

DIALOGUE EARTH EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Dialogue Earth:

- Adheres to the highest professional standards,
- Has the ability to maintain the independence and creative freedom with regard to creating and disseminating content, and
- Is not faced with undue influence from either internal or external sources.

Dialogue Earth's reputation depends on editorial independence, integrity and public trust. We operate in the public interest: our journalism seeks to inform audiences, hold power to account, and report accurately and fairly on climate and environmental change and its consequences.

Editorial independence means our editorial decisions are not influenced by outside interests – political, commercial, personal, or funder-related. Editorial integrity means we apply rigorous standards, verify our work, correct significant errors transparently, and maintain processes that uphold public trust.

This policy applies to all Dialogue Earth content and output, including articles, translations, newsletters, social media, audio/video, republications, syndication and co-publications.

Where Dialogue Earth convenes events, this policy applies to editorial decisions relating to agenda-setting, speaker selection, moderation, outputs and public communications.

Editorial control

Dialogue Earth retains final authority over story selection, framing, format, editing, publication timing, and distribution.

We may liaise with external partners about logistics, deadlines, embargoes, event timings, translation schedules or distribution plans where appropriate. Such discussions must not compromise Dialogue Earth's final editorial judgement or give partners control over story selection, framing, editing decisions or publication timing.

No external partner, funder, donor, sponsor or commercial partner has a right to approve editorial content prior to publication. Where external review is necessary for accuracy, legal risk, technical checking, right of reply, translation, or co-publication logistics, it must be limited to the relevant purpose and must not extend to editorial judgement or approval.

Conflicts of interest, gifts, and hospitality

This section should be read alongside Dialogue Earth's Code of Conduct.

Staff and freelance contributors must disclose any personal, financial, or professional conflict of interest related to a story or project before accepting an assignment, including situations where they are unsure whether a conflict exists.

Conflicts must be disclosed to the relevant line manager/editor, who will decide appropriate action. This may include recusal, additional editorial oversight, public disclosure within the content, or reassignment.

Staff and contributors must not accept gifts, hospitality, travel, speaking fees, or other benefits that could reasonably be seen to influence (or appear to influence) editorial judgement. Offers of more than nominal value, or any offer that could reasonably be perceived to influence editorial judgement, must be declared promptly and handled according to internal guidance.

Non-disclosure

Failure by staff to disclose a relevant conflict may result in disciplinary action. Related content will be reviewed and, where appropriate, corrected, updated, or retracted with transparent editor's notes.

Failure by freelancers to disclose a relevant conflict may result in termination of the relationship. Where necessary and appropriate, Dialogue Earth may take further steps to protect affected content, partners, audiences or communities.

Funding transparency and editorial independence

Dialogue Earth is committed to transparency about its funding and financial relationships. We will publish appropriate information about our principal sources of funding, including the nature of support and, where relevant, the projects or activities supported.

Acceptance of funding does not give any funder, donor, sponsor, commercial partner or other financial supporter the right to influence Dialogue Earth's editorial decisions.

Where a funder or commercial partner has a direct interest in a topic we cover,

we will take particular care to ensure fair, accurate, independent coverage, and will add disclosures within content when relevant.

Decisions about whether donations, sponsorships, commercial partnerships or other forms of financial support are ethically acceptable are governed by Dialogue Earth's Ethical Funding Policy.

Separation of editorial and business functions

Editorial staff are responsible for editorial decisions. Staff involved in fundraising, partnerships or commercial activity must not attempt to influence editorial outcomes.

Dialogue Earth does not accept funding for, create or publish, advertorial or branded editorial content – content which is externally created or influenced to promote a brand or organisation. Any sponsorship, commercial partnership or other financial relationship must be assessed under Dialogue Earth's Ethical Funding Policy and must not grant any right to influence editorial decisions.

Significant editorial or content collaborations with external partners should be governed by written agreements or written terms that protect Dialogue Earth's final editorial control.

Accuracy, verification, and corrections

Dialogue Earth is committed to accuracy, fairness, appropriate context and rigorous verification. Editors and contributors must take reasonable steps to verify information before publication, seek comment from subjects of significant criticism where appropriate and feasible, and clearly distinguish verified facts from analysis and opinion.

Dialogue Earth must not knowingly mislead its audiences. Content must not distort known facts, present invented material as fact, or otherwise undermine trust in our journalism.

If we publish a significant error, we will correct it promptly and transparently. Corrections, clarifications, updates or retractions will be clearly labelled and placed so readers can understand what changed and why.

Correction requests and formal complaints about published editorial content under Dialogue Earth's editorial control will be handled in line with our Complaints Policy, which explains when a concern is treated as a formal complaint and sets out the relevant procedures, timelines and review routes.

Accountability, feedback and complaints

Dialogue Earth is accountable to its audiences and to the communities it covers. We welcome feedback, questions and concerns about our coverage.

Formal complaints about published editorial content under Dialogue Earth's editorial control will be handled in line with our Complaints Policy. That policy sets out the scope of complaints, exclusions, procedures, timelines, review routes, confidentiality arrangements and record-keeping.

Where appropriate, we may publish corrections, clarifications, editor's notes or follow-up pieces to address significant concerns raised by audiences. We will periodically review patterns in feedback and complaints to identify areas where our editorial practices can be improved.

Enforcement and reporting concerns

All staff, contractors, and freelancers working with Dialogue Earth must comply with this policy.

Alleged breaches will be investigated promptly and fairly, with an opportunity for those involved to respond. Consequences may include training, reassignment, formal warnings, termination of contracts/employment, and public corrections or retractions where appropriate.

Dialogue Earth will maintain appropriate routes for reporting attempted undue influence or other concerns related to editorial independence through line managers and senior editorial leadership.

Review and publication of this policy

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years, or sooner if legislation, best practice or organisational needs change.

The current policy will be publicly available on our website, and significant changes will be communicated internally.

Last Review:	Aug 2026
Next Review:	Aug 2027