

## CONFERENCE REPORT

**Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Call-to-Action Conference:  
Theme: Promoting Investment and Security in the Extractive Sector through multi-  
stakeholder initiatives**

**February 26, 2014**

**Newton Park Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria**



**With support from**



## **Introduction**

A Call to Action: Engaging all Stakeholders on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is a one year project supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) that seeks to increase the awareness of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) in Nigeria through trainings, workshops and advocacy meetings. It also aims at persuading the Nigerian Federal Government to sign on to the VPs initiatives to add value to the international framework for business and investment in a ways that ensures respect for human rights and fundamental freedom in Nigeria.

The Call for Action Conference was aimed at sensitizing key agencies in the Nigerian government official on the VPs.

## **Executive Summary**

This report presents the outcome and results of the VPs Call to Action Conference hosted by the Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE Africa) in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) titled ‘Promoting Investment and Security in the Extractive Sector through multi-stakeholder initiatives’ held in Abuja, Nigeria on 26 February, 2014. This event attracted over 50 participants comprising of representatives of strategic government agencies, CSOs, members of diplomatic community, trade union associations, representatives of oil bearing communities and the media. It was the first ever VPs national advocacy event of this scale at which oil producing community members were invited and participated actively.

The main objective of the Conference was to exchange knowledge on best practices in promoting the VPs in Nigeria linking it with the current realities confronting the oil and gas industry in Nigeria within the context of security and investment. It was also an opportunity to broaden the knowledge base of stakeholders in Nigeria on the VPs.

The different sessions provided the framework of wider discussions on how multistakeholder initiatives can help foster partnership in the extractive sector and what can be done to improve the process in the future.

The first panel session provided the opportunity for stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to insecurity in the extractive sector and its impact on Nigerian economy-Role of the VPs and other multistakeholder initiatives. The panelist discussed extensively on the role played by multistakeholders initiatives in bringing different groups together and engaging them in dialogue. They recognized the low level of awareness of the VPs and recommended need for awareness creation, education and advocacy to sensitize all stakeholders on the VPs.

The second Panel focused on the implementation of the VPs, role of state, companies and NGOs. The panel considered the following; how the implementation of the VPs can help improve the current state of affairs in the extractive sector, funding sources available for local actors and CSOs to support the implementation of the VPs and how best businesses and civil society organizations can partner to improve the implementation of the VPs nationally.

At the end of the session, participants agreed that the role of government at all levels is to protect and promote the good will of all Nigerians as provided in the constitution. The panelist recommended to embark on wide consultations on the VPs like the EITI processes to sensitize more Nigerians before inviting the government to sign on. The panel session also agreed that there is a dearth of evidence based research on issues of VPs compliance by companies due to funding related constraints and low level of competence by CSOs to carry out evidence based-research on the issue.

The conference had two workshop sessions, the first was on the National Level implementation strategy of the VPs and the Implementation Guidance Tool (IGT) which was facilitated by J.J. Messner, Director Sustainable Development and Security at Fund for Peace; a United States based international NGO. Mr. Messner used this session to provide participants with global implementation framework of the VPs drawing lessons from Colombia and Indonesia. The second workshop session focused on the VPs Implementation Guidance Tool (IGT) which covered four components of Risk Assessment, Community Engagement Interaction with Public security and Interaction with Private Security. These sessions provided participants with the improved capacity on the relevance of these elements while implementing the VPs.

At the end of the conference, participants acknowledged that the VPs tool as a multistakeholder initiative can contribute to improving security and enhancing human Rights protection in the extractive sector, therefore civil society organizations need to collaborate and coordinate more while working with broader stakeholders. It was agreed that the VPs should not be considered in isolation of existing initiatives in Nigeria such as the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiatives (EITI) as there are great lessons to learn from countries that are doing so well on EITI. The participants also raised an issue on the use of language by the VPs initiative which doesn't recognize the participation of local communities. The participants recommended that VPs need to be simplified and localized, particularly in languages such as "Pidgin" and with Nigerian local languages.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

