

LITE-AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2023 TO VPI

A. Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

S/No	Details
1	LITE-Africa as a member of the VPI engaged with all the 3 pillars increasing awareness on the VPs through various platforms. We held coordination meetings with the NWG on the VPs, shared VPs information to members for greater awareness, organised orientation programmes for prospective WG members and sensitization workshops for communities.
2	LITE-Africa participated in pillar calls throughout the year contributing to improving the awareness on VPs and improving the work on VPs across the world..
3	Periodically in LITE-Africa quarterly and LITE-Africa's Annual Reports, we promote the VPs and publicise the work we do on human rights and VPs.
4	LITE-Africa work on the VPs are uploaded and publicized on the website for various stakeholders to be educated and aware of the work we do at lite-africa.org.

B. Procedures

S/No	Details
1	LITE-Africa participated in calls/meetings on verifications to understand the processes and contributing where necessary.
2	LITE-Africa attended the plenary and gave its thoughts on peer review and also participated as a panelist to discuss vital issues on VPs implementation.

C. Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

S/No	Details
1	The ICWG in Nigeria led by LITE-Africa and the Swiss embassy made an advocacy visit to the Nigeria Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a government agency to facilitate the advocacy engagement with the federal government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).
2	The Nigeria government is yet to sign-up to the VPs. LITE-Africa with the Swiss embassy have facilitated various engagements with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to raise awareness on the VPs, to educate the government on the need to sign-up and the benefits to business and human rights for development.

	<p>The Nigeria Working Group which LITE-Africa co-chairs with the Swiss embassy got the MOJ and the MFA to raise a memo to the Federal Executive Council (FEC). a decision making body of the federal government, for FEC to approve the sign-up of Nigeria to the VPs. However, before Nigeria could sign-up, there was a change in government. The change in government has stalled the process.</p> <p>LITE-Africa has put into machinery processes to commence engagements with the new government. Letters have been sent to the Ministry of Justice and to the Attorney General of the Federation to host a meeting of the members of the NWG to discuss the benefits of sign-up to the VPs to Nigeria.</p>
3	LITE-Africa with the financial support of DCAF is implementing a project Titled- Strengthening the Implementation of the VPs in Nigeria. The project is aimed at increasing the awareness of citizens on VPs, to conduct a regional baseline study on oil and gas exploration in the southern region and mining in the Northern region of Nigeria to identify the gaps in the implementation of the VPs and develop mechanisms to close those gaps.
4	LITE-Africa organized sensitization programmes for community members on VPs gave them background information on VPs in Nigeria.
5	LITE-Africa trained public and private security personnel of Chevron Nigeria Limited on VPs, human rights due diligence, torture and other related information for workplace management. A total of 329 persons were trained and sensitized on VPs.
6	LITE-Africa in collaboration with Bureau Van Dorp, a Netherlands based organization conducted security and human rights training for 200+ security staff and senior managers working with Nigerian Breweries/Heineken in Nigeria. Hundreds of security managers, supervisors, and third-party private security company personnel were trained and had their professional competencies enhanced. The trainings were conducted in Lagos, Kaduna and Enugu, for the Western, Northern and Eastern operations.
7	LITE-Africa was a speaker on a webinar organized by Nigeria Breweries titled - Promoting human rights in the workplace: A Guide for the employees and employers which garnered over 500 participants
8	LITE-Africa in collaboration with Motherhen Development Foundation an NGO based in Nigeria hosted a virtual orientation meeting on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for Northern CSOs in Nigeria There were 11 CSOs in attendance with 13 persons.

D procedures

S/No	Details
1	A National Action Plan spearheaded by the Nigeria Human Rights Commission with CSOs in Nigeria has been approved for implementation. In this plan the issue of

	human rights is a front burner with machineries put in place for the promotion and protection of the human rights of citizens.
2	LITE-Africa conducted trainings for public and private security personnel of international oil company and Brewery company in Nigeria training over 500 security personnel on Security and Human Rights including sensitization on the VPs.
3	Sensitization and awareness programmes are carried out for NGO pillars, Corporate Pillar and Government pillar, informing them of their roles and responsibilities in the promotion, protection and respect of human rights of citizens.

E. Lessons and Issues

S/No	Details
1	LITE-Africa is pushing forward with intensity the engagement with the government of Nigeria on the sign-up to the VPs. There will be advocacy engagements to relevant stakeholders especially government agencies.
2	LITE-Africa has planned to organize awareness workshops in 8 states in Nigeria with 400 targeted persons.
3	Security and Human rights trainings will be delivered to public and private security agents.
4	Security and human rights training will also be delivered to CSOs, media, community members, other relevant stakeholders in Nigeria.