

MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS **(formerly PARTICIPATION CRITERIA)**

Categories of VPI Participation:

Participant Members

- Governments
- Companies
- Non-Governmental Organizations

Engaged Members

- Governments
- Companies
- Non-Governmental Organizations

Overview

At the 2007 Annual Plenary Meeting in Washington DC, the Participation Criteria were formally adopted. The document, now the Membership Obligations, articulate the responsibilities of current and future members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative; it is anticipated that the Membership Obligations will further strengthen implementation and accountability, increase the number of Voluntary Principles Initiative Participants, and encourage more robust and constructive dialogue among Participants.

The Membership Obligations include: i) requirements for participation, ii) an accountability process to review compliance; iii) an implementation review process to facilitate peer learning and peer review, and iv) a requirement to report publicly on their implementation of, and/or their assistance in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

Voluntary Principles Membership Obligations

Members, both Participant and Engaged, confirm that the core objective of the Voluntary Principles is to “guide companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that ensures respect for Human Rights and fundamental freedoms.” Members acknowledge that engagement and dialogue among the Participants are central to reaching this objective.

To facilitate the goals of the Voluntary Principles and encourage full and open dialogue, Members confirm that all proceedings of the Voluntary Principles process are on a non-attribution and non- quotation basis and no distribution of documents to non-Members is permitted except as required by valid legal process or otherwise required by law.

All Participants are expected to meet the following criteria:

1. Publicly promote the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights;
2. Proactively implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
3. Attend the Annual Plenary Meeting and other sanctioned extraordinary and in-country meetings, as appropriate and commensurate with resource constraints;
4. Communicate publicly, at least annually, on efforts to implement or assist in the

- implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
5. Prepare and submit to the Secretariat, by April 30 (unless otherwise determined by the Board), an Annual Report on efforts to implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
 6. Prepare and present an Implementation Review Presentation regarding a member's operations, successes and challenges in implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
 7. Participate in dialogue with other Voluntary Principles Participants, Engaged Members and Observers;
 8. Subject to legal, confidentiality, safety, and operational concerns, provide timely responses to reasonable requests for information from other Members with the aim of facilitating comprehensive understanding of the issues related to implementation or assistance in implementation of the Voluntary Principles.
 9. Pay annual membership contribution (fees), as prescribed in the VPI Membership Contributions (Fees) Framework;
 10. Participate in any Compliance Review Process requests from the Board.

All Engaged Members are expected to meet the following criteria:

1. Publicly promote the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights;
2. Proactively implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
3. Attend the Annual Plenary Meeting and other sanctioned extraordinary and in-country meetings, as appropriate and commensurate with resource constraints;
4. Communicate publicly, at least annually, on efforts to implement or assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles;
5. Follow the requirements for an Engaged Member of their respective Pillar with respect to reporting, development of National Action Plans and Implementation Review presentations and reports.
6. Participate in dialogue with other Voluntary Principles Participants, Engaged Members and Observers;
7. Subject to legal, confidentiality, safety, and operational concerns, provide timely responses to reasonable requests for information from other Members with the aim of facilitating comprehensive understanding of the issues related to implementation or assistance in implementation of the Voluntary Principles.
8. Pay annual membership contribution (fees), as prescribed in the VPI Membership Contributions (Fees) Framework;
9. Participate in any Compliance Review Process requests from the Board.