

2025/26 ACTIVITIES REPORT

VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES INITIATIVE

The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) are an internationally recognized set of principles that guide companies on how to conduct their security operations while ensuring respect for human rights. To promote implementation of the Principles, the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) was created. The Initiative is comprised of over 75 Members and Observers including companies, governments, and non-governmental organizations that share best practices and mutually support the implementation of the Principles.

This annual report provides high-level information on some of the key activities implemented by the VPI between April 2025 and March 2026. Members of the Secretariat¹ offer our gratitude to the Chair, Steering Committee, and Members and Observers who contributed their time and efforts to support the Initiative.

Abbreviations

ASGM: Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

HRDD: Human rights due diligence

HRDs: Human Rights Defenders

ICWG: In-Country Working Group

RFP: Request for Proposals

UNGPs: United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

VPA: Voluntary Principles Association

VPI: Voluntary Principles Initiative

VPSHR: Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

¹ Mora Johnson - Head of Secretariat, Patricia Jacopucci - Deputy Head of Secretariat, Bann Tabbara - Grants Manager, Kiki Zheng – Senior Communications Officer, Tristy Mallette – Finance and Administration Manager and Kaveh Shahrooz, Strategic Advisor.

I. Voluntary Principles Initiative: Strategic Activities

A. First Strategic Theme: Global Leadership; Strategic Collaboration and Partnerships

Strategic engagement at the global and local levels are critical to raising awareness of the Voluntary Principles, contributing to important evolving policy discussions, and providing global leadership on security and human rights. Several examples of strategic engagement and collaboration are provided below.

1. Multistakeholder Mission to Mozambique



In December 2025, the VPI participated in a multistakeholder mission to Mozambique. Organized by Professor Adriano Nuvunga and his team from the VPI NGO Member CDD (Centro Para Democracia e Direitos Humanos) and VPI Observer DCAF, and with the support of the governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland, the mission aimed at strengthening engagements with local stakeholders and the Government of Mozambique, an Engaged Member of the VPI since May 2024. The delegation² included the Governments of the United States and Canada, VPI NGO Members Pact, Fund for Peace and Search from Common Ground, VPI Secretariat, and VPI Observer ICoCA. CDD also supports two multistakeholder In-Country Working Groups, which meet periodically in Maputo and in Pemba, to identify security and human rights risks and find collaborative solutions to them.

² Marie-Claire Joyce, Joan Fontaine and Adriano Tuzine (Government of the United Kingdom); Amabassador Nicolas Randin, Mauricio Sulila, and Frédéric Chenais (Government of Switzerland); Jacob McGee and Mary Angelini (Government of the United States); Rick Steenwag (Canada); Patricia Jacopucci (VPI Secretariat); Paul Turner (Fund for Peace); James McQuilken (Pact); Jamie Williamson and Nada Bessassi (ICoCA); Alan Bryden and Sébastien Caldana (DCAF); Adriano Nuvunga, Gabriel Manguete, Abdul Tavares, and Helio Siteo (CDD); and Serina Howard do Amaral (Search from Common Ground).

Mission delegates participated in a series of events and meetings held in the capital Maputo and in Pemba, in the Cabo Delgado Province. The program included engagements with extractive companies operating in the country, international organizations, and stakeholders from the private security sector. In Pemba the mission delegates met with Governor Valige Tauabo, with the National Human Rights Commission, and with representatives from civil society organizations. During the week, the Government of Mozambique reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the VPSHR and the development of a National Action Plan detailing steps to promote security and human rights, particularly relating to the extractive sector—a requirement for VPI Engaged Governments.

Mozambique is the third African country, after Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to join the VPI.

[Click here](#) to view a full article about the mission.



The delegation met with representatives from the Mozambican government in Maputo (left) and with representatives of the National Human Rights Commission in Pemba (right)

2. Collaboration with Ipieca

In 2025, the VPI enjoyed regular collaboration with Ipieca, a global energy industry association focused on advancing environmental and social performance across the energy transition, including participation in two Ipieca events.

Ipieca Week, May 2025, London

The VPI took part in the May Ipieca Week, the flagship event that gathers energy sector companies, UN agencies, NGOs and academia focused on climate, nature, people and sustainability.

