

Tool #13: Guidelines for Partnerships for Rights and Democracy Delegations¹

Important: all partnership projects must be discussed and approved by the Network Team

Objective:

As a matter of principle, a partnership shall strengthen -- but in no way undermine -- the capacity of the Rights and Democracy Network to carry out its activities, in accordance with its specific mandate and the principles and values promoted by the Network.

Therefore, the Rights and Democracy Network asks members to consider ethical issues when establishing partnerships as well as in the development and implementation of initiatives.

With the support of the Network Team and the Ethics Delegate, delegations are encouraged to enter into partnerships with organizations that share objectives that are compatible with their mission.

The Rights and Democracy Network also supports delegations in their search for products and services that are consistent with an environmentally conscious approach and fair commercial relationships, including the production of promotional material and event-related documentation on recycled paper; the production of bags for participants or t-shirts by local communities in developing countries; the consumption of fair-trade coffee; limiting non-recyclable waste.

Ethical Criteria:

- The Network and its delegations shall not accept any support from a company if this may endanger the capacity of the organisation to carry out its mandate in accordance with its principles or hinder its capacity to deploy activities relating to human rights and democratic development.
- The Network and its delegations further shall assess the potential impact of a partnership with a company on its public image and reputation.

Based on the above, the ethical criteria are the following:

- The Network and its delegations do not seek nor accept support from companies involved in the direct manufacture or sale of arms, or having a majority stake in such companies.
- The Network and its delegations do not seek nor accept support from companies involved in violations of international humanitarian law, based on the information available to Rights and Democracy through its worldwide presence in countries that are currently in the process of democratic development.
- The Network and its delegations do not seek nor accept support from companies whose products are widely recognised as deleterious to health, or against which there are credible allegations of non-observance of widely recognised rules and regulations such as those elaborated under the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The Network team encourages partnerships with companies that are committed to respecting and promoting the international rights and standards relative to human rights. The Network team also favours partnerships with firms that adhere to basic principles of sustainable development and ecological management of environmental resources.

¹ The content of these guidelines is inspired by ethical principles guiding ICRC's partnerships with the private sector, available online at: <http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwplList500/CEAEA53BA71D5470C1256BC1002E7866>.