26, February 2014

<b>8.00-9.00</b>	<b>Arrival/ Registration</b>
<b>9.00-9.45</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony of the Conference</b>  <b>National Anthem</b>  <b>Welcome Remarks / Presentation of LITE’s Journey so far on the VPs by Joel Bisina, Executive Director- LITE Africa</b>  <b>Opening Remarks/ Goodwill messages</b> <b>Opening/ Remarks-</b> Chidi Odinkalu- Chairman of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission  Hon. Kingsley Kuku- Special Assistant to the President on the Niger Delta  H.E. Jonathan Richardson - Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria H.E. Dr. Hans-Rudolf Hodel - Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria Prof. Bem Angwe- The Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission Hon. Beni Lar- Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights, House of Representatives
<b>9.45-10.35</b>	<b>First Session: Insecurity in the extractive sector and its impact on Nigerian economy- Role of the VPs and other multistakeholder initiatives</b>  A multistakeholder panel followed by comments from participants Chaired by – Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Trade & Investment - Member of the panel  Multistakeholder panel Mr. Anyakwee Nsirimovu, Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Ms. Faith Nwadishi- Publish What You Pay - Member of the panel  Mr. O.C. Azubuike- Ministry of Mines and Steel Development  Ms. Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed -The Executive Secretary, NEITI- Member of the panel Captain JL.Ismaila- Joint Military Task Force- Sector 1, Headquarters, Benin

	<p>AIG Solomon E Arase- Fdc- Head, Force Intelligence Bureau</p> <p>Mr. Dayo Olaide- Nigerian Stability And Reconciliation Programme</p>
<b>10.35-11.25</b>	<p><b>Second Session: Implementation of the VPs in Nigeria- Role of CSOs, Companies and Government</b></p> <p>A multistakeholder panel followed by comments from participants</p> <p>Chaired by – Prof. Mohammed Tawfiq Ladan- Professor of Law, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.</p> <p>Multistakeholder panel</p> <p>Ms. Abiodun Bayeiwu- Global Rights- Member of the panel</p> <p>Mr. Chinedu Nwagu,- CLEEN Foundation- Member of the panel</p> <p>Mr. O.C. Azubuike- Ministry of Mines and Steel Development</p> <p>Ms. Faith Nwadishi- Publish What You Pay - Member of the panel</p>
<b>11.25-11.35</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>11.35-12.00</b>	<p><b>I. THE Journey so far – GLOBAL EXPERIENCE</b></p> <p><b>Background Statement</b></p> <p>a. Columbia and other nations experience (Led by J.J Messner )</p> <p>Followed by comments from participants</p>
<b>12.00-14.00</b>	<p><b>Workshop Session on Implementation Guidance Tools of the VPs</b></p> <p>Mr. J.J Messner – Fund for Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the IGT</li> <li>• Module 1: Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>• Module 2: Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Module 3: Public Security</li> <li>• Module 4: Private Security</li> </ul>
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>Lunch/Networking</b>
<b>15: 00-16:00</b>	<p><b>Closing plenary session</b></p> <p>Priorities and key issues for 2014 in Nigeria</p> <p>Expected outcome: Identify the key VPs implementation issues for 2014, opportunities for promoting wide and effective implementation of the VPs in Nigeria by all including business enterprises and other stakeholders.</p>
<b>17.00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>



LITE Africa's Executive Director delivering a welcome speech at

## **Summary and Highlights**

### **Opening the Conference**

Mr. Joel Bisina, the Executive Director of LITE Africa, in his address welcomed participants to the conference. He expressed his gratitude for the honoring of invitation to attend the conference. He went further in providing LITE's journey so far on the VPs and the critical link the VPs have

framework of protect, respect and remedy. Participants were informed about LITE's engagement on the VPs since 2006 working with Chevron to build the capacity of security providers and pipeline facilities surveillance workers. Mr. Bisina also highlighted how LITE Africa has been able to facilitate multistakeholder engagements with the VPs to engage and sensitize communities, members of security agencies, CSOs, and Oil companies across the Niger Delta with the support of international donor agencies such as the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Cordaid. While decrying the weakening challenges in Nigeria's extractive industry in recent times, the Executive Director expressed optimism that by signing unto the VPs, Nigeria can lead efforts in finding a balance between security, business and human rights in the league of nations that have signed onto the VPs to attain the much needed investment and development. (For more of this speech, reference Annex 1: Welcome Speech by the Executive Director of LITE Africa).



