

New Nigeria Foundation's 2022 VPI Annual Report

Commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

1. Describe how you have engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the past year.

New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) has engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the last year in many ways including through participation in activities organised by VPs Secretariat, Nigeria In-Country National Working Group (NWG) and those of the Foundation. NNF attended the 2022 in-person Annual Plenary Meeting in Toronto Canada including participating in planning meetings and other engagements leading up to the plenary. While at the Annual Plenary, the Foundation attended all statutory events including those that were specific for the NGO Pillar and a special meeting with Nigerian delegation. NNF is a member of the Steering Committee (SC) and participated in all SC meetings since becoming a member.

NNF attended the special training session on VPSHR implementation facilitated by the VPI Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria. In addition, the Foundation attended the verification presentation and served as a reviewer of ALCOA's presentation which held within this reporting period. Also, NNF participated in the review of applications to VPI by new members from Nigeria. NNF participated in all NGO Pillar meetings organised in 2022.

New Nigeria Foundation attended the webinar on Practices for Community Grievance Mechanisms moderated by Jonathan Drimmer of Paul Hastings LLP.

2. Describe efforts to increase transparency, both internally and externally, regarding your efforts to implement or support implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

NNF joined other members to increase transparency, took steps to study and gain understanding of the individual assessments of:

- EITI Expectations for supporting companies
- ICMM Performance Expectations
- MAC TSM Protocols & Frameworks
- UN Global Compact Ten Principles
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
- WGC Responsible Gold Mining Principles

Eni, Dinant and MMG presented their implementation reports during the period under review and NNF was represented at the presentation meetings. Also in the reporting period, NNF attended the Verification Presentation delivered by VPI member, Repsol.

3. Describe any efforts to engage in dialogue with other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

NNF participated in the Strategic Evaluation of the VPI by making herself available for a survey by external evaluators. The Foundation contributed to enriching the data that fed into the development of the current strategy document for the Initiative.

The Foundation, along with other members of the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs, attended NWG meetings and events/activities regularly. Similarly, NNF attended the webinar on how companies, governments and communities can collaborate to address security and human rights challenges.

PROCEDURES

4. Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process as outlined in the NGO Pillar Verification Framework.

NNF's participation at NWG meetings has provided the Foundation opportunities to make contributions to reports from the Company Pillar on the activities of armed security personnel that provide services at their facilities. These sessions were used to appraise the cases that were reported by the companies and served to positively promote furtherance of Voluntary Principles implementation.

Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

5. Describe your efforts to raise awareness of and promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles with both internal and external stakeholders.

NNF promoted the awareness of the Voluntary Principles by publishing Voluntary Principles activities in its quarterly Newsletters and on the Foundation's website. Voluntary Principles implementation also constitute part of the annual report rendered to the directors of the Foundation.

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 Nigerian authorities to join the VPI. In particular, the In-country Working Group ensured the attendance of government officials at the last Annual Plenary Meeting.

NNF organised the first training for security personnel and community liaison officers at the Lagos Free Zone (LFZ), Lagos, Nigeria in 2022. LFZ is financed by the IFC, and through the training, the company has adopted VPs training methodologies in training public and private security personnel serving in its facilities. LFZ engage a substantial number of public security personnel in its operations.

7. Describe your efforts to promote adoption of the Voluntary Principles into relevant government of corporate policies, as well as international standards and/or guidelines.

NNF has seized the opportunity provided under the new Petroleum Industry Act in Nigeria to sensitise stakeholders of newly established Trusts on the VPs during onboarding events organised for representatives of the Trusts and regulators.

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION

8. Describe efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the countries where you work.

NNF, using social mediaplatforms, 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 participated in the Voluntary Principles Association Human Rights Defender research project.

10. Describe your efforts to strengthen policies, procedures and guidelines related to the implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

NNF, through the platform of the In-Country Working Group, has been making efforts to affect government policies. NNF has also provided human rights training for security operatives working for Lagos Free Trade Zone and conducted advocacy to the leadership of the Free Trade to ensure that the operational guidelines of the security operatives incorporate implementation of Voluntary Principles.

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.

NNF provided human rights training for security operatives working for Lagos Free Zone. The training covered regulatory framework for security practices, roles and responsibilities of security personnel, use of force from a human rights perspective, and misconduct and unethical behaviour among other topics.

12. Describe efforts to hold Voluntary Principles participants accountable for upholding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

NNF, through the platform of the In-Country Working Group, has been able to hold participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative accountable. NNF, at separate times, has contributed to review of reports from companies on issues regarding conduct of government security forces and their interaction with community folks.

LESSONS AND ISSUES

13. Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organization.

The Nigerian Government signed a new law, Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to regulate the petroleum industry. The Foundation has adapted Voluntary Principles training materials and used the materials to create awareness among community members in oil bearing communities and CSOs about human rights. There have been enormous learning experiences from the events.