

**INITIATIVE OF THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES
ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

NGO PILLAR REPORTING GUIDELINES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Participation Criteria of the Initiative of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights ("Voluntary Principles Initiative") sets forth each Participant's intent to engage in full dialogue on the implementation of the Voluntary Principles. The Criteria further state that each Participant is to report annually to the Plenary on its efforts to implement, and/or assist in the implementation of, the Voluntary Principles.

The purpose of the Reporting Guidelines is to help: (i) support transparency regarding efforts to support and implement, and/or assist in the implementation of, the Voluntary Principles; (ii) assist Participants in reporting on efforts to implement the Voluntary Principles to the Plenary; and (iii) facilitate the exchange of good practices among Participants.

The reports are *not* intended to grade implementation by one Participant against another. Participants are expected to describe their efforts to implement the Voluntary Principles each year recognising any and all security and legal considerations, as well as practical issues related to the collection of required information.

II. NGO PILLAR REPORTING GUIDELINES

The NGO Pillar Reporting Guidelines are divided into five sections:

- (A) Commitment to the Voluntary Principles;
- (B) Procedures;
- (C) Promotion of the Voluntary Principles;
- (D) Country Implementation; and
- (E) Lessons and Issues.

Sections A-E set forth expected reporting commitments and Section E is optional.

Note that, for some of the Reporting Guidelines, there are detailed Guidance Notes. While these Guidance Notes are optional, robust and fulsome annual reports will take due consideration of them, and seek to incorporate them where applicable and appropriate.

III. REPORTING CONTENT

A. Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

	<u>Reporting Guideline</u>	<u>Report</u>
1	Describe how you have engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the past year.	<p>During this reporting period, New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) attended the Verification Presentations by Human Rights Watch, IMPACT, and PAX.</p> <p>NNF also participated in NGO Pillar meetings, webinars and virtual forums organised by the VP Secretariat. Specifically, NNF participated in the discussions about Oilsum's application to the VPI. Also, NNF participated in reviewing Pan American Silver's application for membership and RMF application as an observer to the VPI.</p> <p>The Foundation attended the annual Plenary of the Voluntary Principles, including participating in the planning meetings for the virtual plenary.</p>
2	Describe efforts to increase transparency, both internally and externally, regarding your efforts to implement or support implementation of the Voluntary Principles.	<p>In partnership with VPI, New Nigeria Foundation organised two webinars on security and human rights in Nigeria. The webinars were held on 19th May 2021 and 27th July 2021. Attendance to the webinars cut across the Nigeria Police, Nigerian Navy, the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Civil Society, the general public and the media. Speakers at the events included senior military officers from the Army and the Navy; Private Security executives; renowned human rights defenders in Nigeria; regional government-owned vigilante outfits; the Executive Director, ICoCA; and Professors.</p>
3	Describe any efforts to engage in dialogue with other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.	<p>The Foundation, along with other members of the In-Country Implementation Group, participated in the planning of the NWG National Conference in Nigeria held in January 2022. NNF followed up with invitation letters to participants in Lagos. The Foundation engaged with NSCDC, the public security outfit that regulates the private security sector, on governance and human rights issues in the security sector.</p>

B. Procedures

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Report</u>
4	Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process as outlined in the NGO Pillar Verification Framework.	NNF participated in verifications of companies held in 2021. The Reviewers prepared the report and submitted it to VPs Secretariat.

C. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Report</u>
5	Describe your efforts to raise awareness of and promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles with both internal and external stakeholders.	NNF promoted the VPs by publishing VPs activities in its quarterly Newsletters and on the Foundation's website. The two webinars described above were used to promote VPs in Nigeria to participants at the webinars. The Foundation also created awareness for its Board on the Voluntary Principles.
6	Describe efforts to engage and facilitate participation of non-member CSOs, affected communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the Annual Plenary Meeting or workshops.	NNF, with other members of the NWG, have continued to engage with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to attend the next Annual Plenary. As Coordinator of ICoCA activities in West Africa in the period of this report, NNF, in several of its activities that involve non-member CSOs, invited them to join VPs and some have joined the VPs from NNF's efforts.
7	Describe your efforts to promote the adoption of the Voluntary Principles into relevant government or corporate policies, as well as international standards and/or guidelines.	The NWG resumed visits to identified government ministries and agencies after the peak of the Coronavirus outbreak to push for Nigeria's signing on to VPA. The NWG carried out advocacy visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the Inspector-General of Police on Nigeria's membership of the VPSHR. NNF has continued to work with the In-Country Implementation Working group in Nigeria to facilitate Nigeria's adoption and signing on to the VPSHR. NNF also worked with other CSO members of ICoCA on the development of tools as well as engagement with Nigerian authorities

		to sign on to ICoCA.
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D. Country Implementation

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Report</u>
8	Describe efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the countries where you work.	NNF, using social media platforms, continued its advocacy against human rights violations by the security forces. The Foundation shared outcomes of its webinars on social media and online news media.
9	Describe efforts to conduct and monitor risk assessments for potential human rights violations in the areas where you work.	NNF carried out a study in 2021 for the International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA) on the country's security and respect for human rights. The study included the armed personnel (the Police and the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC))
10	Describe your efforts to strengthen policies, procedures and guidelines related to the implementation of the Voluntary Principles.	NNF continues to share the outcomes of its engagement with stakeholders on its study and advocacy conducted in 2019 against crude oil theft on different platforms. The knowledge can enhance the implementation of VPs.
11	Describe your efforts to engage with or support engagement with the public security sectors and/or private security sectors in the countries where you work.	The Foundation reached out to Lekki Free Zone, a company financed by the IFC, to adopt VP training methodologies in training public and private security personnel serving in their facilities. NNF will facilitate the training using the VPs training manual. Also, NNF coordinated the ICoCA Study in West Africa and carried out the study for Nigeria. We chaired ICoCA West Africa and pushed for increased membership of ICoCA.
12	Describe efforts to hold Voluntary Principles participants accountable for upholding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.	

E. Lessons and Issues

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
13	Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organisation	One big lesson from the coronavirus pandemic is the need to be innovative in promoting the implementation of VPs. NNF intends to continue creating awareness through its social media platforms, newsletter, and website. We are increasingly combining hybrid techniques in the conduct of our activities with target stakeholders.