



# CODE OF ETHICS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS\*

We stand by the following fundamental principles of development:

1. The primary goal of development is the empowerment of the people and the satisfaction of their basic needs.
2. Development should be integrated and holistic, taking into account both the material and non-material needs of individuals and communities.
3. The people are the primary force of development. Development should lead to full participation of women, youth and all other vulnerable sectors in all facets of national life.
4. The people are the primary beneficiary of development. Government policies and the programs should be geared toward the enhancement of their potentials and well-being and ensure the equitable distribution of wealth, power and access to resources.
5. Development should ensure a harmonious relationship between people and their natural environment. Development should be an exercise of responsible utilization and stewardship of natural wealth and resources benefiting present and future generations.
6. Development requires recognition and enhancement of religious and cultural diversity in Philippine society.
7. In the pursuit of the desired goal of development, the cooperative spirit should prevail.
8. Development involves cooperation among people of different nations on the basis of peaceful coexistence and respect for each nation's sovereignty and national integrity.

## ***In Relation to our Staff, we shall:***

1. Design and ensure adequate resources for human resource for development programs that emphasize both skills and development values.
2. Address issues faced by development practitioners as they grow in their professions.
3. Adopt gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory practices in dealing with our staff.
4. Provide just compensation and benefits to promote staff welfare.
5. Encourage a lifestyle consistent with our solidarity with the disadvantaged communities we serve.

***In relation to the Communities we work with, we shall:***

1. Protect and enhance the integrity and autonomy of POs.
2. Respect and enhance culture, structures and initiatives.
3. Provide access to all forms of relevant information and appropriate technology.
4. Promote democratic, participative and shared leadership in the community.
5. Facilitate linkages and cooperation among POs and communities and among POs with Local Government Units (LGUs), funding agencies and other support mechanisms.
6. Translate experiences in program implementation into policy recommendation.
7. Support empowering economic structures founded on members' democratic control and equitable distribution of benefit.

***In relation to our Partner Funding Agencies, we shall:***

1. Nurture transparency, mutual respect and mutual accountability with our partners.
2. Strive toward a two-way sharing and appreciation of development frameworks, areas of priority and procedures.
3. Agree upon the parameters of success through evaluations that are participatory in nature.
4. Comply with all mutually agreed upon grant, loan or partnership provisions.
5. Strive to diversify partners so that our organizations do not become mere extensions of particular funding agencies.

***In Relation to the Government, we shall:***

1. Strive to create an atmosphere of openness, mutual respect and critical engagement based on the perspective that people's organizations and non-governmental organizations perform an important role in a democratic society.
2. Foster genuine dialogue especially in areas and programs where both GOs and NGOs are involved.
3. Promote common or complementing objectives and methodologies for program projects, while maintaining the autonomy of NGOs.
4. Act as fiscalizers of the government especially in relation to the implementation of policies and programs and the performance of government officials in which we are involved.
5. Strive to deal with government in more creative and strategic ways:
  - \* Direct our advocacy efforts toward obtaining policies that will promote strategic reforms.

- \* Find ways to direct public resources to where they are more appropriately suited.
- \* Formulate and propose concrete alternatives to policies and programs that we find inimical to the interests of the poor and marginalized.
- \* Offer our services in performing some of government's functions especially if it will be of benefit to our partner communities and if it will increase our leverage for negotiation.

***In relation to the Business Sector, we shall:***

1. Strive to create an atmosphere of openness, mutual respect based on the principle that development is a trisectoral concern and engagement of government, civil society and business.
2. Endeavor to widen the common ground between social development and corporate philanthropy through dialogues, joint programs for development, sharing of resources, and advocacies for the common good.
3. Contribute to the growth of good corporate citizenship in the country by recognizing models of good business practices.
4. Promote corporate social awareness and social responsibilities of business sector and translate this into meaningful services and programs that are both beneficial to the beneficiaries and the business sector.

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NOTE: The revised Covenant on Philippine Development where this Code of Ethics is included has been signed by a consortium of twelve networks: Association of Foundations (AF), Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD), Cordillera Network of Development NGOs and POs (CORDNET), National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), National Council for Social Development (NCSD), National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (NASSA-JP), Partnership for Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Philippine Partnership for Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA), Visayas Network of Development NGOs (VISNET), Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE), and CODE-NGO-NCR in November 2001.

