

Establishing a Regional Voluntary Principles Working Group in Peru



BUSINESS, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PERU

As a country with significant human rights challenges related to its extractives industry, Peru is a major focus for the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs). In November 2019, Peru's ombudsman reported 134 active and 51 latent social conflicts, most related to the extractive industry. Security forces have sometimes used excessive force when responding to protests over mining and other large-scale development projects. Since 2010, the implementation of the VPs has been led by the national VPs Working Group in Lima. This Working Group provides an important trusted space for dialogue between different actors. This open dynamic allows members to discuss a variety of issues of common interest, and to work towards more effective implementation of the VPs. In 2019, the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (IDEHPUCP) as new Secretariat of the Working Group enlarged the scope of the group by integrating the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into its thematic focus. By creating synergies between the UNGPs and the VPs, the Working Group seeks to strengthen the implementation of these two instruments in Peru.





The project seeks to bridge the national level dialogue on security and human rights challenges with regional civil society, company and government representatives in Peru's Macro Sur region. DCAF has worked closely with the Secretariat of the Regional Working Group, Centro Guaman Poma de Ayala - a civil society organisation based in Cusco - to develop a stakeholder mapping. This will facilitate a diversification of membership in the Regional Working Group. Particular emphasis has been placed on including stakeholders from environmental institutions as key to fostering a constructive multistakeholder dialogue. According to the national Ombudsman's Office, conflicts affecting the region are frequently linked to socio-environmental factors.



With the support of Socios Peru (an organization with a significant history in the national Working Group), Guaman Poma has organized two meetings of the working group in 2019. The situation in the Macro-Sur has been critical in the past months and a state of emergency has been declared several times due to social conflicts linked to mining activities. The working group has been active in reaching out to new potential members and has developed a media training guide to support journalists to report in a constructive manner on the extractive industry, security and human rights.



The Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM) - Enabling Multistakeholder Action

The DCAF SHRIM supports coherent, targeted and cost-effective security, development and human rights programming in fragile contexts. This project was enabled thanks to the support of Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.