On opening day, Mora Johnson joined other external stakeholders including Jonathan Drimmer (Steptoe), Alexandra Rogan (Council for Inclusive Capitalism) and Alice Cope (Pillar Two) in a “call to action” panel, where Mora emphasized managing upstream risks through conflict analysis, use of the VPSHR in renewables and nature-based solutions, and ways to raise the bar of poor performers, and leverage in-country multistakeholder dialogue.

Together with Alice Cope of Pillar Two, Mora subsequently held a workshop on protecting human rights defenders. They discussed the operational challenges and opportunities, and led participants through practical scenarios, prompting active table-top dialogue on risk mitigation and collaborative solutions for human rights defenders.



Mora Johnson presented at Ipieca Week 2025

Social Responsible Group Meeting, October 2025, Rio

In October, Ipieca's Social Responsibility Group gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for its annual Q4 meeting, hosted by bp. The event addressed several issues in the groups' business plan with a security lens, focusing on cross-cutting issues between security, human rights, and social responsibility.

A half-day program on *Implementing the VPSHR in Latin-America* was developed in coordination with the VPI. The session, facilitated by Patricia Jacopucci, included presentations and breakout discussions, providing a forum for Ipieca member companies and associations to engage with the mining sector to share learnings on overcoming salient security challenges in Latin-America such as organized crime, paramilitary groups and piracy.

3. Voluntary Principles Promoted at COP 30

In November, Patricia Jacopucci participated on a panel at the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 30) Canada Pavilion in Belém, Brazil (pictured below). The session ***Responsible Business Conduct in the Climate Era*** brought together government, industry, and civil society leaders to explore how Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) enables a just and inclusive energy transition.

The session was opened by Jeanne-Marie Huddleston, Canada's Chief Climate Negotiator, and moderated by Miguel Castro, OECD Regional Focal Point for Latin America & Caribbean. Other panelists included Kirsten Hund, Director Climate and Nature, Vale Base Metals; Luciano Souza, Partner of law firm Cescon Barriau; and Daniella Leite, New Business and Member Directors of

the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce. During her remarks, Patricia introduced the VPSHR and shared lessons the VPI can offer the energy transition.



4. Collaboration Global Coalition for Action on ASGM

The VPI has been engaging regularly with the World Gold Council and other stakeholders through the **Global Coalition for Action on ASGM**. The Global Coalition, launched in 2025 includes the World Bank, the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining and Sustainable Development (IGF), governments, central banks, mining companies, and downstream market actors. It aims to address the challenges raised by illegal gold mining. The surge in gold bullion prices is drawing more people into the ASGM sector, while trafficked gold is fuelling criminal activities and armed conflict. For example, profits from illicit gold trade are being used to fund both sides of the civil war in Sudan. The Global Coalition has launched several workstreams to advance this work and is engaging directly with gold mining companies. The VPI Secretariat has been participating in certain meetings and offering technical advice (where requested).

5. VPI Participates in Peru Working Group 15th Anniversary Celebration



The Peru In-Country Working Group in Lima hosted a seminar in November in celebration of 15 years of activities. The program, hosted at the Australian Embassy, was opened by Justin Fraser, Deputy Head of Mission of Australia, and Imogen King, First Secretary of the United Kingdom Embassy, followed by remarks from Molvina Zeballos, from NGO desco and coordinator of the working group. Patricia Jacopucci delivered a presentation which included learnings from the 25 years of the VPSHR, and the important role Peru has in VPs implementation as the leading gold producer in South America and a producer of critical minerals.

Other multistakeholder panel discussions included the role of private security, public security, and the use of force within the framework of human rights; corporate good practices; the role of different actors in security and human rights within the framework of the Voluntary Principles, and experiences shared by other ICWGs in Latin America, such as Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, and Cusco (Peru).

6. Learning Group Session on Voluntary Principles Convened by Cobalt Institute



In November, VPI Observer Cobalt Institute convened a virtual Learning Group session for its members focused on the VPSHR. The session was moderated by Jonathan Drimmer of Steptoe and Strategic Advisor to the VPI. Mora Johnson provided an overview of the Initiative, including In-Country Working Groups, resources, and the development of a new guidance on security and human rights due diligence (HRDD), underscoring the continued relevance of the Voluntary Principles in the context of mandatory HRDD frameworks. Speakers from AngloGold Ashanti (Brian Gonsalves, Vice President, Group Security and Human Rights) and Search for Common Ground (Mike Jobbins, Vice President, Global Affairs) shared perspectives on VPSHR implementation, including grounding the VPSHR integration into a company's values and how impactful that can be, and complex issues such as policies regarding sharing security data with governments and the role of companies in humanitarian emergencies.

