

NGO PILLAR REPORTING GUIDELINES

I. INTRODUCTION

Each Participant in the Voluntary Principles Initiative is required to report annually to the Plenary on its efforts to implement, and/or assist in the implementation of, the Voluntary Principles. Such report is submitted to the Secretariat to be posted on the password-protected portion of the Voluntary Principles website, and, if the Participant so chooses, on the public Voluntary Principles website.

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 recognizing any and all security and legal considerations, as well as practical issues related to the collection of required information.

The reporting guidelines set forth below shall be followed by each member of the NGO Pillar for each report it submits.

NGO Participants have the option of submitting a copy of their annual report to be posted on the Voluntary Principles public 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. NGO Participants may use a consistent framework for their public reports.

The Secretariat will include in the annual summary public report, on a no-name basis, a description of key issues raised in the annual reports. This report will be posted on the Voluntary Principles website. Prior to publication, the draft public report will be distributed to all Participants for agreement and sign-off.

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, Effective Strategies, Innovative Approaches, and Additional Reporting.

Sections A-E set forth expected reporting commitments and Section E is optional. Changes to Section E (shown in red) will be effective in 2026.

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

Your submission should address in detail the matters set forth in the table below.

A. Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
1	Describe how you have engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the past year.	<u>Examples:</u> Participate in Pillar calls, working groups, Steering Committee, etc.
2	Describe efforts to increase transparency, both internally and externally, regarding your efforts to implement or support implementation of the Voluntary Principles.	<u>Examples:</u> Internal and external public reports, promoting greater transparency of the Voluntary Principles Initiative as a whole, information on your website, etc.
3	Describe any efforts to engage in dialogue with other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.	<u>Examples:</u> Bilateral dialogue between members, hosting ad hoc calls to discuss specific issues, bringing together stakeholders

B. Procedures

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
4	Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process	<p>This section could include a description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> how the NGO updates Participants on implementation support via annual reports and periodic presentations, including how the NGO participates in open discussions and peer review of implementation; and <input type="checkbox"/> any progress on points raised during peer review at the Annual Plenary Meeting or during a call/meeting held by the Verification Working Group.

C. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
5	Describe your efforts to raise awareness of and promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles with both internal and external stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe examples of successful engagement.
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.	

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
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.	

D. Country Implementation

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
8	Describe efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the countries where you work.	
9	Describe efforts to conduct and monitor risk assessments for potential human rights violations in the areas where you work.	
10	Describe your efforts to strengthen policies, procedures and guidelines related to the implementation of the 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.	
12	Describe efforts to hold Voluntary Principles participants accountable for upholding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.	

E. Lessons, Effective Strategies, Innovative Approaches, and Additional Reporting

	<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 organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Describe lessons learned or examples of effective strategies and innovative approaches, if any, from this year providing valuable learning opportunities for all members. □ Describe action plans to implement the Voluntary Principles in the upcoming year, and/or new initiatives or programs related to the Voluntary Principles in the upcoming year.

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
14	Human Rights Defenders	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe member’s initiatives, policies, procedures, programs, and/or activities related to the protection of human rights defenders, as set in the Guidance on Respecting the Rights of Human Rights Defenders .
14	Participation in In-Country Working Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> This section will capture Members’ participation in the In-Country Working Groups like which ICWGs the Member participated in this year and information on their in-kind support/contribution.
16	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe member’s specific initiatives, policies, and/or procedures that address the needs of gender and vulnerable groups in the provision of security, as set in the IGT companion Tool – Operationalizing the Voluntary Principles Through the Lens of Protecting and Respecting the Unique Needs and Rights of Women and Other Disadvantaged Groups .