



Ethical Code of collaboration with the private sector

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission of Anesvad

Partnership framework with the private sector

- Principles
- Criteria

Mission of the organization

Anesvad is a Non-Governmental Development Organization (NGO) independent and non-denominational, aimed at contributing to the protection and promotion of health as a fundamental Human Right: (a) understanding by health not only the absence of disease or illness but the complete physical, mental and social well-being; (b) by participating in political, social, economic and cultural aspects; and (c) promoting partnerships with actors in the South, leaders in their own development.

Anesvad is working on three continents (Africa, Asia and Latin America) in close collaboration with NGOs and local institutions in each country, to promote its development, respecting their culture and priorities. Additionally, its headquarters in Bilbao are developing a social action project.

Partnership framework with the private sector

In Anesvad, we understand that for the realization of the Right to health, considering its essential elements (quality, availability, acceptability, accessibility: physical, economic, information and non-discrimination) different actors can and should be involved. Additionally, we understand that the health -understood as the complete physical, mental and social well-being- depends on different factors¹(biological or endogenous; environment; lifestyle habits and health system). In this regard, the establishment of partnerships with private sector actors, whose activity is relevant or can positively influence on some of the health determinants mentioned above, is understood as a strategy to contribute to the achievement of the mission of the organization.

From this perspective this document seeks to establish the principles, criteria and lines of action to guide the establishment of agreements between Anesvad and the private sector.

Principles

The approach of initiatives and partnerships between Anesvad and the private sector should be framed in the following minimum principles, as well as respecting the principles defined in the reference documents², from which the following are derived:

- Companies must **respect human rights**. That means that they must refrain from violating the human rights of third parties and deal with the negative consequences on human rights in which they might have some involvement.

¹ The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a universal classification that establishes a universal framework and standardized language to describe the health and the dimensions related to it. It has four components: body functions and structures, activity and participation, environmental and personal factors.

² Guiding Principles of the United Nations on Business and Human Rights and the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact; International Labour Organization Declaration: Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy of the International Labor Organization; the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the OECD Principles of Good Governance, Medellin Declaration on Business and Human Rights, II Forum on Business and Human Rights of UN (2013).



Ethical Code of collaboration with the private sector

- Companies must respect equality between men and women as established in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1979, which proclaims the principle of equality of women and men, as well as the non-discrimination due to geographical nature, race, religion or ideology.
- Companies must respect the human rights of women and act in harmony with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted in Cairo (1994).
- In addition, companies in the Basque Country or operating within it (companies from the rest of the country and international ones) must respect the requirements of the Law 4/2005, February 18, for the Equality of Women and Men of the Basque Country, which stipulates the express prohibition of any form of discrimination based on sex.
- Companies must fulfil the legal obligations that concern them with regard to corporate governance, social responsibility and transparency, information and accountability.
- Companies must fulfil the legal obligations that concern them with regard to groups of disabled people.
- Companies in their work must demonstrate **sensitivity to the communities in which they operate** and their progress and social cohesion.
- The **social benefit should lead the alliance** and be prioritized over any interest of any of the parties. The value of business input should be weight versus the use (advertising and/or economic) which the alliance is put to.
- Companies must respect **the rights of all workers, and fulfil the current labour laws and with the eight ILO (International Labour Organization) conventions relating to labour rights**: this means that they must support the freedom of association to trade unions and acknowledge the right of collective bargaining agreements; the elimination of all forms of forced labour or compulsory labour; the eradication of child labour; the abolition of discriminatory practices in employment and occupation.
- Companies must carry out their work with a preventive approach oriented to **environmental protection** challenges; undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies. Companies must fulfil existing environmental legislation in the country of origin and in those countries where they conduct business, upholding the highest standards in any place where they operate.
- Companies must fulfil with existing regulations in areas of Public Health, occupational health and safety and risks against the population.
- Companies must refrain from **being accomplices, promoting or being involved in corruption** in all forms, including extortion and bribery.

Exclusionary Criteria

In line with the aim of Anesvad regarding partnerships with the private sector, as well as with the minimum principles listed above, collaboration with companies performing any of the following actions is completely ruled out:

- **Violation** any of the **minimum principles** mentioned above.
- **Engagement in the processing and/or trade of war materiel and their specific components.**



Ethical Code of collaboration with the private sector

- Engagement in the confection and commercialization of **clearly unhealthy products** (tobacco; spirits; harmful nutritional diets, high in saturated fats, sugars, etc.) either by the nature of the products manufactured or either by the production processes.
- **Lack of objective, reliable and independent information** on medicines for consumers and/or promotion of inappropriate and unethical usage of drugs.
- Engagement in the **genetic modification of foodstuffs, which can disturb the life cycle of the nature.**
- Engagement in the **pornography and prostitution industry.**
- Engagement in the manufacture of **dangerous or controversial chemicals.**
- Engagement in the promotion **of games** (except in cases where it is a mean for promoting a socially relevant and valid purpose).
- Engagement in the production **of nuclear energy with high environmental and health risks of all living beings.**
- Engagement in the **illegal mining sector, illegal logging and the destruction of ecosystems.**
- Identified with products, services or manufacturing processes, management and/or marketing that are against the values of our organization.