

ETHICAL FUNDING POLICY FOR DIALOGUE EARTH

Introduction

Dialogue Earth is dedicated to addressing the impact of climate change through the provision of high-quality, fact-based public service journalism, briefings, and convenings.

To maintain the integrity of our mission and values, this policy sets out principles and criteria for accepting donations, sponsorships, and other forms of financial support.

Guiding Principles

1. *Alignment with Mission and Values:*

- Dialogue Earth addresses the scale and impact of manmade climate change, with particular reference to its effect on the lives and livelihoods of people living in the Global South. We aim to align our funding with this mission and with our values: inclusion, collaboration, respect, diversity, quality, and integrity.

2. *Due Diligence:*

- Dialogue Earth conducts due diligence on potential donors, partners, and other financial supporters (henceforth “donors”) to help prevent conflicts with our mission and values. This may include reviewing environmental and human rights policies, practices and more.

3. *Independence:*

- Dialogue Earth ensures that its editorial independence and integrity is not compromised by financial contributions. Donors will not have undue influence over our editorial content, priorities, or decision-making processes.

Grants and Donations

Dialogue Earth engages in fundraising activities to generate income. These activities align with the guiding principles set out above. Dialogue Earth does not engage the services of third party professional fundraisers. The ethical guidelines donors and grantees must meet are outlined below.

Criteria for Acceptance

Dialogue Earth can accept financial support under the following conditions:

- *Environmental Responsibility*: The donor must have a demonstrated commitment to implement environmentally responsible policies and practices.
- *Social Justice*: The donor must have a demonstrated commitment to policies and practices that oppose discrimination and protect human rights, labour rights, and freedom of association.
- *Legal and Ethical Standards*: The donor must work against corruption and bribery and comply with relevant laws and ethical standards, including on corporate governance.
- *Freedom from undue interference*: The donor must not attempt to exercise undue interference over Dialogue Earth's editorial authority.

Criteria for Refusal

Dialogue Earth will refuse financial support if:

- The source of funds is in direct conflict with our mission, values, or goals.
- The acceptance of funds could cause harm, including actual or perceived reputational harms, or otherwise undermine the trust of our stakeholders.
- The donor seeks undue influence with regard to editorial or strategic independence.

Commercial Income Streams

In addition to donations and sponsorships, Dialogue Earth may engage in commercial activities to generate income. These activities must adhere to the same ethical standards outlined above. Specifically:

- *Commercial Clients*: Businesses should have a demonstrated commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

- *Corporate Sponsorships:* Given the high profile and reputational risks associated with corporate sponsorships, any such sponsor must meet our highest sustainability and ethical standards and we will apply due diligence to effect.
- *Undue Influence:* 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.

High-Risk Sectors

Certain sectors pose higher risks and require specific guidelines:

- *Oil, Coal & Gas:* We will not accept headline sponsorships from oil, coal and gas companies, nor from companies involved in the production of disinformation on behalf of those companies. We reserve the right to engage energy companies on specific initiatives that demonstrate a clear and ambitious commitment to transitioning to renewable energy.
- *Arms and tobacco:* We will not engage with tobacco companies or weapons manufacturers.

Implementation and Review

All staff and trustees will be made aware of this policy to ensure consistent application and adherence.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Responsibility for maintaining and reviewing this policy sits with the Chief Executive Officer.

Conclusion

Dialogue Earth is committed to ethical fundraising practices that support our mission to promote sustainable development. By adhering to this policy, we ensure that our work remains impactful, independent, and true to our core values.

Last Review:	Aug 2026
Next Review:	Aug 2027