Enterprises involved in the exploration and extraction of oil, gas and minerals have the potential to generate income, sustain livelihoods, foster local development and generate significant revenues in the areas in which they operate. However, extractive operations can have a significant social and environmental footprint and thus are often at risk of causing or contributing to adverse impacts, such as human rights infringements, economic setbacks and environmental degradation. Meaningful stakeholder engagement and due diligence are critical to avoiding some of the potential adverse impacts of extractive operations as well as optimising their potential positive contributions. They are also central components to responsible business conduct under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Practical guidance and tools

The OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector (the Guidance) provides guidance to mining, oil and gas enterprises in addressing challenges related to stakeholder engagement. It offers extractive sector practitioners practical tools and approaches for managing risks and responding to challenges with the objective of promoting meaningful stakeholder engagement as an integral component of due diligence.

The Guidance includes: a diligence framework for meaningful stakeholder engagement; recommendations to management and on-the-ground personnel; an illustrative monitoring and evaluation framework for overseeing stakeholder engagement activities; and specific thematic guidance on engaging with indigenous peoples, women, workers, and artisanal and small-scale miners.

A broadly supported approach

The Guidance was developed in consultation with a multi-stakeholder advisory group comprising representatives from the oil, gas and mining sectors, government, civil society, international organisations and indigenous peoples. It is a sector-specific complement to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and, as such, is supported by the 46 adhering governments.
Implementing the Guidance

Activities to support the implementation of the Guidance in 2016-2017 could include:

- Pilot implementation projects with interested oil, gas and mining enterprises
- Regional and thematic events to promote dialogue on stakeholder engagement
- Training workshops and webinars on the application of the Guidance in challenging contexts
- Research to support and promote meaningful stakeholder engagement

mneguidelines.oecd.org/stakeholder-engagement-extractive-industries.htm

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