Australian Ambassador delivering a Goodwill Message at the Comrade -Chei I. Ibegwara.

## **Goodwill Messages**

Goodwill messages and Opening Remarks were delivered by the Chairman Governing Council of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) – Dr. Chidi Odinkalu, the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria – H.E. Jonathan Richardson, Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria – H.E. Dr. Hans-Rudolf Hodel and a representative, communities

H.E Jonathan Richardson, the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria who was the first guest to make a speech expressed his pleasure and support for being at the conference because the Australian Government has supported LITE Africa in this current effort. Mr. Richardson pointed out that the motivation by Australian government to provide support for LITE is because Australia recently joined the VPs initiative a year ago. He further stressed that the Principles are not necessarily what government sign on to but rather the initiative. The principle provides guidelines to companies to operate their businesses and many companies are implementing and as well, NGOs and governments are supporting whether or not they are part of the initiative. So, governments do not necessarily have to be part of the initiative to lend their support to the principles. Mr. Richardson concluded by saying that Australia is very happy to support this activity and encourage LITE and all the other stakeholders to take forward the discussion and see how the VP can work best for Nigeria. (For more of this speech, reference Annex 2: Opening Speech by the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria).



H.E Dr. Dr. Hans-Rudolf Hodel , Switzerland Ambassador on his own opening remarks and goodwill message expressed his pleasure to be part of this call to action conference, and stated

Switzerland Ambassador delivering a Goodwill Message at the conference



that the height of today's topic is how businesses and investment can thrive especially in the sensitive extractive sector whilst respecting the often vulnerable environments and the communities in which they operate. Dr. Hodel stressed that upholding human rights standards is primarily an obligation of the state but also the responsibility of every active organ of society such as corporate bodies, civic society and communities to promote human rights. The VPs have indeed provided guidelines to extractive companies, NGOs and governments since 2000. The VPs are practical set of principles which are voluntary in the sense that sovereign governments are free to join the initiative or may not. Today the VPs are the only multi-stakeholder initiative specific to the extractive sector that addresses security and human rights issues with evidence effect such as creating more favourable atmosphere for investments for job creation and ultimately lasting socio economic development.

The Switzerland Ambassador mentioned that the VPs is not a one-stop solution to all issues, and explained that membership expansion particularly in the government pillar from countries where resource extraction occurs would provide much added value to the international community's effort to develop normative frameworks for business and investment to strive in a ways that ensures operational safety and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms since the VPs is still a work in progress. The ambassador announced that the Swiss government has extended invitation to the Nigerian government as an "invited guest" to the next plenary and also expressed Switzerland's wish to honor and welcome a high level Nigerian delegation on the next plenary meeting on March 26 and 27, 2014. The Ambassador expressed appreciation to LITE

Africa for putting together and hosting such an important conference to promote the success of Nigeria's extractive sector through increased investment, security and respect for human rights.

The message on behalf of oil producing communities centred on the need to respect the rights and fundamental freedom of the people, particularly the rights of the host communities. The community representative, Comrade Che called on the government to rise up to the issues of corruption in the country and review some of the existing laws that tend to undermine the rights of the people in the resource based regions of the country.

