

# New Nigeria Foundation 2024 Annual Report

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### 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) remained committed to the Voluntary Principles Initiative in 2024 and engaged in its activities. The Foundation's engagements cut across several activities and events organised by the VPs Secretariat, Steering Committee, Nigeria Working Group (NWG), and the Foundation. NNF made its first verification presentation in the period under review, specifically on 12th Dec 2024. The Foundation, collaborating with LITE-Africa and other members of the NWG, participated in the regional baseline studies. NNF's role was to conduct focused group discussions (FGDs) during the field assessment in the Southwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria as well as a community awareness session on the VPs and human rights for Lekki Coastal Communities, hosts to the new Dangote Refinery. Additionally, NNF participated in the one-day validation workshop organised to present the Regional Baseline Report to the Nigeria Working Group. Using the opportunity of the baseline study in NNF's location in Lagos, the Foundation collected socio-economic and human rights impacts data from the communities.

NNF continued to create awareness of the VPs among stakeholders in mining and commercial agriculture in the southwest region using the platform of a regional working group set up by the Foundation in October 2023 to promote knowledge of the VPs in the area. New Nigeria Foundation attended the Steering Committee Retreat of the Voluntary Principles Initiative held in New York, United States of America, in October 2024. NNF participated in NGO Pillar meetings organised in 2024.

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

NNF participated in meetings and activities aimed at increasing transparency. The Foundation participated in sessions where verification reports from the corporate pillar were presented to the Initiative, including the presentations made by AngloGold Ashanti, Chevron and Vale.

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

NNF served in the committee that developed a set of criteria for NGO definition for the Initiative. The definition provided additional criteria that VPI could include in the Governance documents to guide the admission of new NGO members.

The Foundation is still working with the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs to reinvigorate a process that will see Nigeria joining the Initiative. The group has commenced engagement with officials of the new administration in Nigeria on joining the VPI. NNF regularly participated in meetings and events/activities of the Nigeria Working Group during this period.

## Procedures

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

NNF's VPI objectives continue to align with the mission and vision of the Foundation, which makes the Foundation's engagement in the Initiative one of the eight core areas of intervention that could result in the desired social change in Nigeria. NNF's activities in the VPI cover five key activities as laid out during the presentation. The activities include community engagement, training and workshops, promotion of VPSHR, studies, and collaboration and advocacy. In carrying out these activities on the ground, the Foundation has ensured that it aligns with the VPs verification framework as provided in the guidelines.

## 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 VPs by embedding it in its activities under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). The Foundation also publishes VPs activities in its quarterly Newsletters and on the Foundation's website. VPs activities 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.**

The stakeholder groups covered during the study in coastal communities included CSOs working in human rights in the communities. These CSOs are not members of the VPI and also do not have much knowledge of the VPs. The exercise provided an opportunity to engage these non-member CSOs and other stakeholders on the VPs, the governance structure and the NWG activities. The CSOs were invited to join the new regional working group.

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

NNF leverages the opportunities provided through its implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to introduce the VPs to the Host Communities' Development Trusts and encourage them to visit the VPI site to familiarise themselves with the activities of the Initiative and issues surrounding human rights in the extractive sector.

## Country Implementation

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

The Foundation continued its advocacy against human rights violations by the security forces. The Foundation shares its VPs activities on social media and through its in-house publications.

**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 and other members of ICoCA Nigeria participated in the Regional Conference on Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in the Fight against Private and Hybrid Security in West Africa in Abuja, Nigeria, December 2024. The conference developed recommendations that ECOWAS and national parliaments can implement in addressing multiple levels of insecurity, both domestically and cross-border, with violent extremism posing a particularly significant threat in the region.

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

NNF seeks clarification from members of the corporate pillar on their involvement in human rights violations (if any) in their host communities during verification reviews. This promotes accountability for upholding their roles and responsibilities. In addition, NNF and other members of NWG regularly share their practical experiences on VPs implementation during NWG meetings. Participants share their challenges and contributions are made by members on the implications of such actions and how to resolve the issues and avoid reoccurrence.

**Lessons & Issues**

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

The Foundation continues to use VP training materials to create awareness of the VPs and the importance of respecting the rights of community members among Host Communities Development Trusts (HCDDTs).

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