7. VPI Promoted at Inaugural Canadian Business & Human Rights Conference

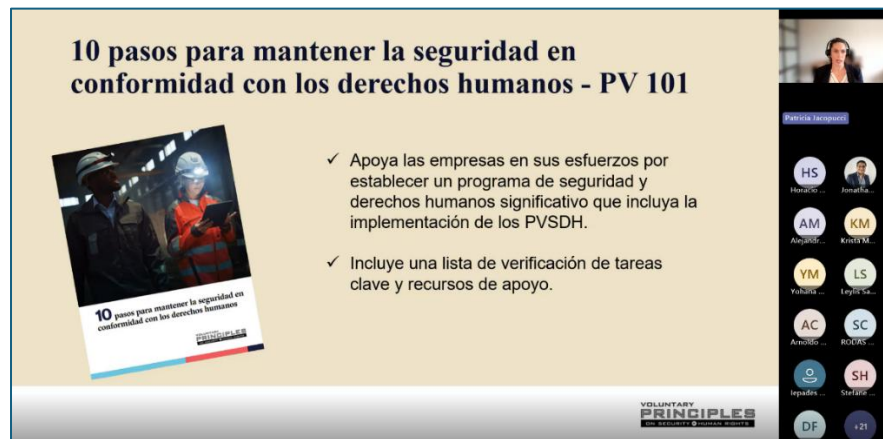
Mora Johnson spoke at the inaugural *Insights '25 Canadian Forum for Business and Human Rights Conference*, held in Winnipeg, Canada, in November, 2025. Her presentation described evolving norms of corporate conduct in conflict-affected contexts, the requirements of heightened human rights due diligence, and managing upstream social risks. Mora underscored the VPI's contributions to helping companies manage risks as well as integrate important considerations into security management, such as special needs of women, vulnerable groups, Indigenous Peoples and human rights defenders.

8. VPI Participates in Mining 2030: Role of Investors in Responsible Mining

Mora Johnson participated in the *Global Investor Commission on Mining 2030's* working group on reducing mining-related conflict and its drivers.

The *Commission on Mining 2030* is a collaborative investor-led initiative seeking to define a vision for a socially and environmentally responsible mining sector by 2030, and to develop a consensus about the role of finance in realizing this vision. The Investor Commission sought to understand how investors can play a role in supporting good practices by the mining sector. The most significant work product of the Conflict Working Group was the production of a report entitled *A Typology of Conflict around Mineral Resources*, [available here](#).

9. Webinar: Security and Human Rights Standards for Stakeholders in Guatemala



In February, Patricia Jacopucci presented an introduction to the VPSHR in Spanish in a webinar for companies operating in Guatemala. The session *Security and Human Rights Standards* was organized by NGO CentraRSE in partnership with the British Embassy. Carlos Salazar from Sócios Peru and a long-standing member of the Peru ICWG in Lima shared information about the Peruvian experience in implementing the Voluntary Principles, while Horacio Soto, from VPI

Member Pan American Silver presented on how the VPs are integrated into their corporate management system.

B. Second Strategic Theme: Support for In-Country Implementation

The VPI Secretariat is pleased to report on results from 2025-26 activities relating to the support for VPI and Partner ICWGs. Through the current funding framework's Terms and Conditions, the VPA has been disbursing core and activity funds to ICWGs since 2019.

During 2025-2026, the Secretariat has managed the administrative, technical, and financial aspects of the Core and Activity funding provided by the VPA to ICWGs based in Ghana, Brazil, and Chile. The tasks performed included developing templates for narrative and financial reports, providing assistance and quality control during the application process, making recommendations to the Board on the funding applications, and operationalizing the reporting and financial requirements included in the agreements with the ICWGs. The Secretariat also held regular monitoring calls and organized periodic meetings with ICWG secretariats to track the implementation of their activities.

