



VPSHR IN MOZAMBIQUE BULLETIN

VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES
SECURITY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE ON BUSINESS, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CABO DELGADO



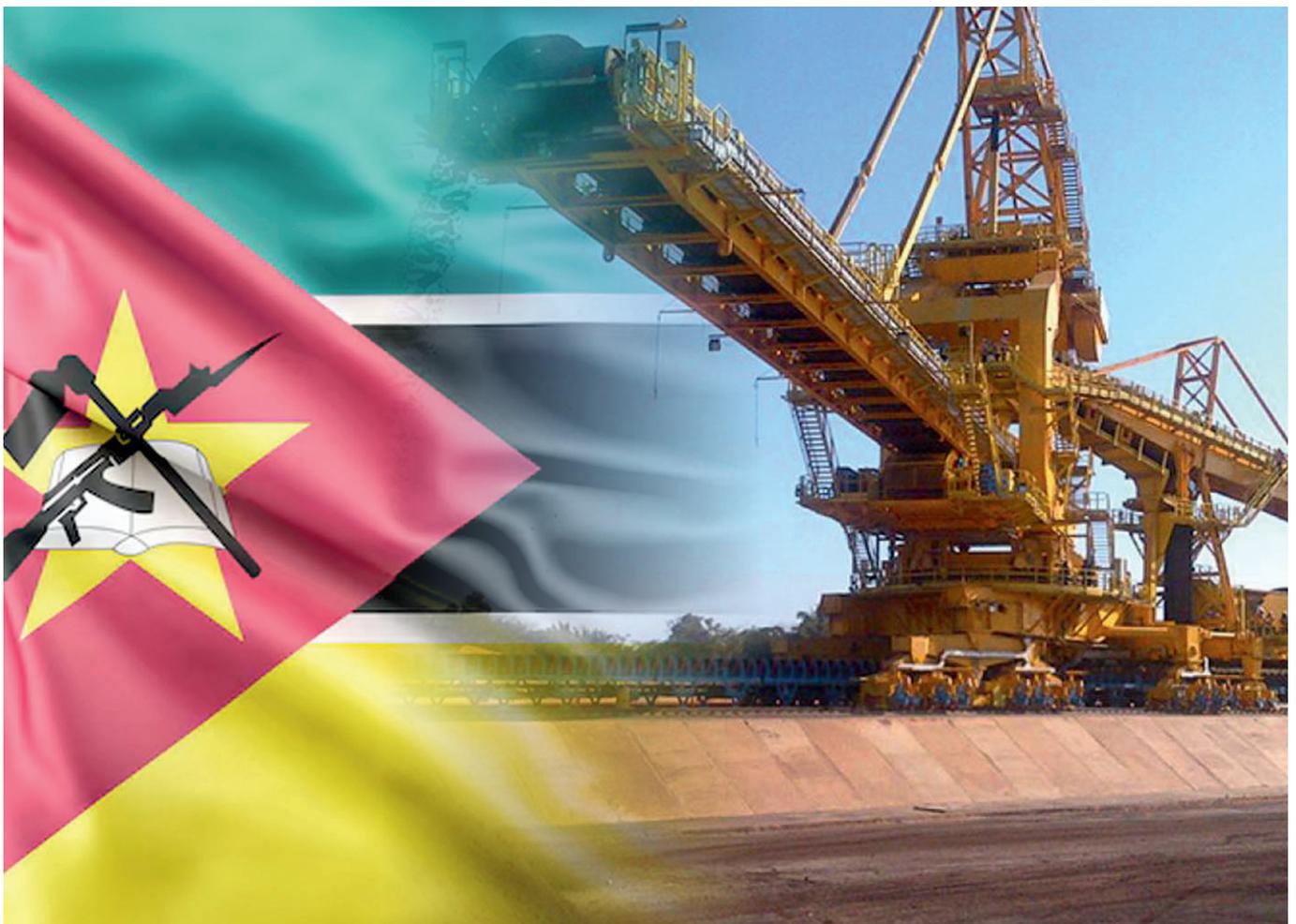
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Mozambique Officially Joined the Voluntary Principles Initiative

- In a major step towards promoting responsible and ethical practices in the extractive industries, the Mozambican Government was officially accepted to join the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) on May 18, 2024. This milestone marks Mozambique's commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring that security operations in the extractive sector are conducted with the utmost respect for these fundamental principles.



The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is a global initiative that sets forth a framework for extractive companies to ensure that their security operations align with human rights standards and do not contribute to conflict. The initiative provides guidance and principles aimed at preventing human rights violations in areas where extractive activities take place. It promotes the responsible conduct of businesses operating in challenging environments and underlines the importance of respecting human rights in all circumstances.

Mozambique's journey towards joining the VPI began in 2021 when the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) worked with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs (MJCRA) to start building awareness of this international initiative given its relevance to the increase in extractives investments being made in Cabo Delgado province. Following this, the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs agreed to launch a National Working Group in Maputo in November 2021, along with the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group in March 2022, both playing crucial roles in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

The coordination of the Voluntary Principles' implementation in Mozambique is entrusted to the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs. The Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) has been designated as the Secretariat for this initiative, with invaluable technical support provided by the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF).

The decision to pursue membership in the VPI was made clear in March 2022 when His Excellency, President Filipe Nyusi, formally declared Mozambique's intention to apply for government membership in the initiative. This announcement signaled Mozambique's recognition of the importance of aligning its extractive industry practices with international standards for security and human rights.

To join the VPI as a government member, certain prerequisites must be met. These include a commitment to inter-ministerial engagement and the submission of an application file demonstrating dedication to upholding the Voluntary Principles. With support from CDD and DCAF, the Mozambican Government, represented by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, successfully submitted the application file that it developed in close collaboration with the Ministries of National

Defense, Interior, and Natural Minerals and Energies.

The application file is a comprehensive document that outlines Mozambique's commitment to implementing the Voluntary Principles within its extractive industries. It reflects the nation's determination to foster an environment where human rights are respected, and security operations are carried out in a manner consistent with international standards. This achievement is a testament to Mozambique's dedication to ensuring responsible and ethical practices in its extractive sector.

After a period of consideration by the VPI Secretariat and Steering Committee, on May 18, 2024, the Government of Mozambique was officially accepted as an Engaged member of the Voluntary Principles Initiative. This membership will not only promote ethical business conduct and safeguard human rights but also potentially open doors to greater diplomatic and economic opportunities. By aligning with international standards and demonstrating its commitment to responsible resource extraction, Mozambique can bolster its reputation on the global stage.

Mozambique's acceptance into the Voluntary Principles Initiative is a commendable step towards fostering responsible and ethical extractive industries, but there is still work to be done. As an Engaged member, the Government of Mozambique must now develop a National Action Plan on Business, Security, and Human Rights. This plan will outline the steps the government will take to ensure that businesses in Mozambique adhere to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Failure to do so could jeopardize Mozambique's membership in the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

In addition, Mozambique is in the process of developing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, following the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the Mozambican State in June 2011. This development presents an opportunity to integrate the synergies of various international standards on business and human rights, creating a robust plan that addresses all aspects of business, security, and human rights. By doing so, Mozambique can transform the narrative of its extractive sector and promote sustainable development for its communities.

We thank the Government of Switzerland for their support at both the Maputo and Geneva levels. We also extend our gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for their support at both the Maputo level and the United Kingdom level.



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