



Submission No 77

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the
Countries of Africa**

Organisation: OXFAM Australia – Supplementary Submission

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Date Received:	09/06/10
Secretary:	

Drew, Gillian (REPS)

Subject: FW: World Bank Security and Human Rights Tool Kit

From: Christina Hill [mailto:christinah@oxfam.org.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 June 2010 11.34 am
To: Carter, John Gordon (REPS)
Cc: Serena Lillywhite
Subject: RE: World Bank Security and Human Rights Tool Kit

Dear Dr Carter

The document you forwarded (www.miga.org/documents/VPSHR_Toolkit_v3.pdf) is a World Bank and industry toolkit to help companies implement the 'Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights' (<http://www.voluntaryprinciples.org/>)

The Voluntary Principles are widely recognised as a leading voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to provide guidance to extractives companies on maintaining the security of their operations in a manner that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms. The VPs have the support of Governments, companies and NGOs (Oxfam America is a formal participant to the VPs). The VPs are supported by a secretariat that is co-hosted by the International Business Leaders Forum (London) and Business for Social Responsibility (San Francisco)

The Principles themselves require companies to assess their security and human rights risks, and consider their relations with both public and private security providers.
http://voluntaryprinciples.org/files/voluntary_principles_english.pdf

Governments can become formal supporters of the VPs either as an 'engaged' or 'participating' Government – more information on this can be found via the following link:
http://www.voluntaryprinciples.org/files/vp_application_framework.pdf

As you will see only two Australian companies are listed as supporting the VPs, although I suspect that the website is not up to date (<http://www.voluntaryprinciples.org/participants/>). Oxfam is keen to see more Australian companies supporting the VPs recognising that many companies operate in contexts (including in parts of Africa) where security and human rights are a key issue.

We would certainly encourage the Australian Government to do more to promote the VPs amongst Australian mining companies, including by giving consideration to becoming a VP 'engaged' or 'participating' Government.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Serena if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,
Christina

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