



**EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society  
Forum**

**Azerbaijani National Platform**

**Code of Ethics**

**Baku 2021**

## **1. General Provisions**

- 1.1. The Code of Ethics of the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Azerbaijani National Platform (hereinafter referred to as the National Platform) regulates the rules and principles of ethical conduct of members of the National Platform, as well as their attitudes towards rules and principles.
- 1.2. The Code of Ethics complies with the requirements of the Charter and the Membership Policy of the National Platform, the Charter of the European Union (EU) Eastern Partnership (EaP) Civil Society Forum (CSF) and its Code of Ethics.
- 1.3. The Code of Ethics is adopted by the General Meeting of the National Platform and is a guiding document for the National Platform, its members, governing bodies and other institutional units on the rules and principles of ethical conduct, as well as compliance with those rules and principles.
- 1.4. Additions and amendments to the Code of Ethics can be made only by the General Meeting in accordance with the Charter of the National Platform.
- 1.5. Each member of the Platform can submit a proposal on the Code of Ethics to the governing bodies of the National Platform, and the General Meeting.
- 1.6. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Code of Ethics and the Charter, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

## **2. Fundamental Values**

The National Platform shares and declares its commitment to the following 10 fundamental values enshrined in the Code of Ethics of the Eap CSF:

1. Promotion of human rights and social justice;
2. Respect for human dignity;
3. Transparency and accountability;
4. Good governance;
5. Promoting diversity and inclusion;
6. Promotion of gender equality and justice;
7. Promotion of civic participation;
8. Promotion of environmental protection;
9. Opposition to corruption and other illegal acts;
10. Commitment to make positive sustained changes.

## **3. Principles of Ethical Conduct**

- 3.1. **Principle of Legality** - The National Platform and its members must strictly comply with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, laws and other normative-legal and normative acts, the Charter of the National Platform, the Code of Ethics and other internal documents.

3.2. **Principle of Public Trust** - Members of the National Platform must convince all stakeholders that they strictly adhere to the standards of transparency and accountability. They must provide accurate information to partners, collaborating organizations and stakeholders of the National Platform.

3.3. **Loyalty** - A member of the National Platform must demonstrate loyalty to it. In the absence of sufficient grounds, critical public opinion, speeches and public evaluation of the National Platform and its governing bodies should be avoided. Members of the National Platform must not allow actions that could damage the activities and reputation of the National Platform.

3.4. **Independence of the Members of the National Platform**- Membership and activity in the National Platform are based on the will of each organization to freely express its position and make decisions in this regard. Membership, participation, and prejudice in organizations that hinder the implementation of the goals and objectives of the National Platform, its independent activity are considered inadmissible. Members of the National Platform should avoid situations and relationships that could make influence by and create any form of dependence on the public and private sectors, local self-government bodies, religious organizations, institutions and sects. Members of the National Platform cannot receive instructions from the public and private sectors, local self-government bodies, religious organizations, institutions and sects.

3.5. **Impartiality** - Members of the National Platform must demonstrate impartiality in the implementation of the decisions of the National Platform or in any activities related to the National Platform.

3.6. **Confidentiality** - A member of the National Platform shall not disclose confidential information about the National Platform and its activities, as well as information that can violate human and civil rights and freedoms, and shall not use the information obtained in connection with the National Platform and its activities for personal and other purposes.

3.7. **Prevention of Conflict of Interest** - A member of the National Platform must not allow a conflict of interest and must not use the opportunities provided by membership in the National Platform for personal gain. In the event of a conflict between her/his obligations and responsibilities as a member of the National Platform and her/his personal interests, s/he shall be obliged to provide information on the nature of those interests.

Members of the governing bodies of the National Platform should not be involved in decision-making on issues directly affecting their interests.

Members of the governing bodies of the National Platform should refrain from using their official powers for the purpose of gaining any concessions, privileges and advantages for themselves.

The participation of close relatives (nepotism) in the governing bodies of the National Platform and in the management of grants is not allowed.

In public advocacy, human rights, and other similar activities, members of the National Platform must demonstrate a completely independent approach to the policies of the political party and movement to which they belong. A person who participates in any election and conducts a campaign or participates in the campaign of another candidate, can not remain a member of the National Platform during the election period. In this case, that member must be replaced.

No more than one member of the same political party can be represented in the governing body of the same level.

**Commented [HE1]:** Eyni səviyyəli idarə orqanı nə deməkdir? Ondansa in the same governing body yazmaq olardı. Çünki Board və ya General Meeting onsuz da bərabər deyil ya da Control and Inspection Group ya da Coordinators

## **4. Ethical behavior within the National Platform**

### **4.1. Politeness**

Members of the National Platform must be polite, kind, attentive and patient with their colleagues. They must not allow any verbal (including unethical expressions) or physical conflict, including any form of threat. In particular, statements that could be assumed to be discriminating against on the basis of nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender or religion are inadmissible.

Members should respect the differences of opinion and the different positions of their colleagues. They must be ready to listen and discuss any new and different ideas aimed at the goals and development of the National Platform.

Each member must strictly adhere to the requirements of the Charter and Code of Ethics of the National Platform, and must carefully study these documents and understand their responsibilities.

### **4.2. Cooperation with public authorities**

The National Platform can cooperate and sign agreements with public authorities only when such actions are useful in achieving the objectives of the National Platform while maintaining its independence. Any contact and cooperation of the National Platform and its members with government bodies and authorities, which can jeopardize the independence of the activities of the National Platform, is not allowed.

The National Platform should seek and cooperate with government bodies on dialogue based on the principle of mutual respect and in the interests of the National Platform, which will benefit the National Platform and contribute to the resolution of issues enshrined in the agenda of the National Platform.

### **4.3. Statements, articles, positions**

Members of the National Platform shall refrain from statements, unsubstantiated publications and declarations that contradict the goals and objectives of the National Platform, its fundamental values and principles, other basic principles of

the European Integration and Eastern Partnership Program, including smear campaigns against the National Platform and its members.

Statements on behalf of the National Platform are made only if supported by more than half of the member organizations.

Individual statements cannot be presented as the position of the National Platform.

#### **4.4. Financial activities**

The National Platform shall not obtain financial support from two or more sources for the same work, and shall prevent the use of allocated funds for purposes other than those intended.

It must be guided by the principles of transparency and accountability in its work.

#### **4.5. Campaign materials**

The National Platform must ensure that all campaign and advertising materials are based on truthful information. Dissemination of any fact or material, audio-visual products that create a false impression, is not allowed. The National Platform and its members must refrain from pressure, excessive influence and other unethical means in their campaign materials.

#### **4.6. Financing principles**

The search and attraction of funds by the National Platform should be carried out only in accordance with the mission of the National Platform. Coercion, improper goal setting, inaccurate performance, unreasonable rewards or personal gain are not allowed during the search and attraction of funds.

### **5. Ensuring compliance with the Code of Ethics**

The Advisor on Ethical Conduct of the National Platform should:

Conduct regular reviews to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics;

Take measures to prevent violations of the rules of ethical conduct;

If necessary, explain the rules of ethical conduct to the members of the National Platform and, if requested, advise them on compliance with the rules of ethical conduct;

Take measures to bring members of the National Platform who violate the requirements of the Code of Ethics to disciplinary responsibility in accordance with the Charter.

If a member of the National Platform has any questions regarding the observance of the Code of Ethics, s/he should contact the Advisor on Ethical Conduct of the National Platform.