

International Alert 2025 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.

In 2025, International Alert attended the Voluntary Principles annual plenary and NGO pillar meetings.

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

Through our 2025 annual report, International Alert will report publicly on the various ways we are working on security and human rights through our country and global programmes, especially in the DRC.

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

International Alert is an active member of the global Business and Conflict Community of Practice, working alongside other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative. Additionally, Open Government Partnership is a consortium partner in the Madini minerals project and they have been leading a project in the DRC on the voluntary principles action plan and the implementation of the action plan with funding from DCAF.

Procedures

4. Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process.

N/A

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.

International Alert shares experiences and impact to shape understanding of responsible mining and inform policy makers' thinking. In 2025, we drew from the experience of change in our Business for Human Rights programme to publish a practice note on mining company partnerships with communities. This provides detailed lessons on how mining companies can work with communities as partners, protect human rights and enhance social licence to operate. The practice note was disseminated widely amongst VPI members and external government and private sector stakeholders to raise awareness on practical solutions in difficult environments.

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.

As part of our peace economies work, International Alert advocates for change in the global and national systems that control trade in minerals, since this can have a direct impact on the risks of conflict, insecurity and human rights abuses on the ground. International Alert has also participated in closed-door discussions with other participants of the VPIs, including to inform policymaking decisions on critical minerals such as the UK Critical Minerals Strategy which names the Voluntary Principles.

Through the "Madini - Minerals for Peace and Development" project, International Alert took part in the 8th Paris Peace Forum. The project took an active part in the panel on natural resource governance and conflict transformation: From extraction to cooperation – shaping global policy discussions on mining

governance and practice in conflict-affected places. Similarly, the Madini team participated in the DRC Mining Week and promoted improved governance of the artisanal mining sector, in particular through the concept of blue mines. The blue mines certification of artisanal mines, an interim status that allows exporters of artisanal minerals to produce minerals responsibly, in line with DRC laws and international due diligence standards. Additionally, the team participated in the OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains in Paris, ensuring continued engagement of key international stakeholders on responsible sourcing of critical and precious minerals.

Country Implementation

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

In Rwanda, and through partners in Burundi, our team delivered projects that strengthened access to justice. In Nigeria, we worked to support access to justice and accountability processes. In Nepal we supported transitional justice processes, promoted the right to information, strengthened the role of journalists in promoting free speech, and facilitated better community relationships with police and local government.

Our team in DRC worked to reduce conflict, including around mining sites, and to build social cohesion, sustainable trade and access to justice across borders. Madini started a partnership with the artisanal mining agency of the central government to work toward greater formalization of the less well regulated artisanal mining sector. In the Access to Justice project, we support communities to understand their rights and work closely with judicial authorities to support inclusive access to justice. On cross border trade (our Mupaka Shamba Letu project) our project contributes to regional integration through strengthening social and economic capital amongst cross border communities in the Great Lakes. This contributes to greater resilience amongst cross border communities but also positively contributes to local economies and feeds into continental value chains.

9. Describe efforts to conduct and monitor risk assessments for potential human rights violations in the areas where you work.

As a peacebuilding NGO, International Alert does not directly monitor human rights violations.

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

International Alert led a scenario exercise on conflict analysis for participants of the 2025 Annual Plenary Meeting. This helped build understanding of conflict analysis for effective implementation of the VPs and UN Guiding 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.

In Nigeria, we supported police forces to improve community security.

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

N/A

Lessons, Effective Strategies, Innovative Approaches, and Additional Reporting

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

International Alert's organisational strategy prioritises global work on 'peace economies' - building on our long track record working on responsible business practice. This includes ambition to expand our support to investors and development finance institutions in navigating risks and implementing standards

(including on security and human rights), while having a positive impact on peace and social outcomes. In the DRC we are expanding our activities of outreach and partnerships with mining companies to collaborate on the blue certification and regularising artisanal mining on industrial mining concessions.

14. Human Rights Defenders - Describe initiatives, policies, procedures, programs, and/or activities related to the protection of human rights defenders, as set in the VPI's "Guidance on Respecting the Rights of Human Rights Defenders" (a copy is available on the VPI website's Resources page).

As a peacebuilding organisations, Alert does not work on human rights defenders.

15. Participation in In-Country Working Groups - Describe your participation in the In-Country Working Groups, for example: which ICWGs you participated in this year, and information on in-kind support/contribution.

Alert does not participate in the in-country working groups as our presence is in different areas. However, through Open Government Partnership, we have been following the process closely in DRC. Through Madini, and with OGP, we are currently working on an initiative to have training on the DRC Mining Code and international due diligence standards (this includes aspects of respect for human rights, for example the prohibition of child labour) for artisanal mining and mineral supply chains become part of the national police training curriculum. This is very much in the spirit of the VPs.

16. Gender - Describe specific initiatives, policies, and/or procedures that address the needs of gender and vulnerable groups in the provision of security, as set in the VPI's "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" (a copy of this tool is available on the VPI website's Resources page).

We support the inclusion of people of all groups and identities in decision-making, with a particular emphasis on gender dynamics and other factors of marginalisation. Peace is more likely and more sustainable when everyone is involved.