

Global network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet)
Established with support of UNIDO and UNEP

By-Law: CODE OF CONDUCT

1. INTRODUCTION

This By-Law is endorsed as part of the Charter of the *RECPnet* at its effective date, and, in accordance with Article 3.1.6 of the Charter, it provides the Code of Conduct to which all Members of the *RECPnet* are required to pledge and comply with.

The objective of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that the Members of the *RECPnet* meet the highest levels of professional conduct and ethical standards related to the promotion and implementation of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) and act in the spirit of international cooperation and with commitment to foster sustainable industrial development and Sustainable Consumption and Production globally.

This Code sets out the professional standards required by the *RECPnet* as a condition for membership. It applies to Members of all grades, including Regular, Associate and Observer Members.

The Code of Conduct is guided by two main principles:

- Adherence to the Supplier Code of Conduct of the United Nations; and
- Professionalism and Commitment to the *RECPnet* principles.

2. ADHERENCE TO THE UN SUPPLIER CODE OF CONDUCT

All Members of the *RECPnet* pledge to follow the UN Supplier Code of Conduct, including all the points regarding labour, human rights, environment, and bribery and corruption. Members are expected to be fully familiar with the UN Supplier Code of Conduct available at (http://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf).

The following elements of the UN Supplier Code of Conduct are of particular relevance to the promotion and implementation of RECP:

1. Uphold labor rights as enshrined in the laws of the Member's home country and, in accordance with UN and ILO conventions, in particular regarding freedom of association and collective bargaining, forced labor, child labor, discrimination, working hours and compensation;
2. Respect internationally proclaimed human rights;

3. Follow all relevant legislation, regulations and directives in the Member's home country to ensure the safety of employees, clients, and stakeholders while visiting industrial establishments. All people shall be equipped with, and encouraged to use, appropriate personal protective equipment and take necessary precautions;
4. Commit to environmentally friendly work practices, for example through measures to ensure paper saving and recycling, increased use of public transport, carbon offsets, introduction of energy efficiency measures; and
5. Adhere to the highest standard of moral and ethical conduct, respect local laws and not engage in any form of corrupt practices.

3. PROFESSIONALISATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE *RECPnet*

All Members of the *RECPnet* pledge to act in the interest of promoting the implementation of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies in developing and/or transition country(ies), to support the attainment of international sustainable development goals and commitments, as reflected in for example the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Further, Members pledge their commitment to the *RECPnet* and to the observance of its Charter and By-Laws including payment of membership fees on a regular and timely basis.

Specifically, Members undertake to act professionally in regard to knowledge, advocacy and independence, and personal conduct.

3.1 Knowledge

A Member of the *RECPnet* shall ensure that its officers:

1. Stay informed of the Charter, Code of Conduct and other By-Laws of the *RECPnet* at all times;
2. Strive to keep abreast of developments in the Member's specific areas of expertise and continuously upgrade their professional skills, including amongst others, by participating in the programme of *RECPnet* for development of technical and institutional excellence and leadership; obtaining further training in specific RECP topics and emerging themes; and support the Member in obtaining and maintaining certification on leading international management standards (like ISO9001, ISO14001, etc.);
3. Disseminate without hesitation any information or other resources obtained through the *RECPnet* amongst the stakeholders and constituencies of the Member, including businesses, governments and other service providers;
4. Provide regular information and share knowledge and experiences on specific topics that are being addressed by the *RECPnet*; and

5. Ensure that the impact of the implementation of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies on enterprises and other organizations individually and collectively is monitored, measured and shared with the *RECPnet*.

3.2 Advocacy and Independence

A Member of the *RECPnet* shall ensure that its officers:

1. Promote RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices, and technologies among the stakeholders and constituencies of the Member, including businesses, governments and other service providers;
2. Provide only factual and relevant information and will neither be misleading nor unfair to others when promoting their work, the Member, or herself/himself;
3. Refrain from using or permitting to use the name, acronym, emblem or official seal of the *RECPnet* inappropriately or in any manner other than those set out in policy guidelines issued regularly by the Executive Committee or with the specific written permission of the Executive Committee; and
4. Refrain from using the name, emblem or abbreviation of the name of a Patron Agency of the *RECPnet* in connection with the Member's activities, unless the Member has been specifically authorized to do so, in writing, by or on behalf of the executive head of the Patron Agency concerned.

3.3 Personal Conduct

A Member of the *RECPnet* shall ensure that its officers:

1. Operate the business and practice of the Member in such a manner to reflect generally accepted professional conduct;
2. Maintain in good standing, reputation and character at all times; and
3. Refrain from giving the *RECPnet* false, inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information at any time.

4. BREACHES OF THIS BY-LAW

Any breach of this Code of Conduct by a Member, brought to the attention of the *RECPnet* will be considered by the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet* as a reason to terminate the membership. Members shall also ensure that they notify the Executive Committee of any significant violation of this Code by another Member of the *RECPnet*.