



**B2GOLD CORP.**  
**Social Performance Standard 9:**  
***Security & Human Rights***

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Standard  
**9**

## **9 SECURITY & HUMAN RIGHTS**

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### **9.1 OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Standard is to outline the requirements for ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms while maintaining the safety and security of B2Gold operations. This Standard is meant to ensure B2Gold upholds its commitment to implementing the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs).

### **9.2 SCOPE**

This Standard covers site security, including any private or public security forces that are involved in maintaining security in or around a B2Gold site. The B2Gold Social Performance Standard 6 – Human Rights, covers other areas of human rights with potential impacts on external stakeholders.

### **9.3 PRINCIPLES**

Sites will take a risk-based approach to implementing the VPs and will implement this Standard according to the level of risk.

In implementing the VPs, sites will:

- Engage with relevant stakeholders in line with B2Gold's Stakeholder Engagement Standard, including communities, public security forces and governments;
- Ensure relevant stakeholders are aware of security arrangements and have access to a grievance mechanism;
- Coordinate with public security and seek to build its capacity on security and human rights; and
- Share its experience in VPs implementation with relevant stakeholders, and support implementation of the VPs at the country level.

### **9.4 REQUIREMENTS**

#### **9.4.1 Risk Assessment**

- Sites will establish a process for assessing security and human rights-related risks that aligns with the VPs, or ensure integration of VPs content into existing security risk assessment processes. Sites will conduct



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risk assessments that consider: security risks to the company, workers and community; potential for violence; human rights records (for public and/or private security); rule of law issues; a conflict analysis; and risks associated with equipment transfers.

- Risk assessments will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary (e.g. when there is a change in security management or the security environment).
- The risk assessment will be reviewed by site senior management, Security and Community Relations managers or equivalent.

#### **9.4.2 Implementation**

- Based on the nature of the risks, sites will develop and implement a plan to support VPs implementation and will regularly review and update the plan.
- Sites will integrate the VPs into private security tendering processes and contracts, including proper vetting of security personnel, and into any agreements with public security.
- Sites will ensure company and private security forces have received adequate training on the VPs, and seek to support the integration of VPs into public security forces training, as relevant.
- Sites will minimize risks related to support provided to public security (e.g. equipment transfers or payments) and monitor public security support and deployment to the extent possible.
- Sites will raise awareness of its commitment to the VPs internally and externally and regularly engage with relevant stakeholders on the VPs.
- Sites will ensure that any significant human rights-related allegations or incidents have been recorded, investigated and reported internally in line with corporate and site grievance and incident management requirements as relevant. Incidents will be reported externally (i.e. to public authorities for any public security-related situations) as relevant.
- Sites will engage with relevant stakeholders including public security to address any significant allegations or incidents, and will provide remediation, where required, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

#### **9.4.3 Monitoring, Communication and Evaluation**

- Sites will regularly track and report internally, at a minimum annually, on their implementation of the VPs.
- B2Gold will regularly report externally on its implementation of the VPs.
- Where significant human rights risks have been identified, sites will conduct an external audit of VPs implementation on a regular basis, no less than every three years or upon significant changes to the security operating environment.

## **9.5 REFERENCE MATERIAL**

### **9.5.1 References, Guidelines and Tools**

[Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights](#)

[Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – Implementation Guidance Tools](#)

[Auditing Implementation of Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights](#) by Global Compact Canada

[Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)



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## 9.6 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

**Grievance:** A grievance, or complaint, is an expression of dissatisfaction referring to a real or perceived impact of B2Gold’s business activities.

**Human Rights:** Human rights are the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone is entitled to. They provide the basis for individuals to lead a dignified life, to freely express independent beliefs and to live free from abuse. They are inherent to all individuals, regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. Everyone is equally entitled to enjoy their human rights without discrimination. (ICMM 2012) Human rights refers to internationally recognized rights understood, at a minimum, as those expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights and the principles set out in the International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. (Principle 12 – UNGPs).

**Remediation** (*definition from the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*): Access to effective remedy has both procedural and substantive aspects. Remedies provided by grievance mechanisms may take a range of forms with the aim of counteracting or making good any human rights harms that have occurred. Remedy may include apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, and financial or non-financial compensation, as well as the prevention of harm through, for example, guarantees of non-repetition. Procedures for the provision of remedy should be impartial, protected from corruption and free from political or other attempts to influence the outcome.

**Site:** For the purposes of this Standard, sites include B2Gold offices, operating mines, satellite mines (either independently or included within an operating mine’s reporting), construction sites, and legacy sites; and, does not include exploration (unless otherwise expressed), joint-venture sites (non-management roles), relinquished sites, non-active sites, and sites under care and maintenance.

**Stakeholder:** Any individual or group that is impacted by or has an interest in B2Gold and its activities. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, employees and contractors, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses or groups.

**Stakeholder engagement:** Ongoing formal and informal processes between a company and its stakeholders intended to build trust-based relationships and allow for informed decision making. Engagement can include a range of activities and approaches, such as information sharing, dialogue, consultation, and participation.

## 9.7 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	29 November 2020	Original 2020 issue of the B2Gold Social Performance Standards