



**NGO CODES OF CONDUCT:
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE FOR THE RESEARCH
CONTRIBUTION OF NGOs.**

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Brussels, 27-28 March 2006

NGO CODES OF CONDUCT: STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION OF NGOs

1. THE EMERGENCE OF CODES: WHY?
2. SOURCES FOR CODES.
3. THE DIFFERENT ROLES OF NGO'S IN RESEARCH.
4. GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE RESEARCH ROLE.
5. THE RELEVANCE OF CODES.
6. CONCLUSIONS.

CHART 1. THE EMERGENCE OF CODES: WHY?

1. REPUTATION AND REPUTATIONAL RISK.
2. BUTTRESSING THE CLAIM TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL RULE-MAKING AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES.
3. THE ADVENT OF PROFESSIONAL NGO MANAGERS.

CHART 2. SOURCES FOR CODES

1. FROM CORPORATE GOVERNANCE NORMS.

CLARIFYING THE PRINCIPAL AGENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANAGERS & STAKEHOLDERS.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF GATEKEEPERS.

THE SHIFT TO PRINCIPLES BASED RESPONSIBLE REPORTING.

2. FROM REGULATORY BEST PRACTICE.

THE SHIFT TO EVIDENCE BASED STANDARDS .

THE ADOPTION OF NORMS OF DUE PROCESS.

CHART 3. THE DIFFERENT ROLES OF NGO's IN RESEARCH

1. AS FUNDERS / MOBILISERS OF FUNDING.
2. AS RESEARCHERS / GATHERERS OF EVIDENCE.
3. AS USERS /DISSEMINATORS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS.

CHART 4. GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE RESEARCH ROLE

1. AS FUNDERS / MOBILISERS OF FUNDS.

TAINTING:

METHODOLOGICAL: CAMPAIGNING LED v INQUIRY LED.

: INTERESTS AND OUTCOMES. (bingos).

2. AS RESEARCHERS / GATHERERS OF EVIDENCE.

BIAS:

IN DATA SELECTION.

IN RESEARCH DESIGN.

IN DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM EVIDENCE.

3. AS USERS/DISSEMINATORS.

MISREPRESENTATION.

SELECTION BIAS.

CHART 5. THE RELEVANCE OF CODES

1. VERSUS 'TAINTED' FUNDING.

CLARITY ABOUT PRINCIPALS.
CLARITY ABOUT SOURCES OF FUNDING.
DISCLOSURE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.

2. VERSUS 'BIASED' RESEARCH.

EVIDENCE BASED PROCEDURES.
GATEKEEPERS.
RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCILS.
PEER REVIEW.

3. VERSUS SELECTION BIAS / MISREPRESENTATION.

DUE PROCESS. (EG. OPPORTUNITIES FOR REBUTTAL)

CHART 6. CONCLUSIONS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF CODES TO STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

MORE TRANSPARENCY IN VOLUNTARY SECTOR/ NGO FUNDING OF RESEARCH.

MORE RELIABLE VOLUNTARY SECTOR/ NGO PARTNERS IN RESEARCH.

MORE CREDIBLE NGO USERS / DISSEMINATORS.