The chairman Governing Council of the NHRC, in his opening remark also acknowledged the concerns raised by the community representative which bothers on fundamental rights in some of the existing laws, particularly in the extractive sector but was also quick to say that while soft law measures such as the VPs are good they are no substitute for legality but can serve as a complimentary



Chairman, Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission Dr. Chidi Odinkalu delivering a goodwill message

tool to the law. The Human Right Chair underscore the need to review approaches to security that threatens human rights and explained that the problem of Nigeria is not corruption but impunity because in his opinion Nigerians are not more corrupt than the rest nations of the world

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### FIRST PANEL SESSION – INSECURITY IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR AND ITS IMPACT ON NIGERIAN ECONOMY – ROLE OF THE VPS AND OTHER MULTISTAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES.

The first panel discussion was chaired by the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Mr. S.U Nnadi and members of the multistakeholders panel include Mr. Anyakwee Nsirimovu, the Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian law, Ms Faith Nwadishi, National Coordinator, Publish what you Pay, Mr. Metee Ledum, Chair Governing Council, NEITI, Captain JL. Ismaila from Joint Military Task Force (JTF), CSP Yusuf F. Doma who represented AIG Solomon Arase from Nigerian Police and Mr. Dayo Olaide from Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme.



The panel considered how the VPs can work in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to help improve human rights and security situations in Nigeria’s extractive sector with the aim of aiding investment. The panel session also looked at gaps in implementation challenges that must be addressed to ensure effective implementation and what roles states, industry and multistakeholder initiatives each can play, the role of the VPs in addressing the insecurity challenges and the broader challenges ahead.

#### **Outcome:**

The panelist identified and evaluated the impact of insecurity in the economy of Nigeria; examined innovative tools and approaches by state regulators, investors, civil society and

affected stakeholders for assessing the effectiveness of the VPs in dealing with insecurity in the sector and made the following recommendations:

- There is the need for awareness creation on the VPs, particularly on responsibilities by the different players to raise the low level of awareness on the VPs as well as advocacy on good governance particularly by civil society organizations.
- Multistakeholder initiatives have been proven as a viable tool that creates platform for dialogue with different groups which should be encouraged and sustained.
- CSOs should be responsive to build coalition with the object of change and not just the usual coalition that is devoid of broader participation.
- The Oil companies should be more transparent on Human rights issues and be able to discuss on policies and practices freely with stakeholders.
- There should be wider consultations on existing laws and constitutional provisions on community development engagement and human rights in the extractive industry and cultural adaptation to arrive at a Nigerian multistakeholders initiative model that will also incorporate the VPs.
- The root causes of insecurity characterized by pipeline vandalism, illegal oil theft, kidnapping and other forms of insecurity should be reassessed to identify the challenges faced by the different players in terms of responsibilities and roles.
- CSOs should continue to create awareness and monitor the actions of government and other key actors on the issues of compliance on the VPs and focus less on litigations due to the financial burden of litigations.
- CSO should continue to facilitate multistakeholders dialogue on the VPs to deepen understanding and address the challenges of low level of awareness and suspicion on the VPs.
- CSOs should learn to promote internal democracy and promote coalitions to gain legitimacy on issue of compliance on the VPs.
- There should be a policy push on the VPs for possible inclusion of the VPs in contract documents

## Questions and comments

- How will the VPs guarantee fundamental human rights and sustainability of the traditional livelihoods of the locals?
- To what extent do security operatives respect human rights in the discharge of their constitutional duties?

## Summary of the Panel

- We should look at the VP document and advise our national government appropriately while we continue to engage in information sharing and awareness creation.



## **SECOND PANEL SESSION – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VPS IN NIGERIA – ROLE OF CSOS, COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT.**

The second session was chaired by Prof. Mohammed Tawfiq Ladan from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, other members of the panel included Mr. Babatunde Ajala from Global Rights, Mr. Chinedu Nwagu, CLEEN Foundation and Mr. Paulinus Okoro, Stakeholder Democracy Network.

Prof. Mohammed Tawfiq Ladan, as moderator, pointed that when it comes to government, one of the key implementation indicators is to identify challenges & opportunities for implementing the VPs in Nigeria and to identify existing policy; administrative, legal and other actual indicators for the implementation of the VPs. On the part of the government of Nigeria, the legal indicator for implementation is the constitution as a starting point because it is clearly stated that the

government at all levels has the responsibility to promote the security & welfare of all Nigerians at all times.