The ICWGs activities contribute to VPI ICWG outcomes and objectives, ultimately supporting the VPI Strategy and Mission. The expected medium-term outcomes for ICWG core and projects are:

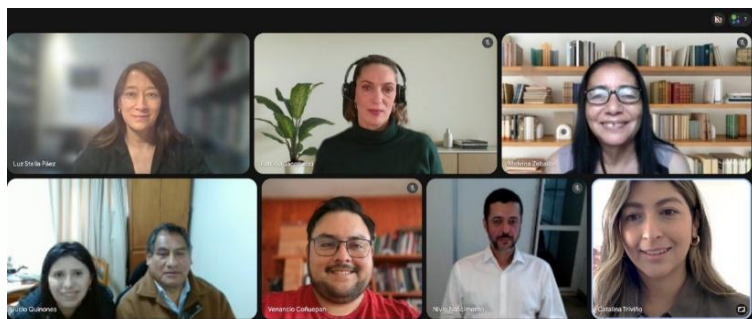
- ICWGs and key stakeholders possess improved capacity to understand, predict, prevent, and respond to human rights risks and impacts related to the provision of security.
- Public and private security providers possess increased capacity to plan and implement security operations that respect the safety and human rights of community members.
- ICWGs possess strengthened capacity, collaboration, knowledge sharing to improve local, national and regional implementation of the Voluntary Principles and address security and human rights risks.
- ICWG secretariats possess increased capacity and operational effectiveness to support Working Group activities in strengthening security and human rights.

Several of the activities carried out over the 2025-2026 period are highlighted below.

1. ICWG Peer Learning, Collaboration and Creation of the LATAM Group

Collaboration and sharing of expertise have deepened between the working groups in 2025-26. ICWGs collectively requested more frequent (quarterly, instead of annually) meetings between all the working groups secretariats because they were finding the meetings valuable. Thus, the VPI Secretariat has been organizing quarterly meetings online in addition to the annual ICWG Secretariats meeting at the plenary, providing simultaneous interpretation to facilitate communication. The agenda for these meetings is determined by the groups themselves, which select relevant or pressing topics, and ICWG Secretariats also share their own work plans and active workstreams.

The Latin American ICWGs have created a LATAM Working Group regional hub which also meets regularly. The LATAM group serves as a forum for aligning efforts, sharing experiences, and strengthening collective capacity to implement VPSHR across national contexts.



ICWGs from Colombia, Peru, Chile and Brazil meet regularly as LATAM



Participants in Cusco, Peru, share their expertise with members of the LATAM Group

For example, the Chile ICWG received support from the Peru Working Group to develop a baseline assessment tool to identify knowledge gaps and implementation needs across companies, civil society, and government. It also drew on a good practice from the Colombia Working Group to strengthen its governance and coordination structure by establishing two dedicated bodies: an Executive Committee to oversee planning and operations, and a Multi-Stakeholder Relations Committee to lead engagement activities.

The ICWG peer learning and collaboration were enhanced in 2025-26 with project funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and implemented by DCAF to provide for the documentation and publication of ICWG best practices.

2. Approval of new ICWG Secretariats

Over the last year, two new organizations assumed the role of secretariats of VPI ICWGs. Not-for-profit organization Fundación Empresas Indígenas (“Indigenous Business Foundation” — FEI) has been approved by the VPI and the Working Group to act as the Secretariat of the Chile ICWG for an initial 12-month term after submitting a proposal. Based in Temuco, central Chile, Fundación Empresas Indígenas is an Indigenous led, not-for-profit organization with significant experience in promoting respect for human rights in the context of extractive sector projects and multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration between actors in the public and private sectors, civil society and local communities, including Indigenous Peoples.

Currently, the Chile ICWG is assessing the results of a baseline survey conducted amongst its members to identify knowledge gaps and implementation needs. The results will guide the development of key activities for 2026, both internally to strengthen the capacities and knowledge of the members of the Working Group, and externally to develop a public advocacy agenda to promote the Voluntary Principles in Chile.



Second meeting of the Chile ICWG

More recently, the Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública (“Brazilian Public Security Forum” — FBSP), a member of the Brazil ICWG, was approved as the new Secretariat of the Brazil working group after submitting a proposal. The FBSP is recognized as a leading Brazilian NGO working on issues related to public security performance, with deep expertise on security and human rights issues. In addition to its core functions, FBSP will implement specific activities such as hosting a joint working group meeting and a technical workshop on the margins of the FBSP’s Annual Meeting, their flagship event which brings together more than a thousand participants from government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, among others. A thematic panel on security and human rights will be presented in the main event.

