective way to reduce poverty and build a more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous world. The Policy also commits Canada to providing international assistance that is human rights-based and inclusive, which means that all people have the same human rights, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, and other aspects of identity. In keeping with this policy, Canada is supporting women's leadership and decision-making in climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience-building, and sustainable natural resources 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**

Responsible natural resource management requires active engagement to prevent corruption and human rights abuses. In response to requests from other governments and organizations, Canada has provided technical expertise for strengthening institutional capacity, and regulatory and policy advice to support responsible natural resource governance in their regions. Canada supports other governments in developing institutional capacities in natural resource management through partnerships with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals and Metals (IGF), the Canadian International Resource and Development Institute (CIRDI), the World Bank's Extractives Global Programmatic Support fund, and other organizations.

**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**

Canada's Domestic Policy

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.

Canada's International Policy

More specifically in relation to the VPs and the activities of Canadian extractive sector companies operating abroad, in 2018 Canada announced two new initiatives to strengthen the Canadian approach to responsible business conduct. The first is the creation of an independent Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) which will be mandated to review allegations of human rights abuses linked to operations of Canadian companies abroad in the oil & gas, mining and garment sectors. The second is the creation of a multi-stakeholder Advisory Body for Responsible Business Conduct to advise the Minister of International Trade Diversification and the CORE on responsible business conduct policy.

The CORE will complement Canada's National Contact Point (NCP) which was established in 2000 as part of our commitment to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. 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.

It has led 19 requests for review, or specific instances, six of which were carried out during the last two and a half years. One is currently in the mediation phase. In cases where the NCP offered its good offices, constructive engagement from parties occurred in nine specific instances.

It should be noted that neither the NCP nor the CORE are 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, can be cost-effective, expeditious and an effective alternative to formal legal avenues for victims to seek remedy.

A company's decision not to engage with the NCP or CORE has real consequences. Companies that do not embody Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) best practices and refuse to collaborate in good faith, or do not engage constructively, with either of these offices may lose access to Government of Canada trade advocacy services and future economic support in foreign markets. To date, one NCP specific instance has resulted in the company being suspended from eligibility for government trade advocacy support abroad.

### ***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 responsible 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**

- CSR websites maintained by Global Affairs Canada and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles ([www.csr.gc.ca](http://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 Responsible Business Conduct initiatives and more generally throughout the year.

- In 2018, 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 and engagements.

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

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

- As described in #3, in 2018 Canada organized the formation of the Canada Working Group on the Voluntary Principles in order to convene Canadian affiliated VPI members and other organizations that demonstrate a strong effort to implement or support the Voluntary Principles at a global level. At present the group consists of six companies, three NGOs, two industry organizations and the relevant Canadian federal government departments. The Working Group discusses collaborative efforts to strengthen the VPI and shares best practices and lessons learned on the more difficult security and human rights issues faced by local communities abroad, in the context of the VPs.
- Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF Canada and Barrick Gold jointly launched on the margins of the 2018 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Convention (PDAC) the [Child Rights and Security Handbook](#). The handbook is an implementation companion of 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. Two Canadian mining companies have piloted the use of the Checklist and the accompanying handbook at their operations in 2018.
- In March Canada presented at Ryerson University's CSR Institute on its CSR policy and its approach to protecting Human Rights Defenders, including Canada's support of the VPI.
- 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.

Canada coordinates with the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) given the industry association's commitment to the Voluntary Principles. All MAC members are encouraged to use the VPs at their mine sites, and all MAC members that operate internationally are required to report annually on how their security-related management systems align with the VPs. MAC is a member of the Canada Working Group on the VPs, and has facilitated a government introduction to the Vancouver-based Mining Security Working Group that Canada now frequently works with on VPs related initiatives and advocacy.



Multilaterally, Canada promotes international CSR standards, including the Voluntary Principles, at the OECD, the G7, the 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.