The panel considered how the implementation of the VPs can help improve the current state of affairs in the extractive sector, available funding sources for local actors and CSOs to support the implementation of the VPs and how best businesses and civil society organizations can partner to improve the implementation of the VPs nationally.

**Outcome:**

Panelist identified the following key challenges and opportunities for implementation of the VPs in Nigeria and steps to be taken by the state, companies and civil society on ensuring full implementation, key areas for partnership and reporting standards and framework to be adhered to by all stakeholders to track implementation and observed thus:

- The role of government at all levels is to protect and promote the good will of all Nigerians as constitutionally provided.
- There is insecurity in the country, particularly in the extractive sector and the federal government as a key player in the extractive sector has not shown enough commitment to compel the other players to respect human rights in the extractive industry and implementation of multistakeholders initiatives like the VPs.
- Countries like the US are carrying out wide consultations on the EITI before signing on onto it, so Nigerians should engage in wider consultation on the VPs before calling for government to sign on.
- There is lack of understanding and suspicion on the origin and source of the VPs in Nigeria, most especially, government see the VPs as a foreign imposition due to over reliance of foreign donor funding by the CSOs to implement the VPs. This most times leads to Nigerian state suspecting that the VPs are being imposed by the West.
- There is too much expectations on the VPs and sometimes seen a-one stop solution to all issues or “solve it all”. This approach has raised the question of what the VPs offer can.
- Harmful nature of some existing laws in the extractive industry undermines fundamental human right and freedom, and such laws need to be reviewed and repealed; e.g. “ the gas ejection law”
- There is lack of proper coordination and networking within civil society organizations on the VPs
- Most of the company staff are not aware of the VP yet the companies continue to engage in media campaign of how much they have done about the VPs
- There is a dearth of evidence based research on issues of human rights compliance on the VPs by companies due to underfunding of the ministry of planning and research to conduct such research and CSOs

### Questions and comments

- How do we push for a government policy to include elements of the VPs in contract document?
- How do we reach a common ground between the federal government, state government, CSOs and the communities on the VPs?

### Summary of the Session

- The Ministry of Petroleum can incorporate the VPs as part of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and the Ministry of Mines can incorporate the VPs in the Mining Act and some aspect of the VPs can also be integrated into the police act and other security acts, but all this will require a lot of advocacy and time.
- CSOs should promote credible networks for effective collaboration bearing in mind that some networks in the past were hijacked while some others became individual NGOs
- Communities should be able to hold government at all levels accountable on the need to respect their rights
- There should be a designated government office to lead or champion the domestication and policy formulation on the VPs as well as enforcement of existing laws in the extractive sector.



Participants commenting to the panel session

## WORKSHOP SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE TOOL OF THE VPS

The workshop session was facilitated by J.J. Messner of the Fund for Peace. The facilitator exposed participants to an overview of the implementation guidance tool of the VPs in four modules which include stakeholder engagement, risk assessment, engagement with public security and private security. He pointed out that the IGT was made possible by support from International Finance Corporation, International Council on Mining & Metals, IPIECA and ICRC. The facilitator emphasized that the VPs are not laws but they are not mutually exclusive to laws and that they provides methods for compelling companies on respecting human rights and provides a platform of incentives for companies and training of security forces. The VPs only focuses on issues of human rights in security operations and it is instructive to mention that the VPs brought about the training of security forces in Cameroun that has help to minimize cases of right violation in that region.



Mr. Messner provided an overview of the VPs and the elements of the VPs including risk assessment, engagement with public security, and private security

**In the question and comment session, participants noted that there was no much emphasis on community engagement in the VPs and wanted clarification; whether it was an oversight or a deliberate attempt to undermine communities by the VPs.** However the facilitator was quick to point out that community engagement is conceptualized in the stakeholders' engagement and that it was not possible to define a universal pattern and standard



of community engagement due to differing socio-cultural norms and traditions across the different regions of the world.