The ICWGs secretariats are responsible for delivering essential secretariat services, including coordination of the working group meetings, providing leadership and guidance, ensuring adequate communications, reporting, and liaison with the VPI Secretariat.

3. Brazil Baseline Study on Current Security and Human Rights Risks

In April, Avanzar LLC consultancy interviewed several stakeholders in Brazil in the oil, gas and energy and mining sectors, government institutions and civil society. Their research provides a snapshot on current and potential security and human rights risks in support of the Brazil ICWG work.

The baseline assessment found that extractive and energy companies in Brazil operate in a complex security environment marked by expanding organized crime, land disputes, and tensions with Indigenous and traditional communities, all of which create significant human rights risks. It also highlights uneven implementation of the VPSHR among companies.

A summary of the report was turned into a blog entitled ***Navigating Brazil’s Security and Human Rights Landscape*** and is [available here](#).

4. Papua New Guinea Stakeholder Mapping Report

A stakeholder mapping report of Papua New Guinea (PNG), funded by the VPA, was finalized in December. The report, which is a confidential document, provided Members with an overview of the security and human rights landscape across the country's mining, energy, and palm oil sectors. A public RFP process was conducted in April to select a consultancy to develop the report, which was performed by Square Circle Global Development.

The report mapped key stakeholders from government, companies, and civil society; analyzed the broader operating environment in which extractive activities take place; and explored potential relationships and engagement with local partners. It also assessed PNG's readiness to establish a VPI ICWG and concluded that conditions are favourable for doing so. It identified a critical mass of relevant stakeholders from government, industry and civil society—including several VPI Member companies operating in the country, experienced civil society organizations, and government institutions with mandates related to security, human rights, and resource governance—which could form a new working group.

5. Police Training and the Blue Water Guards Ghana Projects

The Ghana ICWG implemented a project related to illegal artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Ghana, locally known as Galamsey, which has affected many areas of life in the country. One of the most alarming consequences is the widespread pollution of rivers and streams with deadly toxins, threatening ecosystems, human health and the livelihoods that depend on clean water.

In response to this increasing challenge, the Ghanaian Government, working through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, launched the Blue Water River Guard program in March 2025. This initiative aims to equip 2,000 Ghanaian youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to help safeguard the country's rivers and other water bodies affected by galamsey.

To complement this training, the VPI's Ghana ICWG conducted a regional training program for 21 water wardens/guards utilizing its VPSHR curriculum in late May. The trainees were introduced to the foundational principles and concepts of human rights, gained a deeper understanding of the Voluntary Principles, and explored potential human rights and security risks associated with the mining sector.

More information about the project is available on a blog developed by Ghana ICWG Co-Chair Fund for Peace and published on the VPI website. Read the full blog [by clicking here](#).



Training of Blue Water Guards in Ghana

C. Third Strategic Theme: Growth and Sustainability

1. Governance Changes

Throughout 2025, significant work was done towards changing the jurisdiction of the Voluntary Principles from the Netherlands to the United States (US), as approved by the Board at the end of 2024. This change in jurisdiction will allow for substantive reductions in costs and bureaucracy of the VPI through the merging of the VPI and VPA and simplifying Board Member registration, making the organization less costly and nimbler. An application for charitable (501(c)3) status for this US entity is in progress.

This change of jurisdiction is just part of approved governance changes which also include hiring an Executive Director and transition from a contracted Secretariat to a permanent, in-house Secretariat. These changes are intended to reduce institutional risk and ensure continuity for the Initiative.

2. VPI Board 2025 Strategy Retreat

The VPI Board and invited Members met for the annual Strategy Retreat, hosted at bp's offices in Houston, United States, in October 2025. During the two-day event, attendees engaged in a series of in-depth, forward-looking discussions on strategic priorities that will shape the Initiative's continued growth and impact.



