



Established in 2000, the **Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights**—an initiative by governments, NGOs, and companies—provides guidance to extractives companies on maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that ensures respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Voluntary Principles (VPs) are the only human rights guidelines designed specifically for oil, gas, and mining companies.

How the Voluntary Principles Help Companies

The VPs are nonbinding and offer an operational approach to help companies function effectively. The VPs can help your company:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of human rights risks associated with security, with a particular focus on complicity.
- Engage appropriately with public and private security in conflict-prone areas.
- Institute proactive human rights screenings of and trainings for public and private security forces.
- Ensure that the use of force is proportional and lawful.
- Develop systems for reporting and investigating allegations of human rights abuses.

Why Implement the Voluntary Principles?

The obligation to uphold human rights principles rests with governments. But other actors in society—including business—have a moral responsibility to act in a way that does not negatively impact the enjoyment of human rights, particularly of those people directly affected by their operations. Extractives companies therefore have a unique opportunity in the countries where they operate to ensure high standards of conduct by the private security forces they employ, a positive impact on local governance, and peace and stability.

What is Required to Participate?

Prospective participants—including governments, companies, and NGOs—agree to proactively implement or assist in the implementation of the VPs and to fulfill the roles and responsibilities described in the participation criteria.

Join this important initiative to contribute to the advancement of security and human rights.

www.voluntaryprinciples.org

Participants

Governments

Canada
Netherlands
Norway
United Kingdom
United States of America
Colombia
Switzerland

Corporations

Anglo American plc
AngloGold Ashanti
Barrick Gold Corporation
BG Group
BHP Billiton
BP
Chevron Corporation
ConocoPhillips
ExxonMobil
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.
Hess Corporation
Inmet Mining Corporation
Marathon Oil Company
Newmont Mining Corporation
Occidental Petroleum Corporation
Rio Tinto plc
Shell
Statoil
Talisman Energy Inc.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Amnesty International
The Fund for Peace
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
IKV Pax Christi
International Alert
Oxfam
Pact
Partnership Africa Canada
Search for Common Ground

Observers

International Finance Corporation (IFC)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM)
International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)