### **The journey so far – Global Experience**

This session was led by J.J. Messner of the Fund for Peace. The facilitator gave a background statement of the VPs and shared the experiences of Columbia and other nations on the VPs. The facilitator introduced participants to the fifteen (15) key elements of the VPs process which are; the initiator, stakeholders, scoping, champions, core group, facilitate, funding, objective, roles and action, workplan, tool, marketing ,public security, institutionalization, and reflection. Some of the challenges in the Columbia experience were also discussed to include the initial lack of local NGOs engagement, varied level of company commitment and ability to implement the VPs, as well as varied level of government participation.



Some of the key lessons learned from the Columbia experience were identified as the early incorporation of VPs into contract agreements, focus on core groups of committed stakeholders and gained buy-in from their national government.

On the Indonesia experience the facilitator explained that the approach that was used in introducing the VPs was to focus on health issues instead of human rights and having dialogue that brought stakeholders together to discuss on this issue before human rights was introduced. He said that, it is always ideal to be cultural sensitive and to identify the context to situate the VPs discussion. He concluded by saying that a Nigerian process should be driven by Nigerians and Nigerians ultimately know what is best for Nigeria.

## **Closing Plenary Session**

The closing plenary session looked at the priorities and key issues for 2014 in Nigeria, including opportunities for promoting wide and effective implementation of the VPs in Nigeria by all including business enterprises and other stakeholders. The participants recommended as follows:

- That the importance of the VPs are not in doubt, therefore civil society organizations need greater collaboration and coordination working with different stakeholders to sensitize the public.
- The VPs should not be considered in isolation of existing initiatives in Nigeria such as the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiatives (EITI) as there are great lessons to learn from countries that are doing so well on EITI, the VPs should begin to draw linkages from there.
- Issues of the VPs should be situated in the presidency because of the cross-cutting and inter-ministerial nature of the issue; situating it in one particular Ministry will not achieve much progress.
- The lack of community participation on the VPs initiative is a flaw on the initiative and it must be corrected, LITE Africa has done so well by bringing in communities on board, this should be deepene.
- The Indonesia experience of identifying a common issue upon which all stakeholders could be mobilized to take action on the VP is very instructive. Nigeria can learn a lot of lessons from it. In Indonesia, it was health, Nigerians can find that common advocacy topic to locate this discussion and debate on the VPs
- There is need for more media campaign and enlightenment, and the strategic plan should target both local and state governments since over 90% of Nigerians do not know what the VPs is all about. For the communities, fliers, jingles, and social media would be a good way of awareness creation.
- There is not much commitment on the existing Working Groups particularly by the International Oil Companies (IOCs), The Oil Producers Trade section (OPTs) may also be a veritable platform for engagement. However efforts on the VPs need to look beyond meetings to begin to engage top level government and ministers to get their buy-in and commitment.
- CSOs and all players on the VPs need to have a change of mindset towards the VPs because if they do not show that they are convinced they cannot be champions and advocates of the VPs.
- The VPs need to be simplified and localized, particularly in languages such as “Pidgin” and the Nigerian local languages.
- There should be a designated office in government to clearly define and drive the process of the VPs.
- Beyond coordination, all stakeholders should begin to identify core themes, issues and responsibility that can be included in the VPs like the Indonesia case that included health.

## **Closing Remarks**

In the closing remarks the Executive Director of LITE Africa, Mr. Joel Bisina re-emphasized the key issues of the role of the VPs in the extractive industry, the need for collaboration and coordination, and the issue of who houses and takes responsibility for the VPs in terms of government participation and the need to link the VPs initiative to other existing initiatives for mutual reinforcement. He also talked about the critical role of the media on the VPs since less than 10% of Nigerians are aware of the initiative. Mr. Bisina also talked about the issue of funding and the need for development partners and donor agencies to provide partner to ensure the current awareness activities are sustained. He stated that LITE Africa as an organization will continue to engage different stakeholders to increase the knowledge of the VPs. He announced that the CSO coalition meeting on Business and Human Rights will have their meeting sometime in April in Port Harcourt, while the trainings on the VPs will come up later in July in Abuja courtesy of Cordaid assistance.

