

## GOVERNMENT PILLAR VERIFICATION FRAMEWORK

### **Background**

The extractive sector often operates in countries or areas of elevated security risk and faces the difficult challenge of how to safeguard company personnel and property in a way that respects human rights and the security of local communities.

In December 2000, the United States and United Kingdom governments, along with a group of extractive companies and non-governmental organizations, agreed on a set of principles, known as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (“Voluntary Principles”), to guide companies on security and human rights. The Voluntary Principles provide an outline of actions companies should take to assess risks and implement public and private security measures in a manner that respects human rights. This document outlines the roles and obligations of Participants that are accountable for implementing and managing the Voluntary Principles.

### **Accountability Framework**

The Accountability framework within the VPI consists of:

1. A formal participation criteria (Mandatory)
2. A formal reporting criteria (Mandatory)
3. Written annual report (Mandatory)
4. Internal complaints/grievance mechanism mediated by the Secretariat
5. Verification framework for verifying that a Participant is meeting their responsibilities
6. Public report prepared annually by the Secretariat (Mandatory)

### **Verification Process**

#### **Annual Report to the Plenary**

##### ***Publication of Annual Report***

Verification within the Voluntary Principles Initiative has been defined as “have a credible process to verify fulfillment, by all Participants, of their Voluntary Principles Initiative responsibilities, including public reporting and engagement where appropriate”.

Each Participant Government will submit an Annual Report to the Plenary. This report will include the Government’s verification process, which will assess Participant Government’s fulfillment of their roles and responsibilities as defined in the Participation Criteria, the roles and responsibilities for the Government Pillar, and, as applicable, the Government’s national plan. The report will be drafted in accordance with the Reporting Guidelines.

Participant Governments with national plans should address progress on execution in Annual Reports.

Participant Government should also address progress on points raised during peer review in Annual Reports (see below). This may include self-assessment on the same.

### ***Publication of Annual Report***

Government Participants submit a copy of their annual report to the Secretariat to be posted on the Voluntary Principles website. The version submitted for public release may be modified from the version submitted to the Voluntary Principles Initiative in advance of the Annual Plenary Meeting. Government Participants strive to use a consistent framework for their public reports. Government Participants also make national plans public on the Voluntary Principles website.

### **Presentation of Results**

#### ***Presentations to the Annual Plenary Meeting***

Each Participant is responsible to prepare presentations of the process, indicators and headline results of their respective reviews at the Annual Plenary meeting. This presentation will include an overview of the key issues raised as a result of the review and key learning's derived from the issues raised. Ideally the review will have been designed such that the results will provide an indication of the success of the implementation and operation of Voluntary Principles programs, this presentation will be an opportunity for Participants to share their evaluation techniques and key learning's derived from the evaluation.

Three volunteer Participants from each pillar will present case studies of Voluntary Principles implementation at the Annual Plenary. These case studies will include a more in-depth analysis of specific methodologies employed and the results achieved. The intention is for all Participants to learn from the experience of the other Participants (from all three pillars).

#### ***Presentations to the Implementation Working Group***

Each year, Participants who did not present to the previous Annual Plenary Meeting will be invited to present their case studies to the Implementation Working Group.

The presentation to the Plenary will be a one-hour virtual presentation, consisting of a 15-minute presentation, followed by 15 minutes of responses to peer-review input, and up to 30-minutes of open Q&A (with priority given to peer reviewers for follow-up comments/questions).

### **Public Report by the Secretariat**

In addition to Participant Government public reports, which will be made available on the Voluntary Principles website, the VPI Secretariat will produce annual reports on implementation of the Voluntary Principles, which will draw from the Annual Reports and the Presentations made during that year. Presenting governments will have an opportunity to edit any specific references to their Annual Report and Presentation