

Ethical Guidelines for oikos Fundraising Activities

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1. Introduction

oikos International (hereafter abbreviated "oikos") is a non-profit organisation (association) with its headquarters registered in Switzerland and therefore, a trustee of charitable Swiss francs. This policy recognises the critical importance of ethical conduct in fundraising activities to safeguard the status of the organisation as a registered charitable organisation and ensure oikos International stands up to scrutiny by all its stakeholders and the public. These guidelines also highlight our idea of how we aim to interact with the world and what we wish to be held accountable for.

Ethical fundraising is an ongoing journey, and there will be new questions as we move on. We might make mistakes, stumble, fail - but that's where we learn and where we can tap into the opportunity of refining our actions and also these guidelines. This document, therefore, can be seen as a living document that will be shaped over time.

What does ethical mean?

The word ethical at first means relating to moral principles, or relating to beliefs about what is right or wrong in a group of people (oxf dict). It's how we behave once we decide we belong (Meg Wheatley).

oikos belongs to a global society and to the world as such - and therefore we wish to outline some principles that can guide our actions and relations.

2. Qualitative criteria for potential partners

- 2.1. oikos will accept donations in the form of money, time, or service support from foundations, individuals, and companies that support sustainability and care for a better future. These potential partners can be the ones who are already working on the inclusion of sustainability impacts* or are committed to starting their journey on the sustainability path with good initiation or progress already made in this direction.

We invite donors to share the following information along with relevant documents if required to authenticate their sustainability inclusion:

- An action plan that demonstrates their strategy for the inclusion of sustainability impacts
 - Their certifications or actions/ability to meet the criteria of these certifications that cover aspects of sustainability and why they decided to follow these ([List of certificates](#) for oikos' reference, but we are not limited to follow this list only)
- 2.2. oikos will not accept any kind of donations or favours from companies/foundations/individuals if these are involved in any unsustainable and unethical actions** or interfere with our values (respect, integrity, accountability, openness), jeopardise our intellectual independence, or demand something against our policies. Every partnership will be scanned with the help of our sustainability definition, our central policies & values and will be discussed case-by-case by our fundraising team. When available, we also take help from our partner NGOs to get more information about our potential donors.
- 2.3. oikos will end the collaboration instantly if, at any point in time, an existing donor (company/foundation/individual) becomes a part of another company or foundation (through an acquisition or merger or any kind of partnership) which is involved in unsustainable and unethical actions**. This shall be mentioned in the legal partnership agreement if any. Any complicated case should go to the Board for the final decision.

3. Sound ethical conduct of oikos fundraising activities

- 3.1. oikos will inform all possible donors and partners about oikos' purpose, its current activities as well as its planned activities and budget they would contribute into. Besides that, they will be informed about this fundraising policy, including the disclosure about their involvement.
- 3.2. oikos will list all donors and partners on its website and in its annual report, according to the type of cooperation and the activity they support except the ones that do not want their names to be disclosed.

- 3.3. oikos will continuously inform its community about new donors and partners via newsletters, social media, and other forms of a relevant contact. Organisations may remain anonymous upon request.
- 3.4. oikos will agree on the terms for cooperation with every partner on a bilateral basis.
- 3.5. oikos will do its best to contribute its efforts in creating transparency in funds received and spent.
- 3.6. We are eager to receive, discuss, and address any questions on our fundraising activities.

4. FAQ

*Sustainability impacts: [SDGs](#), change for sustainability and support for youth, education, research, societal engagement, environmental protection, and/or a sustainable economy, among others

**Unsustainable and unethical actions: include but not restricted to primary business in producing, trading, or selling alcohol, tobacco, armaments, and firearms, oil and coal, gambling, and/or adult entertainment, violate human rights, engage in corruption, and/or other unlawful business activities, work in direct contact with non-democratic government and supports its working principles.

5. **Process oikos follows before the first contact for potential partnership**

Process of screening potential partners

Step 1: oikos find a foundation/company/individual for a potential partnership.

Step 2: Fundraising group checks if a potential partner follows the sustainability policies mentioned in the Ethical Criteria Guidelines or not.

If yes

We move forward with our partnership process

If more information needed

We contact our partner NGOs and take their help for clarity on the issues we face while decision making

If no

We reject that foundation/company/individual

Step 3: If a foundation/company/individual is found involved in unsustainable and unethical actions, we simply do not consider any kind of partnership with them.