While wishing every one safe trip back, Mr. Bisina encouraged participants to be champions of the VPs in their own little corner and promised that the proceedings of the meetings will be widely circulated. The workshop ended with a group photograph.



Annex One:

**Welcome Address by Joel Bisina, Executive Director LITE-Africa at the Call to Action Conference: - Promoting security and investment in Nigeria extractive sector through multi-stakeholder initiatives at the Newton Park Hotel, Abuja Held on February 26, 2014**

*His Excellencies, Special Assistant to the President on Niger Delta, Ambassadors present, Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honorable Ministers present, Board Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Men of Nigeria Armed Forces, The Police, members of the Diplomatic Corps, CSO representatives, Community representatives, my Lord spiritual and temporal, ladies and gentlemen.*

It is a with great honour , I welcome you all to this conference on Promoting Security and Investment in Nigeria Extractive Sector through a multi-stakeholder initiative using the Voluntary Principle on Security and Human Rights as a framework.

Since the launch of the VPs in 2000, governments, corporations and civil society actors have come to a common understanding on how security activities in the extractive sector can be conducted in ways and manner that do not only respect, but promote and prevent human rights violation.

While global acceptance of the VPs as a soft law approach to mainstreaming human rights discussion in the extractive industry has been slow, it is instructive to note that quite a number of companies, governments and CSOs have all signed unto the principles. It also instructive to note that the launch of the UN Guiding principles on Business and Human Rights in 2012 further reinforces the critical link between Business, security and Human Rights. The UN Guiding Principle which has the three pillars of ‘protect, respect and remedy’ are consistent with the spirit of the VPs. So far, about 8 governments. 23 companies and 9 NGOs have all signed unto the VPs.

Though, Nigeria is yet to sign on, however, LITE-Africa have been very active sensitizing and creating awareness on the VPs in Nigeria, working closely with Chevron Nigeria Limited since 2006 to date. Our experience in the field shows that security operatives not only embrace the VPs, but are willing to imbibe and incorporate it into their operations, when necessary capacity is built. So far we have trained well over 1500 of their security personnel including General Security Forces and their surveillance and Pipeline Facilities Team on the VPs.

We have taken our work beyond what we do with CNL to direct engagement with the high commands of the Nigerian Military and Police in the Niger Delta. LITE is currently partnering with international donor agencies such as National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to provide capacity building for Nigerian military that are members of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on human rights and security and sensitizing oil producing communities on the VPs. We have carried out media campaign to sensitize Nigerian public both in Abuja and Portharcourt on the same issues.

LITE Africa is currently partnering with Cordaid to help build and enforce measures of corporate accountability, including increasing state practices on business and human rights principles and standards and ensuring the Nigerian government and Oil companies commit to the VPs. As a leading NGO, LITE is facilitating Nigerian CSOs Coalition on Business and Human Rights, a platform for information-sharing, discussion, and problem-solving geared towards advocacy and engagement.

Through its newly established Leadership Academy and Resource Centre. LITE-Africa working with faculty and experts from Middlesex University in the UK, has rolled out an International Certificate Course on Business and Human Rights in three countries in Africa; Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda. This course is aimed at equipping critical actors within the sector, with requisite skills to champion human rights while conducting their businesses.

Global best practices on corporate governance acknowledges the critical role multi-stakeholders initiatives could play in strengthening relationships between business and its environment especially in very volatile and high risk economies. Recent studies, reports and findings have shown that Nigeria is one of the fastest growing emerging markets of the world. This is understandable with a population of well over 150 million people, and as a leading producer of crude oil in Africa, accounting for 24% and 2.9% of Africa and world crude oil production respectively.

Unfortunately, Nigeria Extractive Industry has been confronted by weakening challenges of pipeline vandalism, kidnapping and oil theft in recent times. According to the 2011 annual report of the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Nigeria lost a total of USD10.9 Billion to oil theft and related activities between 2009 and 2011. This translates huge economic loss with far reaching implication for economic growth and development.

