

Oil and gas: meeting challenges today... for tomorrow

The oil and gas industry operates in complex environments where human rights issues are a central concern. It is imperative that the industry conducts business in a responsible way.

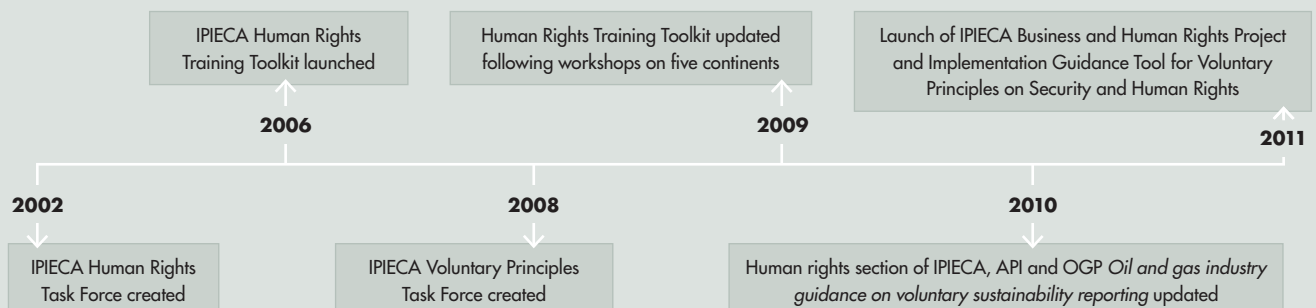


HUMAN RIGHTS: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF RESPECT AND GOOD PRACTICE

The oil and gas industry is committed to promoting respect for human rights in our areas of operation. This means carefully managing issues such as workforce health, safety and welfare, sensitivity regarding the potential impacts of the industry's activities on local communities and positive relationships with business partners and suppliers.

IPIECA members started working together on human rights in 2002. In the last decade they have produced and contributed to numerous publications that promote good practice, including a human rights training toolkit, an implementation guide for the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and sustainability reporting indicators on human rights.

IPIECA has been working on human rights issues and raising awareness across the industry for a decade



For further information

Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – www.voluntaryprinciples.org

IFC Performance Standards – goo.gl/CSzi

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – goo.gl/qXa50

ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169) – goo.gl/Ywckr

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – goo.gl/WHKnZ

IPIECA – Human Rights Task Force – goo.gl/NOLva

Publications

Implementation Guidance Tool for the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – goo.gl/GYvMq

Human Rights Training Toolkit – goo.gl/cHW4j

Guides to operating in areas of conflict, social impact assessment, interacting with indigenous peoples, sustainable social investment and reporting – goo.gl/HWmf



Many oil and gas companies are engaging in productive multi-stakeholder dialogue related to business and human rights. This includes implementation of the Voluntary Principles and taking into account the Protect, Respect and Remedy framework described in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

INDUSTRY ACTIONS TO PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE

In June 2011, IPIECA launched a new three-year initiative – the Business and Human Rights Project – that builds on the collective experience and practical know-how of the association’s members in the area of business and human rights.

The project’s activities are designed to complement the existing capabilities of oil and gas companies in two key areas: human rights due diligence and grievance mechanisms. Practical guidance on both topics is being developed as part of the project.

The business and human rights landscape has evolved significantly in the last five years. The project is designed to help oil and gas companies implement new and emerging international guidance on business and human rights.

SENSITIVE OPERATING ENVIRONMENTS

Some features of locations where oil and gas companies operate introduce potential human rights issues.

Two examples of particularly sensitive environments include conflict areas and areas with Indigenous Peoples

Conflict areas

Political and social instability feature in many countries with large oil and gas resources. The industry has, as a result, accumulated

extensive and practical knowledge related to human rights issues in these areas.

IPIECA published its *Guide to operating in areas of conflict* in 2008. In 2011, it released guidance on implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, in partnership with International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Workshops on Voluntary Principles implementation are planned throughout 2012.

Indigenous Peoples

Oil and gas industry operations sometimes take place in areas inhabited or used by Indigenous Peoples. While governments bear the primary duty to protect all their citizens, companies have a responsibility to respect indigenous communities and their culture.

In 2011, IPIECA published a review to address some of the potential issues, impacts and opportunities that companies may need to consider when working in areas used or occupied by Indigenous Peoples. IPIECA has also produced case studies to show how companies have successfully responded to the challenges of working amongst and with indigenous populations.

WHAT NEXT?

The oil and gas industry will continue to refine and develop its human rights policies and practices, increasing awareness amongst its workforce of the potential effects on the rights of all stakeholders of the industry’s activities.

IPIECA’s Business and Human Rights Project will continue to focus on peer learning and the production of industry guidance to help companies put the UN Guiding Principles into practice, especially in challenging situations. ■

IPIECA is the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues. It develops, shares and promotes good practices and knowledge to help the industry improve its environmental and social performance; and is the industry’s principal channel of communication with the United Nations.

OGP works on behalf of the world’s oil and gas exploration and production companies to promote safe, responsible and sustainable operations. It represents the industry before international organizations and regionally at the European Commission.

Printed for Rio+20, June 2012

