

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## Water Integrity Network Partners

We strive to provide collective and collaborative leadership in promoting water integrity. We are committed to upholding high standards of integrity and accountability, in accordance with these core values and guiding principles:

### VALUES

Water integrity means using vested powers and resources ethically and honestly, ensuring services and resources go where they are intended and most needed. Practically this is done by building up Transparency, Accountability, Participation and implementing preventive Anti-Corruption measures.

Transparency is about openness and public access to information. Citizens need to be familiar with decision-making processes and the standards expected from public officials. They must be able to anticipate when significant decisions are to be made and how to make their voices heard.

Accountability implies that elected officials and water and sanitation managers should be held accountable for their actions and answer to those they serve. Citizens, civil society organisations and the private sector must be able to scrutinise actions and decisions by leaders, public institutions and governments and hold them accountable for what they have, or have not, done.

Participation implies that all stakeholders, including marginalised and resource-poor groups, and in particular women, are meaningfully involved in deciding how water is used, protected, managed and allocated and how sanitation is provided and managed. Different initiatives such as river basin multi stakeholder dialogues, water stewardships, legal status for water user groups, complaint mechanisms, and participatory budgeting can help broaden the base of decision-making.

Anti-corruption comprises the explicit prevention and sanctioning of corruption. It is based on an analysis of corruption risks and measures to mitigate these. Measures may involve setting, activating, and enforcing rules, as well as promoting ethics that will prevent people from engaging in corruption.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 – We undertake to be open, honest, and accountable in our relationships with the communities and organisations we work with, as well as with other members of WIN.

Principle 2 – We strive to take positions on integrity issues which are based on sound, objective and professional analysis and on reliable data or research findings.

Principle 3 – We undertake not to engage in any discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual preference, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation. We are committed to the full, meaningful, and equal participation and consideration of vulnerable and marginalised groups in the work we carry out in our own organisation as well as in collaboration with WIN and its extended network.

Principle 4 – We will condemn bribery, extortion and other forms of corruption wherever they have been reliably identified, although we do not seek to expose individual cases of corruption without cause.

Principle 5 – We will engage in activities of charity or philanthropy only through legitimate and transparent means. We will only engage in support, including financial support, of political parties in situations where this is permitted by law, and we will adhere to such law.

Principle 6 – Where we may observe corruption, a lack of integrity or human rights violations of any kind in the actions of our own staff, we will take appropriate preventive or corrective action to redress the situation.

Principle 7 – We will only accept funding that does not compromise our ability to address issues freely, thoroughly and objectively.

Principle 8 – As coalition builders, we undertake to work cooperatively with committed individuals, private sector companies, not for profit corporations and organisations, financiers (both public and private), as well as with governments and international bodies committed to the fight against corruption, and to building integrity in all parts of the water sector.

Principle 9 – We will undertake activities in the context of our partnership with WIN with a high degree of professionalism and conduct that will advance the good reputation of the organisation, and will comply with applicable conventions, laws and regulations relating to integrity and transparency. This includes compliance with WIN rules when representing WIN or undertaking travel funded by WIN.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflicts may arise in our work between the interests of our organisation, the interests of the Water Integrity Network or those of other water sector stakeholders. A Conflict of Interest involves a conflict between the public or professional interest and the private interest of a person, in which a member organisation or the individual representing that organisation has other capacity interests that could improperly influence the performance of duties and responsibilities within the Water Integrity Network. We will disclose such conflict, including potential and perceived conflict of interest, and resolve it in a transparent manner.