



# 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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UNDERSTANDING BETTER TO BETTER PARTICIPATE

## Training on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for members of Cabo Delgado's Provincial Government and Civil Society



**A**s secretariat of the working groups on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique, The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), organized trainings on the Voluntary Principles on 12 and 13 September, with the technical support of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique. The 2-day training brought together 60 representatives of Human Rights Civil Society Organizations, as well as different directorates of the Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado. This workshop was organized after go-

vernment and civil society actors expressed the need for more information and training on the Voluntary Principles on the occasion of the launch of Cabo Delgado Provincial working group in March 2022.

The Provincial Working Group focuses on the districts of Montepuez, Palma and Mocímboa da Praia where monitors will be deployed to liaise with communities, companies, local government and security actors, to independently report on the security and human rights situation in locations where multinational companies of the extractives sector are based in order to promote respect for the Voluntary Principles.

Mr. Fermino Mujovo, representative of the Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship of the Ministry of Justice, acknowledged the importance of the training for both the regional authorities and civil society, because it will boost the work that will be carried out at the level of the Provincial Working Group and its relationship with the National Working Group. He also appealed to those present to make the most of the methodologies and knowledge shared in the training, and reminded that the initiative is part of the recommendations of the United Nations Periodic Review Mechanism, which advised the Mozambican government to adhere to the Voluntary Principles.



In his turn, Reinaldo Germano, Provincial Director for Land and Environment and representing Cabo Delgado Secretary of State of António Suppeia, emphasized in his introductory speech that a training on human rights and the Voluntary Principles is of high value for representatives of State institutions given the current worrying security and human rights situation of Cabo Delgado Province, and because of the role State Institution can play in the Province.



In the first part of the training, Mr. David Ferreira from CDD introduced the thematic of Human Rights and discussed their application in the Mozambican legal system. Mr Ferreira and the parti-

cipants discussed in particular how human rights in the Mozambican legal system relate to the extractives industry, with a focus on monitoring and reporting allegations of human rights violations.

In the second part, Mr. Sébastien Caldana from DCAF presented an introduction to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, discussing the context of emergence of the initiative, the three core issues tackled by the Voluntary Principles and their implementation through in-country working groups.

their responsibility to respect human rights, and for civil society to play an active role in oversight and engagement. In Mozambique, a National Working Group has been established in Maputo in November 2021 and a technical working group in Cabo Delgado in March 2022, with the aim to create a multistakeholder platform where Governments, multinational companies and civil society organizations can discuss human rights challenges linked to business operations and find ways to overcome them. This project to support the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique is supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

The Voluntary Principles are a set of principles that seek to help companies to provide security for their operations while respecting human rights and international humanitarian law. They are not only a global multistakeholder initiative that promotes dialogue between companies, governments and civil society, but also a tool for governments to exercise their responsibility to protect human rights, for companies to exercise





Civil Society actors recalled past cases of human rights violations in Cabo Delgado Province that led to major conflicts between multinational companies and local communities, understanding that with this platform for dialogue on the Voluntary Principles these issues could be avoided, mitigated or dealt with through an inclusive process.

During the second day of training, DCAF presented lessons learnt and good practices from other contexts like Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Peru, and what are the specificities of their context. The training concluded with the analysis of two hypothetical cases of human rights violations committed by security providers deployed in the framework of multinational companies' operations for ore and gas extraction.

The training was followed by the first meeting of Cabo Delgado Provincial Working Group on



the Voluntary Principles, where representatives of provincial authorities, multinational companies active in Cabo Delgado and local civil society organizations started their work to tackle business, security and human rights challenges in the Province.



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