



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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Regulators in the hydrocarbons and mining sectors hope that Mozambique's accession to the VPI will improve the reputation of the extractive industry

- Senior officials from the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MI-REME) hope that Mozambique's membership of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) will help improve the reputation of the country's extractive sector. By demonstrating a commitment to responsible business practices and respect for human rights, the extractive sector will be seen as a responsible and ethical industry.





“The mining sector has a significant impact on the human rights situation in Mozambique. By joining the Voluntary Principles Initiative, we can ensure that companies operating in the extractive sector respect human rights, prevent violence and contribute to the development of the communities where they act”, defended Chadreque Guambe, an employee of the National Institute of Mines (INAMI).

One of the representatives of the National Petroleum Institute (INP), Lutêncio Nhoana, emphasized that the institute responsible for regulating the oil sector in Mozambique recognizes the importance of VPI in guaranteeing the protection of human rights in communities where there is hydrocarbon exploration. “The workshop was an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the Voluntary Principles Initiative and to contribute to shaping Mozambique’s candidacy process for joining the initiative”, said Lutêncio Nhoana.

The workshop took place on March 30, 2023, and was organized by the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) and the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), with the support of the consultant responsible for helping the Government join the VPI. The aim was to provide senior officials from MIREME and the institutes responsible for regulating the oil and mining sectors (INAMI and INP) with in-depth knowle-

dge of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and the national and international instruments that support this initiative.

The first part of the workshop was dedicated to training on the Voluntary Principles, which included the definition, implementation tools, VPI and the advantages of Mozambique in joining the initiative. This section aimed to capture the perspective on the Voluntary Principles of each government entity involved in the process.

The second part of the workshop focused on group work, where participants discussed and presented their contributions to Mozambique’s application process for joining VPI. The debate focused on business challenges, security and human rights, and challenges to the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique.

One of MIREME’s expectations is that the implementation of the Voluntary Principles will contribute to a safer and more stable environment for the extractive sector in Mozambique. MIREME officials recognize that security risks can have a negative impact on extractive industry investments, so they hope that with the implementation of the Voluntary Principles security risks can be better managed.

“We believe joining the Voluntary Principles Initiative is a critical step towards promoting and protecting human rights in Mozambique. The



workshop allowed us to learn more about the initiative and share our contributions. We are committed to ensuring that companies operating in our country respect human rights,” said Hélia Mallipa, one of the MIREME representatives at the meeting.

VPI can help improve the safety, human rights, reputation and relationships of the extractive sector. “By engaging with local communities and taking their concerns into account, extractive companies are investing in building stronger and more sustainable relationships with the commu-

nities in which they operate.”

The workshop was a significant milestone in Mozambique’s efforts to join the Voluntary Principles Initiative and provided participants with a better understanding of the initiative, its benefits and the challenges of implementing the Voluntary Principles. the workshop provided valuable input that will be included in the report to be presented in London in May. Mozambique’s commitment to the Voluntary Principles Initiative is a positive step toward the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.



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