



# VPSHR

VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES  
SECURITY  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## IN MOZAMBIQUE *BULLETIN*

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

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VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES INITIATIVE

## Ministries of National Defense and the Interior hope that Mozambique's accession to VPI will help the SDF to better understand the importance of human rights

- On March 29th, staff from the Ministries of National Defense and the Interior participated in the workshop organized by the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), in partnership with the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The workshop aimed to provide staff from the two ministries with a more in-depth knowledge of the Voluntary Principles, with a particular focus on the national and international instruments that support this initiative. The event was supported by a consultant who will monitor Mozambique's application process to join the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI).





Sébastien Caldana, from DCAF

The first part of the workshop focused on providing an introduction to the Voluntary Principles. Participants learned about the principles and tools for their implementation, the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) and the benefits of Mozambique's membership. The aim was to capture the perspective of each government sector involved in the process.

The second part of the workshop involved group work to elicit input from the two ministries, with a focus on creating an inventory of government policies related to the Voluntary Principles, identifying current business, security and human rights challenges, as well as for the implementation of the Principles Volunteers in Mozambique. Each government entity involved in the process was asked to share its expectations regarding VPI.

Mozambique is in the process of joining the VPI and the workshop provided valuable input for the report that will be presented by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, at the VPI international plenary in London, in May.

Sebastian Caldana from DCAF gave a presentation on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, defining them

as an essential tool for companies operating in complex environments like Mozambique, where security and human rights challenges are common. The principles guide companies on how to respect human rights while ensuring their operations remain safe.

The consultant responsible for supporting Mozambique in the application process for joining the VPI highlighted the importance of the Voluntary Principles for Mozambique. "Joining the Voluntary Principles Initiative will demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that companies respect human rights while operating in our country. This is essential to promoting a sustainable and peaceful environment."

"Respecting human rights is fundamental for our security forces and the Voluntary Principles provide valuable guidance on how to do this in areas where there are large projects with risks of human rights violations, guaranteeing the security of our people", said Lurdes Mabunda, one of the Ministry of Interior representatives at the workshop.

In her speech, Lurdes Mabunda stated that the expectation is that the Voluntary Principles will help security forces to better understand





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Lurdes Mabunda

the importance of respect for human rights, providing them with guidance on how to proceed. “This will help build trust between security forces and the communities they serve.”

“With the current situation of violent conflicts in Cabo Delgado, the Voluntary Principles are an essential tool, especially in the context of

peacekeeping missions in areas where they have large projects . It is important that our soldiers understand the principles and how to apply them to ensure that they respect human rights when carrying out their obligations,” said Sérgio Marques, representative of the Ministry of National Defence.



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