

GOVERNMENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
2019 NATIONAL REPORT

A. COMMITMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES

Throughout 2019, major events were held in which various aspects of the connection between business and human rights were addressed. In this context, Argentina ratified its commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative, as well as its specific interest in consolidating and strengthening this mechanism, by actively promoting —among other actions— complementarity with other international standards that Argentina is currently implementing, especially the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Furthermore, special mention should be made of the activities for implementing the National Action Plan on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, which are consistent with the public sector's broader efforts to strengthen the standards on corporate social responsibility and the business and human rights frameworks.

B. POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

I — ACTIVITIES FOR DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION OF ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION IN VPs

i) ARMINERA, Buenos Aires, 7-9 May 2019 – Panel on Human Rights in Extractive Industries

This Fair, held every two years in Buenos Aires and organized by the Argentine Chamber of Mining Entrepreneurs (CAEM) and Messe Frankfurt Argentina, brings together the leading national and international professionals, companies and organizations relating to the mining industry.

In this context, a panel was set up on “*Human Rights in Extractive Industries*”, where Argentina's involvement in the Voluntary Principles was introduced, with the participation of Carolina Sánchez, Argentine Secretary for Mining Policy; Claudio Avruj, Argentine Secretary for Human Rights; Luciano Pafundi, Director of Community Development of the Argentine Secretariat for Mining and Technical Focal Point for VPs, and representatives of “Goldcorp” and “Minera Andina del Sol”. Furthermore, at the event, a brochure on Argentina's participation in the VP mechanism was distributed among attendants.

ii) REGIONAL FORUM: NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AND PUBLIC POLICIES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, Buenos Aires, 3 and 4 June 2019

This event was organized by the Argentine Government with the institutional support of the European Union, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

This forum included a panel on the initiatives and standards relating to the business and human rights agenda, moderated by Daniel Morris, Adviser, Human Rights and Business at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In this event, a presentation on Argentina's participation in the Voluntary Principles was made by the Director for Human Rights and Gender Issues of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

iii) Bilateral Dialogue between Argentina and the European Union on Human Rights, Buenos Aires, 23 April 2019.

This event was held at the seat of the EU delegation in Buenos Aires and the attendants discussed public policies on business and human rights, especially the implementation of the “United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights”. In this regard, the Argentine Delegation highlighted Argentina's adherence to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative and the value of this mechanism as a tool for implementing other international standards, especially the United Nations Guiding Principles.

iv) Seminar: “Argentina in International Voluntary Initiatives”, Buenos Aires, 17 July 2019

This event was organized by the Canadian Embassy, together with the Argentine-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCAC), and included a debate on Argentina's participation in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative by a Panel made up of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship —Directorate of Human Rights and Gender Issues— and the company TOTAL –Country Security Office—, moderated by an official of the Argentine Secretariat for Human Rights.

II - NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Incorporation of the Voluntary Principles in:

i) National Human Rights Action Plan 2017 - 2020

One of the 5 key themes of the Plan is that of public security, whose strategic goal is the adoption of security public policies aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. Specific actions include the following:

- Follow-up and updating of training in Human Rights in courses provided to security forces: conceptual, regulatory and police action frameworks adopting a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective, within the framework of the 2017-2020 National Human Rights Action Plan.
- A common minimum curriculum for provincial police training academies with guidelines for modernization and democratic management of security institutions.
- A virtual training platform for trainers of security agents of the Ministry of Security, through which training courses in human rights are offered to federal police and security forces officers. Courses for local government officials, advisors and technical staff of security and other related areas are also offered.

- NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Argentina is currently developing the Business and Human Rights Action Plan within the framework of the First National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2020. In this context, the extractive sector has been identified as a priority productive area, which points to the great importance of the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

This Plan will help reaffirm the Argentine Government's commitment to protecting Human Rights against any potentially negative impact of business activities and to providing victims with effective remedies. In this regard, the initiative establishes key joint lines of action offered to the private sector in order to coordinate actions for the protection and promotion of Human Rights in the corporate environment.

ii) NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR COMPREHENSIVE RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION -SINEGIR-

Within the framework of SINEGIR's implementation policies and strategies, coordination with the "Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights" is promoted in order to strengthen and enhance actions aimed at reducing risks, handling crises, and recovery measures in extractive industries. In this regard, SINEGIR has a valuable potential for strengthening the implementation of the Voluntary Principles. Considering that one of its main objectives is to work towards establishing risk maps, possible actions include the identification of those requiring prevention activities and potential responses to situations of conflict in the extractive sector.

iii) FEDERAL NETWORK OF WOMEN MEDIATORS WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The incorporation of this FEDERAL NETWORK into the national group for implementing the VPs is being coordinated. This Network is a cooperation forum that favours participation of women trained in mediation with a gender perspective in conflict resolution processes and their access to decision-making positions.

Joint work with this mechanism is actively promoted, considering its prominent role in the creation of favourable opportunities for conflict prevention and management through participatory dialogue.

In particular, it should be noted that the Action Plan of the Federal Network involves identifying specific territorial situations and anticipating responses to situations of conflict at the local level. Similarly, it is worth mentioning that women playing a leading role in their communities are trained with the aim of enhancing their participation in the prevention and management of local conflicts, offering more opportunities for closer involvement in and stronger support for a negotiated and sustainable agreement.

C. LESSONS AND ISSUES

The potential of the Voluntary Principles is underscored as an important platform for boosting commitments made by corporations, the public sector and civil society organizations on security and human rights concerns in extractive industries, as well as in other sectors faced with similar problems, and they may benefit from the implementation of this Initiative.

Therefore, it is a high priority to foster dissemination and training actions and the development of material aimed at raising awareness of the Voluntary Principles, not only in the various government areas and agencies, but also in the private sector and civil society.