

CODE OF ETHICS, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY, ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING, ANTI-TERRORISM, ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ANTI-PROLIFERATION OF ANY TYPE OF WEAPONS.

Introduction

For the Citizens' Association for the Prevention of Communicable Diseases, ACPET, which promotes the Citizen Voices Regional Initiative, its *raison d'être* is its commitment to public health from the perspective of citizens' rights, as contemplated in the Inter-American Human Rights System (OAS) and in the Human Rights Conventions and Treaties of the United Nations System signed by the member countries.

Our work is mainly focused on promoting the right to the highest level of physical and mental health with emphasis on comprehensive care for children and adolescents and groups in vulnerable conditions throughout the life course. And to promote citizen participation in the elaboration, promotion, monitoring and evaluation of public health policies, with a gender and intercultural approach throughout the life course.

By virtue of which we consider it pertinent and necessary to have a Code of Ethics that responds to our objectives within the framework of respect for Human Rights and with clear Anti-Corruption, Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism, Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Proliferation of any type of weapons policies.

1. Purpose of the Code of Ethics

The norms contained in the Code of Ethics apply to all members and collaborators of ACPET, directly or indirectly. Their compliance is an indispensable act for all those who are involved with the institution.

2. Ethical Values

The members of ACPET and its direct and indirect collaborators commit to govern their actions by the following values:

- a) **Trust:** Relationships among ACPET members shall be based on mutual trust.

- b) **Respect:** Relationships between ACPET members and their collaborators shall be based on respect for the human person and human dignity.
- c) **Integrity:** the behavior of its members and entities shall be based on rectitude, honesty and coherence between the practices and values of this Code.
- d) **Transparency:** the information disseminated internally and externally shall be relevant for its quality and reliability.
- e) **Accountability:** Members commit to be accountable for their conduct as members and representatives of ACPET. To submit to compliance with the Code of Ethics.

3. Code of conduct, respect for human rights and anti-corruption policy.

- a) It does not employ, engage or use in any way the labor of minors in circumstances where as a consequence of such labor, physical and/or emotional harm to the minor can be foreseen.
- b) Does not use forced labor of any kind (prison, forced term contracts or other) and that personnel are not required to leave papers, documents or deposits as a condition of commencing work.
- c) Complies with all applicable laws and regulations concerning the environment and health and safety and provides a safe and healthy work environment, without posing immediate risks to its personnel. Any accommodation or housing provided by ACPET to its workers is safe for habitation. ACPET provides access to drinking water, food and emergency care and first aid to its workers in case of incidents and/or accidents within the work environment.
- d) Within the uses and customs of the populations with which ACPET carries out its activities, ACPET does not discriminate against its workers for any reason (including race, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, among others).

- e) ACPET does not practice, support, cover up, or admit under any circumstances the use of corporal punishment, mental, psychological, sexual or verbal abuse, or harassment at work or sexual harassment, nor does it practice the use of cruel or unusual disciplinary sanctions in the workplace.
- f) Pays its employees an amount not less than the minimum wage, and provides each employee with all the benefits indicated by law.
- g) Complies with the laws regarding working hours and workers' rights.
- h) Is not involved in any activity that may cause harm either to those living in the vicinity of its place of operations or to the environment.
- i) Democratic organization and functioning: all persons are equal within the association, having the same rights, and no discrimination of any kind is allowed; the right of all associates to freely express their ideas shall be effectively protected.
- j) It acts in accordance with the law in all countries where it develops actions and activities.
- k) Promotes the maximum protection of personal data, especially when dealing with minors.
- l) Compliance with Anti-Corruption Laws: Both ACPET and (including its officers, directors, employees, partners and other personnel associated or acting on its behalf) must not and may not have related agreements involving ACPET, to make, promise, authorize, ratify, offer and/or participate in the delivery of payments and/or transfers of objects of value, directly or indirectly to any of the following persons: Government Officials at local, regional and national levels or to intermediaries for payment to Government Officials; and/or; Political Parties.

Furthermore, ACPET nor any of its members may not and must not make, promise, authorize, ratify and/or offer payments and/or transfers of valuables for the purpose or as a result of public and/or commercial bribes, acceptance or consent to extortion or any other illegal and improper means of securing an advantage or obtaining or retaining business.

- m) Compliance with Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Trafficking, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Proliferation of any type of weapons: ACPET has among its main mandates the respect of all its members and external collaborators to the legal order of the countries and the national and international conventions against money laundering, drug trafficking, terrorism, proliferation of any type of weapons; as well as any other crime. Therefore, it declares that its assets and economic sources that allow it to develop its work come from lawful activities and have no relation with activities directly or indirectly related to crimes of money laundering, drug trafficking, financing of terrorism, financing of the proliferation of any type of weapons, or any other activity that is considered a crime.

Consequently, with its institutional objectives and its code of ethics, ACPET will immediately and unilaterally resolve any type of relationship, support, sponsorship or shared work with any institution, organization, foundation or person that is linked to acts of corruption, unethical behavior, or disrespect for human rights. As well as crimes related to money laundering, drug trafficking, terrorism, proliferation of any type of weapons, or any other crime.

- n) Relations with other associations and/or institutions, companies: shall be based on respect for autonomy, trust, transparency in information and the sharing of knowledge, experiences and capabilities, in order to achieve common objectives and mutual benefit.

4. The Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission shall be composed of two members and one external honorary member. The renewal of the members of the Ethics Commission shall coincide with the election period, except in the case of removal or resignation.

Functions:

- Promote the dissemination and knowledge of the Code within the institution and with all its collaborators.
- To ensure compliance with the Code among the members and their collaborators.
- Receive complaints and suggestions from ACPET members.

Functioning of the Ethics Commission:

- a) The Commission may act ex officio or at the substantiated request of any interested party.

For the valid constitution of the Commission, for the purposes of holding sessions, deliberations and adoption of resolutions, a quorum of two members shall be required. Decisions shall be adopted by simple majority, with the Presidency casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Sessions may be ordinary, held every six months, and extraordinary, whenever the situation so requires.

- b) The Committee shall issue an annual report on the operation and degree of compliance with the Code of Ethics.
- c) Non-compliance with this Code of Ethics shall be considered a violation of the good faith and mutual trust to which the persons, institutions, companies or organizations committed themselves when they freely and autonomously decided to adhere to it. Failure to comply with the Code or the verification of the falsity of the information required to adhere to the Code may lead to its revocation by the Ethics Committee and its dissociation from ACPET, regardless of whether or not the appropriate legal responsibilities may or may not be demanded.

5. Entry into force

This Code of Ethics came into force one month after its approval in May 2012 and was updated in June 2021, and its entire contents are still in force.

June 18, 2021.