Please see #13 and #14 for information about country-specific efforts and outreach to the private sector.

## **12. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles within the government**

Responsible Business Conduct 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 RBC 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 February, RBC training was provided to Canadian trade commissioners on the margins of the annual Indaba Convention, in South Africa.
- In March, RBC 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.

## **13. Coordination in-country around the Voluntary Principles**

In 2018, Canada continued to be actively engaged in the VPI In-Country Working Groups.

- Nigeria: The Group includes the participation of representatives from the three pillars (government, NGO and corporate) and discusses implementation of the VPs in Nigeria, especially around oil & gas projects. In January, Canada funded a two-day workshop led by LITE-Africa which brought together domestic government officials, foreign governments, NGOs, international organizations and companies to strengthen implementation of the VPs in Nigeria. In February, Canada supported LITE-Africa's Twitter conference on the application of VPs in Nigeria as a follow up to the two-day workshop.
- Ghana: The Canadian Embassy is a member of the Ghana VPs Working Group and participated in 3 out of 4 meetings convened for the year 2018. The work of the group has focused on reviewing the VPs National Action Plan (NAP), which was reviewed and validated on 19th November, 2018. The finalization of NAP represents important progress for the group. However questions still remain about the specific resources that can be leveraged from the Ghana Government Ministries, alongside other partners, to implement activities in



2019-2020. Another milestone is the integration of the VPs into the Ghana Government's Multi-Sectoral Mining Integrated Project work plan (under the National Security activities), and the Ghana Armed Forces leading on security and human rights best practices by mainstreaming VPs provisions into their operations.

- Myanmar: The Embassy of Canada to Myanmar continues to stay informed and take part in meetings of the nascent VPI Working Group in Myanmar.

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

- Mexico: In May, Canada and Mexico held their annual Human Rights Dialogue, where Canada encouraged Mexico to consider joining the VPI. In May, Canada convened a workshop on Responsible Business Conduct, which included a presentation by a government of Canada official and a private sector actor on the usefulness and applicability of the VPs in Mexico. The workshop was attended by civil society groups, companies, Mexican government officials.

In October, during the Canada Mexico Partnership meetings, Canada again spoke to the value of the Voluntary Principles Initiative with Mexican government officials including a discussion of how Canadian mining companies operating in Mexico have been using the VPs to foresee and prevent human rights and security risks in the field.

- Colombia: The Canadian Embassy in Bogota held a CSR event in Bogota in November, which featured the VPs and a panel on Responsible Practices for the Inclusive Development of Extractive Territories in Colombia. The event gathered key Canadian companies as well as actors from national government, local government and local communities. Implementing partners of ongoing ODA-funded extractive projects also participated. Canada continued to regularly participate and hold a board member seat on Colombia's *Comité Minero-Energético* (CME), a multi-sector initiative which aims to facilitate dialogue around the protection of human rights and promotion of security guarantees for parties impacted the mining and energy sectors.
- Guatemala: Since early 2018, the Embassy of Canada in Guatemala, working with other like-minded missions, has taken advantage of a nascent interest by key private sector and civil society actors to promote the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. In May 2018, our Embassy hosted an expert from Natural Resources Canada to explain the principles and discuss best practices to an audience comprising of government officials, civil society members, and Canadian and Guatemalan private sector companies. Since then, our mission has continued to support meetings between key stakeholders to promote the implementation of these principles.
- Honduras: In conjunction with FUNDHARSE, a CSR organization in Honduras, a responsible business conduct workshop was organized which included a presentation and discussion on the value of applying the VPs in the field. The workshop was attended by around forty people.

