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CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DEFENCE POLICY

BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Practical Recommendations on Conflict Preventions and Responses

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There are four focal resources that provide feasible actions that can be adopted by companies to mitigate company-community conflicts: (1) the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR), (2) the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM), (3) the UN's Toolkit and Guidance for Preventing and Managing Land and Natural Resources Conflict (UN Extractive Industries and Conflict) and (4) The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

A few caveats should be noted before interpreting any recommendations. VPSHR-based Toolkit prepared by the World Bank Group and Anvil Mini (2008) outlines three challenges faced by companies and security providers when attempting to implement activities addressing focal objectives and standards, the recommendations may not translate to the local community, (2) without effective and efficient follow-up there is no viable way of measuring the practicality of these recommendations, (3) clear communication must be done to the respective stakeholders that play a role in the security environment, or else there is no way to ensure activities are coordinated.

Under the VPSHR's Roles and Responsibilities of Companies (2014), it is suggested that companies should record and report allegations of security-related incidents with human rights implications and investigate them to prevent any recurrence. This is a way to not only respond to conflict by acknowledging its existence, but also preventing similar

(2003), there are two values that can translate into conflict prevention and response. Principle 3 discusses upholding fundamental human rights by respecting the context of the communities they are working in. This means companies should ensure their staff, including security personnel, are provided with appropriate cultural and human rights training. By doing so, this prevents misunderstandings between the community and companies avoiding conflicts related to cultural tensions. Principle 9 discusses contributing to the social, economic, and institutional development of communities that companies are operating in. This means that companies take precautionary measures to evaluate issue areas that impact the community and have an ongoing system to communicate with those parties.