With all this in mind, the theme of the conference, a call to action on the VPs, promoting Investment and Security in the Nigeria extractive sector cannot be discussed if all critical stakeholders holders are not seated around the table like we have today.

If Nigeria must attain the much needed investment and development climate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it must make a conscious effort to not just protect and promote human rights, but must lead the efforts in finding the right balance between security, business and human rights as a catalyst for economic growth and development. It is our hope that in no distance time Nigeria will join the forward looking nations by signing onto the VPs. The match toward the realization of this action has begun with the launch of the call for action campaign which has so far collected 2,109 signatures of Nigerians from all works on life, asking the government to sign.

I am sure this conference will make an important contribution towards bringing home the interception of the VPs and economic growth and lending it more weight for Nigerians to know more about the benefits and work for its full implementation by all stakeholders in Nigeria.

Thank you very much!

## **Annex 2:**

### **Opening Speech and goodwill message presented by the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency, Jonathan Richardson**

I am indeed full of goodwill today because Australian government is supporting what LITE-AFRICA is doing; it is particularly pleasing to us that we are associated with this event. Regarding the VPs one particular reason that motivated providing this support for LITE raising awareness on the VPs is that Australia recently joined the VPs initiative, so that is actually a year ago. It is also very important to understand that the principles are not necessarily what government sign onto. It is a principle companies uses as a guidelines to operate their business. To think that government may or may not sign onto it because they are not part of the initiative is not the question. The VPs is a set of guiding principles which exist and many companies are implementing and many NGOs and governments are supporting it whether or not they are part of the initiative, so governments do not necessarily have to be part of the initiative to lend their support to the principles.

For Australia there was a very broad support for joining the initiative both from businesses and the NGOs and as far as the government was concerned we saw joining the initiative as a very practical way to implement other Human rights principles such as UN guiding principles on business and Human rights and other frameworks and principles that had to do with oil & extractive industries e.g is the OECD framework on guidelines for multinational enterprise. It is very important to understand that the VPs are not a framework that imposes onerous obligation on government of any kind but a forum for dialogue and discussion on best practices.

Australia is very happy to support this activity and encourage LITE and all the other stakeholders to take forward the discussion and see how the VP can work best for Nigeria. Thank you very much.

### **Annex 3:**

#### **Opening Speech and Goodwill message presented by the Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria , His Excellency Dr. Hans-Rudolf Hodel at the Call to Action Conference hosted by LITE Africa on 26 February, 2014.**

It is my pleasure to be part of this call to action conference, at the height of today's topic is how businesses and investment can thrive especially in the sensitive extractive sector whilst respecting the often vulnerable environments and the communities in which they operate. So upholding human rights standards is primarily an obligation of state but it is also the responsibility of every active organ of society such as corporate bodies, civic society and communities. The VPs have indeed provided guidelines to extractive companies NGOs and governments since the year 2000. The VPs are a practical set of principles which are voluntary in the sense that sovereign governments are free to join the initiative or not. Today the VPs are the only multi-stakeholder initiative specific to the extractive sector that addresses security and human rights issues with evidence effect such as creating more favourable atmosphere for investments for job creation and ultimately lasting socio economic development.

The Switzerland Ambassador mentioned that the VPs is not a one-stop solution to all issues, and explained that membership expansion particularly in the government pillar from countries where resource extraction occurs would provide much added value to the international community's effort to develop normative frameworks for business and investment to strive in a way that ensures operational safety and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms since the VPs is still a work in progress. The ambassador announced that the Swiss government has extended invitation to the Nigerian government as an "invited guest" to the next plenary and also expressed Switzerland's wish to honor and welcome a high level Nigerian delegation on the next plenary meeting on March 26 and 27, 2014. The diplomatic corps expressed appreciation to LITE Africa for putting together and hosting such an important conference to promote the success of Nigeria's extractive sector through increased investment, security and respect for human rights