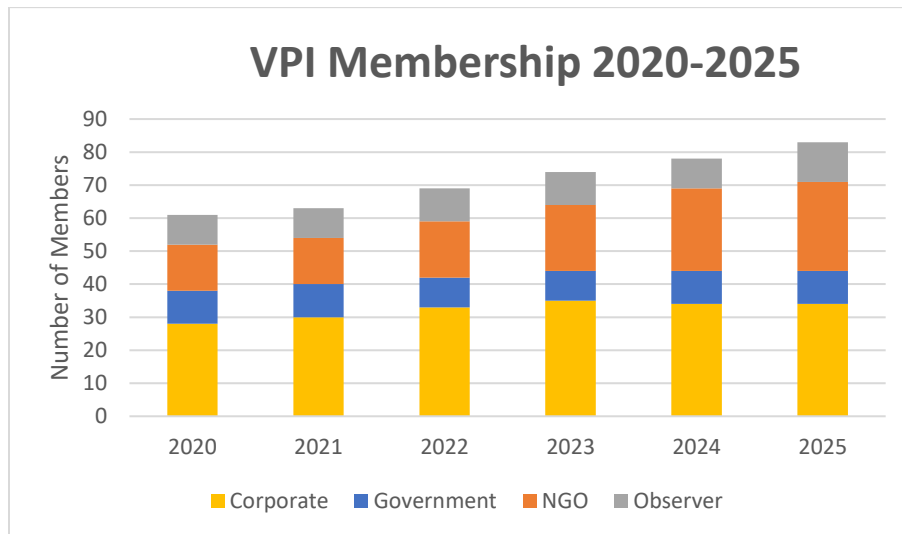
Board and Members met at the Strategy Retreat in October

3. Announcement of Anita Ramasastry as Strategic Advisor to VPI Secretariat

The VPI Secretariat welcomed Professor Anita Ramasastry as a Strategic Advisor, joining Jonathan Drimmer of Steptoe, in March 2025. Prof. Ramasastry is the Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law. She is an expert in the fields of anti-corruption, commercial law, and sustainable development. As one of the leading academics and a pioneer in the field of business and human rights, she served as Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, having been appointed as a rapporteur by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2016. Since taking on the role of the Strategic Advisor, Prof. Ramasastry has provided strategic counsel, particularly contributing to the development of the VPI's ongoing guidance on human rights due diligence.

4. Membership Growth

VPI Membership continues to grow annually. The following graph shows total membership for the years 2020-2025, broken down by membership category (Government, Corporate, NGO, Observer).



In 2025-2026, the VPI granted Observer status to The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), the Cobalt Institute, and the World Gold Council.

OMV and Aris Mining were accepted as Engaged corporate Members.

The following Engaged NGO Members became full Members:

- African Law Foundation (AFRI-Law)
- Centro para Democracia e Direitos Humanos (CDD)
- Human Rights and Forest Brain Africa (HURIFBA)
- Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES)
- Prisoners' Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA)
- Safer Globe
- USALAMA

II. Voluntary Principles Initiative: Ongoing & Recurring Activities

1. Annual Plenary: A Global Gathering on Security and Human Rights

The VPI convened its 2026 Annual Plenary from March 24 to 26 in London, United Kingdom, bringing together over 140 participants for meetings, peer learning exchanges, country updates from VPI and Partner Working Groups, panel discussions, and networking.

The Annual Plenary remains a key event in the VPI calendar, providing a dedicated space for Members and Observers from across government, company, and civil society communities worldwide to come together in person to exchange perspectives, share practical experiences, and deepen collective understanding on the implementation of the VPSHR. The event also offered an opportunity for participants to explore how the Initiative can continue to support implementation efforts in an evolving global context.



Members met in March in London for the 2026 VPI Annual Plenary

2. VPI Annual Reports Highlights Published

Each year, the Secretariat publishes the Annual Reports Highlights, summarizing VPI Members' key efforts in implementing the VPSHR. The 2024 Highlights feature gender-sensitive approaches to community engagement; real-life scenario simulations in training programs, data-driven grievance systems that strengthen prevention and accountability, and enhanced multi-stakeholder collaboration. The report also reflects the significant contributions of governments and NGOs in advancing training, policy integration, and multi-stakeholder dialogue.

The full report is available [on this link](#).

3. Communications

During the reporting period, the VPI marked the 25th anniversary of the VPSHR through a special commemorative article highlighting the milestone and reflecting on the continued relevance of the Voluntary Principles. The article was [published on the VPI website](#).

**Voluntary Principles Initiative Secretariat
April 2026**