



Code of Conduct

YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board

Last updated on 27 February 2025

Introduction

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. UNODC serves as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, a policy-making body established by UNCAC, and its subsidiary bodies, and supports countries in their efforts to prevent and counter corruption.

The objective of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) Initiative is to promote a culture of integrity around the world, by employing a whole-of-society approach to prevent and counter corruption with a focus on empowering the next generation to become ethical leaders of tomorrow.

By establishing the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board in 2022, the GRACE Initiative has positioned itself as a leader in UNODC's youth work, ensuring meaningful inclusion of young people in its work and advocating for the key role which young people play in contributing to anti-corruption efforts around the world. In line with the Terms of Reference, the primary purpose of the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board is to provide strategic advice to UNODC on engaging young people in meaningful and effective anti-corruption initiatives and to support making their peers, young people in their networks and communities aware of the impact of corruption on society.

The YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board Code of Conduct was developed to serve as a guiding framework that articulates the principles, values, behavioural standards and responsibilities for the Board and its members. The primary purpose of this Code of Conduct is to define behavioural expectations and responsibilities, ensuring that all Board members understand the standards to which they are held and are equipped to adhere to these principles in their work.

The Code of Conduct also aims to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity and accountability among Board members, ensuring that their actions and decisions are relevant, respectful and inclusive, and reflect the core values of transparency, honesty, and ethical behaviour in alignment with global anti-corruption efforts.



Principles

1. Commitment to the UN Values and Respect for Diversity:

- a. Each Board member must uphold the four core values of the United Nations in their communities and at the national, regional, and global contexts: inclusion, integrity, humility and humanity.¹
- b. Each Board member must ensure that all human rights² are respected in the activities in which they are engaged.
- c. Discrimination, harassment, or any other forms of abuse based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability or any other status protected under international human rights law is prohibited and is not tolerated.
- d. Each Board member must demonstrate respect for the dignity, cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and diversity of all individuals.
- e. Each Board member should encourage, promote, and strive to create and maintain an inclusive and supportive environment where all individuals feel valued and heard.
- f. Each Board member should uphold political neutrality in public engagements, ensuring that their statements do not imply endorsement or opposition to any government, political party, or state-affiliated entity. This commitment ensures that all discussions and decisions reflect the integrity and impartiality of the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board, in alignment with the core values of the UN.

2. Ensure Professionalism, Accountability and Transparency

- a. Each Board member should demonstrate integrity, honesty, and accountability in all their activities and interactions.
- b. Each Board member should actively promote transparency in all activities and decision-making processes.
- c. Each Board member should respect the personal and professional boundaries of other individuals and help maintain these at all times.
- d. Each Board member must not misrepresent their position in the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board which remains an independent body, and shall not represent themselves as the personnel of the United Nations or UNODC.

3. Adhere to and Respect for Confidentiality and Privacy

- a. Each Board member should not share any sensitive information or personal data obtained based on their status of the Board member, including but not limited to those on the UNODC beneficiaries, personnels, or partners, without prior proper authorization.

4. Avoid Conflicts of Interest

- a. Each Board member must act in the best interest of the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board, ensuring that personal, financial, or external interests do not interfere with their duties and responsibilities as a Board member.
- b. Each Board member should inform a member of the GRACE Initiative team of any potential conflicts of interest as soon as they become aware of them.
- c. Each Board member should not use their position of the Board member for personal benefit or engage in activities that compromise the values or objectives of the Board .

¹ More information about the four core UN values can be found [here](#).

² The Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be accessed [here](#). Further information on UNODC and human is available [here](#).



- d. Each Board member should maintain impartiality in decision-making, avoiding undue influence from personal affiliations or external organizations.

5. Engage in Advocacy and Communication

- a. Each Board member should engage in advocacy efforts that raise awareness about corruption in their communities and promote the full implementation of UNCAC.
- b. Each Board member should always communicate sensitively and effectively, ensuring respect for human rights and inclusivity in line with Principle One above.
- c. When engaging in advocacy or speaking publicly, each Board member must distinguish between personal opinions and official YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board positions. Any statements made on behalf of the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board must be aligned with the Board's agreed priorities, views and positions, and where appropriate, prior consultation with a member of the GRACE Initiative is required.

6. Ensure Cultural Sensitivities

- a. Each Board member should, in performing their responsibilities, strive to understand and respect local traditions, laws, cultural norms and customs, ensuring that their actions foster goodwill and cooperation.

7. Commit to Continuous Learning and Foster a Healthy Environment

- a. Each Board member should participate and encourage other members to engage in training sessions and continuous learning opportunities related to anti-corruption, integrity, and youth empowerment.
- b. Each Board member should mutually support each other in their performance of responsibilities and help to maintain a healthy environment in the Board.

8. Empower Others and Innovate

- a. Each Board member should approach anti-corruption initiatives with innovative thinking and propose creative ideas to engage youth and other relevant stakeholders more effectively.
- b. Each Board member should share best practices and lessons learned in youth engagement and anti-corruption efforts with each other and engage in capacity-building initiatives, where possible.



Implementation of the Principles

1. Interpretation and Revision

In case of any doubt or lack of understanding of the abovementioned Principles, each Board member should consult the GRACE Initiative team on the interpretation of this Code.

This Code may be revised by the GRACE Initiative team, in consultation with the Board, with each revision being approved by consensus by all Board members.

2. Reporting and Enforcement

Each Board member should report any concerns, misconduct, or suspected violations of this Code to a member of the GRACE Initiative team including through the GRACE Initiative team e-mail (unodc-grace@un.org).

All reports will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and the identity of Board members will not be shared with anyone outside of the GRACE Initiative team and appropriate UNODC management.

Any suspected violation of this Code will be considered individually and on a case-by-case basis by the GRACE Initiative team and may result in a warning or removal from the Board.

I, _____ hereby confirm that I have understood the abovementioned Principles and that I will uphold these Principles at all times while performing my professional duties as a YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board member.

Signature: _____

Date: _____