

## THE ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The following ethical code of conduct contains the most important ethical standards for development cooperation and communications carried out with support from the Finnish government. Even if non-governmental organisations serve a variety of purposes and may be influenced by religion, political or other opinion, they still need to act in a way that strengthens democratic structures and complies with Finnish legislation, human rights policy, the current Development Policy Programme's human rights-based approach and concept of non-discrimination as well as sector-specific guidelines that supplement the programme. The code covers the key principles which become paramount when dealing with persons that represent different cultures, religions and ideologies.

1. Respect for human dignity and human rights, culture, religion and ideology as well as freedom from discrimination of any kind is guaranteed to everyone who participates in development cooperation. Government-supported development cooperation must be free from discrimination<sup>1</sup>.

2. Development cooperation focuses on people subject to discrimination by society and communities. It addresses the root causes of poverty, injustice and discrimination. Its aim is to change the prevailing discriminatory structures and ways of thinking .

3. The reception of support or participation in development cooperation must not be dependent on ideology, religion, political opinion or conversion to the abovementioned. Particular awareness must be shown to this when working with children and youth. Development cooperation funds must not be used to propagate ideology, religion or political opinion.

4. Development cooperation promotes peaceful dialogue and advances peace and partnership in communities. It creates and employs approaches that broaden equal participation.

5. Corruption and associated poor governance breed unequal development and, hence undermine the materialisation of human rights. Anti-corruption work and tackling any suspicions head-on are deliberate efforts at striving for better results in development cooperation.

6. Upon receiving state support the non-governmental organisation pledges to apply the ethical code of conduct in its operations. In accordance with the general conditions of development cooperation support, in the case of failure to meet the conditions set by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the use of the support, the Ministry may set a date by which the conditions must be met, suspend the payment of support or demand the return of support that has already been disbursed.

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<sup>1</sup> The most common forms of discrimination are associated with religion, political or other ideology/opinion, conviction, gender, ethnic origin, caste, language, health situation, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, age or other personal attribute.