- Peru: Canada attended and remained active in the Peruvian working group on the VPs in Lima and on occasion hosted the meetings at our Embassy. Canada engaged government officials, NGOs and the private sector to promote the endorsement and adoption of the VPs.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): Promotion of the VPs in the DRC continued to be supported by three working groups in 2018: Kinshasa, Bukavu and Lubumbashi. Through our Embassy, Canada plays an active role in the Kinshasa working group which is attended mainly by the private sector, domestic government officials and foreign governments. Extractive companies in the DRC have found the VPI to be useful and concurrent with their own codes of conduct.
- Tanzania: In February 2018, the Embassy of Canada organized a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) forum which featured a keynote presentation by Canada's Extractive Sector Counsellor on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the Voluntary Principles. The presentation by the Counsellor highlighted Canada's commitment to responsible business practices through initiatives such as: Chairing of the Voluntary Principles (April 2016 – March 2017); Mining Association of Canada membership commitment to implement VPs (March 2017) and Canada's Voices at Risk guidelines on supporting human rights defenders (June 2017). In his presentation, the Counsellor also demonstrated how the new CSR Standards Navigation Tool works and how companies can use it for early detection of emerging issues and facilitating interventions to diminish risks of escalation and conflict. The forum was attended by approximately 100 participants, including companies, civil society and government officials.

**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 trade commissioners at our embassies to implement Canada's CSR approach and advise Canadian firms on responsible business practice. This includes advising natural resource companies on the Voluntary Principles and its provisions.

In October, Canada gave a presentation to mining exploration companies on the benefits of applying the Voluntary Principles at a meeting of the Prospector and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) Corporate Social Responsibility and International Committees.

**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.

- Since 2009, a dedicated CSR Fund of CAD \$250,000 has been deployed annually to missions through the Trade Commissioner Service, led or supported by over 30 Canadian missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Europe. These in-market initiatives, comprising workshops, seminars, roundtables, and information product dissemination promote Canada's CSR Strategy and international guidelines and best practices, including the Voluntary Principles.

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 #13.

**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 and 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 (KPCS) for trading of rough diamonds where Canada is actively working to strengthen the scope of the KPCS.

As described in #7, the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) network is an information and support focal point for Canadian companies operating abroad, including in conflict-sensitive areas. Canada is actively engaged in in peace building and peace keeping in a number of conflict-affected countries.

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 #7 and #16, 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 on human rights, gender diversity and 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.

Canada also promotes the training of public security providers with international assistance through its Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program, which includes a focus on security sector reform and training.

**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 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 was one of 17 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" in 2008, and the "International Code of Conduct (ICoC) for Private Security Service Providers" in 2010, to promote respect for human rights, compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) and the responsible provision of security services by PMSCs. In 2016, Canada became one of seven State members of the "International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers' Association" (ICoCA) which oversees implementation of the code of conduct through three core functions: certifying companies that meet the ICoC requirements; monitoring and assessing member PMSCs efforts to comply with ICoC and handling complaints of alleged ICoC violations by PMSCs.

Canada promotes the Montreux Document and Code of Conduct in its contracting policy for PMSCs. Security firms that are members of ICoCA are favourably evaluated during the review of the Request for Proposal.

In public procurement bidding processes, Global Affairs Canada favourably evaluates 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 (such as: 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, or 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**

Global Affairs Canada periodically reviews current policies and procedures for the government's own use of private security forces and compares them to the best practices in the Montreux document. Global Affairs Canada conducted a review in 2018 and met 20 of the 23 best practices for Contracting States outlined in part 2 of the Montreux document.

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:

- 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. It is bolstered by having other VPI member governments, companies and NGOs collaboratively engage new governments as well.

- Based on past years' experiences, when conducting outreach to companies and 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.

Opportunities in the coming year:

- Canada looks forward to continuing to engage NGOs, companies and other governments to actively take part in VPs multi-stakeholder discussions, and potentially become members of the VPI. Canada will continue to focus its efforts on entities that would benefit most from engaging with other members of the VPI.
- Canada will work with other VPI members to continue to determine ways to improve verification mechanisms and new approaches to impact assessment. Canada will also continue its work in organizing the Canada Working Group on the VPs to advance the application of the VPs among Canadian participants.