

GOVERNMENT 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 Government Pillar for the each report it submits.

Government 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. Government Participants may use a consistent framework for their public reports. Government Participants also make national plans public on the Voluntary Principles website.

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. GOVERNMENT PILLAR REPORTING GUIDELINES

The Government Pillar reporting guidelines are divided into four sections: (A) Commitment to the Voluntary Principles; (B) Domestic Policies, Laws, and Regulations; (C) Promotion and Implementation and; (D) Lessons, Effective Strategies, Innovative Approaches, and Additional Reporting. Sections A-C set forth expected reporting commitments and Section D is optional.

Note that, for some of the reporting guidelines, there are detailed Guidance Notes, which align with or are otherwise related to the Roles and Responsibilities of Governments documents; 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.

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	Statement of commitment or endorsement of the Voluntary Principles.	
2	Statement of commitment to implement National Plan(s) (where applicable) and progress on its implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe progress on the execution of National Voluntary Principles Action Plan

B. Domestic Policies, Laws, and Regulations

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
3	As related to the Voluntary Principles, describe relevant policies, legislation, procedures, and/or guidelines relevant to promoting and protecting human rights, consistent with international human rights obligations.	This section could include a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> how the government abides by its obligation under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as related to the Voluntary Principles
4	Within the context of the Voluntary Principles and in accordance with national and international law, describe how the government takes appropriate steps to prevent, investigate, punish and redress human rights abuses within its territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including extractive companies and public and private security providers.	This section could include a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> policies, legislation, regulations, and adjudication; <input type="checkbox"/> security sector reform; and <input type="checkbox"/> the provision of adequate and effective training for local prosecuting authority and the judiciary

C. Promotion and Implementation

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
Promotion of the VPI		
5	Describe how the government publicly communicates its commitment to the Voluntary Principles (e.g., speeches, statements, publicly available reports, conferences, presentations and statements made in multilateral and bilateral forums).	
6	Describe how the government conducts outreach to, and awareness-raising activities with, NGOs, extractive companies, and governments (e.g., build understanding and support for the Voluntary Principles such as through in-country stakeholder meetings) to encourage them to implement the Voluntary Principles and/or join the Voluntary Principles Initiative. Suggest including country specific examples.	<input type="checkbox"/> This can include country-specific examples involving the work of embassies
7	Describe how the government promotes the Voluntary Principles within its own government (coordination within and among different government agencies and ministries, as well as with Embassies, etc).	
Implementation of the VPs - General		
8	Describe government engagement in the VPI, including when the government last did a verification presentation, points raised during the peer review about the government, and how the government has responded	This section could also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A description of engagement through meetings, open discussions, working groups, dialogue with participants, as well as project-level and plenary-level sharing of information.

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
9	Describe how the government works with companies, communities, and civil society organizations on Voluntary Principles implementation.	<p>This section could also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ A description of VPs-related project work undertaken by or funded by the government, including how that project work has helped to advance the implementation and use of the VPs. □ How the government promotes local stakeholder engagement and helps to identify risks for violence, including sexual violence □ How the government promotes and enables VPI implementation tools (ex. vetting of private and public security; training; risk assessment; and off-shore drilling) and VPI-affiliated implementation tools (ex. Implementation Guidance Training; DCAF/ICRC knowledge hub; auditing tools; IFC Good Practice Handbook; Child Rights and Security Checklist)
Implementation of the VPs – Risk Assessments		
10	Describe how the Government engages with companies on issues related to company risk assessment.	<p>This section could include a description of how the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Engages with companies to help them identify, prevent, and mitigate the human rights risks of their security arrangements; □ Shares security risk information with companies, other governments, and civil society

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
Implementation of the VPs – Public and Private Security		
11	Describe how the Government engages with companies around engagement with public and private security forces.	<p>This section could include a description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ How the government promotes and allows for adequate and effective training for public security providers and/or private security providers, including on international human rights law, international humanitarian law, local, and national laws, and international law enforcement principles. □ How the government cooperates, as appropriate, with companies in developing a human rights record of their private and/or public security providers and their employees. □ How the government has included Voluntary Principles language in agreements between companies and public security providers, if applicable.

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

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
12	To help determine what best practices and lessons learned can be leveraged going forward, provide a summary of issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the government.	<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.
13	Human Rights Defenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 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.

	<u>Reporting Guidelines</u>	<u>Guidance Notes</u>
14	Participation in In-Country Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 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.
15	Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 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 <u>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.</u>