

GOVERNMENT PILLAR ACCOUNTABILITY (formerly Verification) FRAMEWORK

Background

The extractive sector often operates in countries or areas of elevated security risk and faces the difficult challenge of how to safeguard company personnel and property in a way that respects human rights and the security of local communities.

In December 2000, the United States and United Kingdom governments, along with a group of extractive companies and non-governmental organizations, agreed on a set of principles, known as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (“Voluntary Principles”), to guide companies on security and human rights. The Voluntary Principles provide an outline of actions companies should take to assess risks and implement public and private security measures in a manner that respects human rights. This document outlines the roles and obligations of Participants that are accountable for implementing and managing the Voluntary Principles.

Accountability Framework

The Accountability framework within the VPI consists of:

1. Formal participation criteria (Mandatory) as stated in Membership Obligations (formerly Participation Criteria)
2. Formal reporting criteria (Mandatory) as stated in Government Pillar Reporting Guidelines
3. Written annual report (Mandatory)
4. Compliance Review Process
5. Implementation Review (formerly Verification) framework for verifying that a Participant is meeting their responsibilities
6. Public report prepared annually by the Secretariat (Mandatory)

Accountability Process

Annual Report

Publication of Annual Report

Accountability within the Voluntary Principles Initiative has been defined as “have a credible process to verify fulfillment, by all Participants, of their Voluntary Principles Initiative responsibilities, including public reporting and engagement where appropriate”.

Each Participant Government will submit an Annual Report. This report will include the Government’s accountability process, which will assess Participant Government’s fulfillment of their roles and responsibilities as defined in the Membership Obligations (formerly Participation Criteria), and, as applicable, the Government’s national plan.

The report will be drafted in accordance with the Government Pillar Reporting Guidelines.

Participant Governments with national plans should address progress on execution in Annual Reports.

Participant Government should also address progress on points raised during implementation review in Annual Reports (see below). This may include self-assessment on the same.

Publication of Annual Report

Government Participants submit a copy of their annual report to the Secretariat to be posted on the Voluntary Principles 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. Government Participants strive to use a consistent framework for their public reports. Government Participants also make national plans public on the Voluntary Principles website.

Implementation Review

Presentations to the Annual Plenary Meeting

When requested, each Participant is responsible to prepare presentations of the process, indicators and headline results of their respective reviews at the Annual Plenary meeting. This presentation will include an overview of the key issues raised as a result of the review and key learning's derived from the issues raised. Ideally the review will have been designed such that the results will provide an indication of the success of the implementation and operation of Voluntary Principles programs, this presentation will be an opportunity for Participants to share their evaluation techniques and key learning's derived from the evaluation.

The intention is for all Participants to learn from the experience of the other Participants (from all three pillars).

Public Report by the Secretariat

In addition to Participant Government public reports, which will be made available on the Voluntary Principles website, each year the VPI Secretariat will prepare a public summary report of the Members efforts to implement the Voluntary Principles, drawing out any insights or trends, and provide a description of the processes undertaken by Members to verify their activities, which will also be posted on the VPI website.