



Non-Profit Evaluation & Resource Center, Inc.
Promoting Standards of ExcellenceSM

*International Declaration of Fundamental
Principles of Standards of Excellence for
Non-Profit Organizations*

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International Declaration of Fundamental Principles of Standards of Excellence for Non-Profit Organizations

6th Forum of Institutional Excellence of the Third SectorSM

Organized by
Non-Profit Evaluation & Resource Center, Inc. (NPERCI)

Recognizing the growing global interest in the contributions of the Third Sector to the economy and advancement of social progress; the support it has received from the philanthropic sector, the government and the private sector; and the impact that it has generated,

Referring to international documents, global alliances, state, federal and international laws, texts, research and congresses about the role, impact, responsibilities, obligations and code of conduct of non-profit organizations,

Conscious that non-profit organizations face particular circumstances and challenges, and are working with disadvantaged communities, with specific problems or needs,

Considering that the common good should have priority over individual good in the conduct of business of non-profit organizations,

Recognizing that certain values are essential for the ethical conduct of non-profit organizations,

Recognizing that this is the moment to renew the Third Sector, evidencing its importance for society, and framing its performance on shared values,

Reaffirming the codes established in the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Non-Governmental Organizations, adopted on March 13, 2004, in Montevideo, Uruguay, during the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference, organized by the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO),

Reaffirming the values specified in the Toronto Declaration of NGO Core Values, adopted on November 11, 2007, during the World Congress of Non-Governmental Organizations in Toronto, Canada, organized by WANGO, and

Emphasizing the values of integrity, truthfulness, transparency, responsibility and accountability,

We proclaim the following Fundamental Principles of Standards of Excellence for Non-Profit Organizations and **adopt** this Declaration, today, September 18, 2009, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Integrity

Every non-profit organization must operate for achieving its mission, not for generating revenues. It must operate justly and honestly, being firm on its resolutions. Also, the organization must be honest with its donors, sponsors, employees, volunteers, collaborators, government and the general community. The information addressed to different audiences must be truthful and accurate. Additionally, the organization must fight the conflicts of interest, corruption and any other illegal or immoral activity at the institutional and individual levels.

Responsibility

Every non-profit organization working towards serving the community, advancing the common good and enhancing the quality of life, has to take possession of its mission, mobilize the resources and implement strategies to achieve its objectives. Likewise, it has to be accountable to its donors, sponsors, employees, volunteers, collaborators, government and the general community, for its operations, decisions, performance and outcomes. The organization and its governing board must demonstrate that they comply with their legal and moral obligations, and that internal controls are established to continually improve the operations and outcomes of their institutional management. Additionally, they must demonstrate that, through their work, they generate and implement solutions that enhance the situation and quality of life of the community.

Transparency

Every non-profit organization must be transparent in its operations and dealings with other entities in the Third Sector, the public sector, the private sector, foundations, donors and citizens in general. Without violating laws and codes of confidentiality, privacy and human rights, the organization must provide basic information about its operations including, but not limited to, information about the governing board, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, strategic plan, finances, processes, activities and services. The organization must evidence its effort to genuinely communicate to the public its work, the origin and utilization of its funds and other resources, and the impact it has attained in the community.

The **International Declaration of Fundamental Principles of Standards of Excellence for Non-Profit Organizations** was proclaimed and unanimously approved during the **6th Forum of Institutional Excellence of the Third SectorSM**, on September 18, 2009, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



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