



## **COSMOS ANT (HORMIGA DEL COSMOS)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In recent years there have been major changes in the area of cooperation and development cooperation. Society has turned its eyes towards the world of solidarity. The different agents who are playing some role in this field have seen how their influence and their presence in society have increased remarkably.

Non-governmental organizations, as an expression of the solidarity existing in society, play an important role in the field of cooperation as a whole. HORMIGA DEL COSMOS joins this commitment, participating in the volunteer associative movement of civil society.

### **CONTENT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **1. IDENTITY**

The people who work in HORMIGA DEL COSMOS, we are characterized by plurality and diversity: labor, social ... etc., implying the contribution of different conceptions, styles and practices and, in many cases, complementary. Represented a sum of efforts in favor of solidarity towards the most disadvantaged social groups, to find the best solutions.

#### **2. COSMOS ANT GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The essential characteristics of COSMOS ANT:

1. We are a stable association with a minimum degree of structure. I dont know deals with eventual campaigns or simple spontaneous activities. We have legal personality and legal capacity in accordance with current regulations.

2. We are a non-profit entity. All the income obtained should benefit the population subject to the development programs, be used in education and awareness activities

and, lastly and in the smallest amount, are allocated to the operation of the organization itself.

3. We work actively in the field of cooperation for the development of children and international solidarity, whether in the field of development, emergency response or development education.

4. We have a desire for change or social transformation, actively participating in the improvement of society through proposals that favor North-South relations, more just and equitable that promote education and equality as an inherent and indispensable part of the development process.

5. We intend to have support and social presence. They must enjoy proven support in society as well as an active presence in the midst of society. This social support manifests itself in several ways: economic support through donations or quotas; The ability to mobilize volunteer work; Active participation in networks with social presence, contact with other local organizations, etc.

6. Have independence. HORMIGA DEL COSMOS has institutional and decision-making autonomy with respect to any governmental, intergovernmental or any other entity outside the institution or company. It is for this reason that we are not subject to any organic or organizational control or dependence of public entities or business groups; We have the ability to freely set our objectives, strategies, choice of counterparts, etc.

7. We have resources, both human and economic, that come from solidarity, private donations, volunteer work or the like.

8. We act with transparent and participative mechanisms of election or appointment of the positions. Both the Board of Directors and the rest of the people who work for HORMIGA DEL COSMOS are volunteers, without any kind of financial compensation. Only the expenses incurred by the employment of the position of the office are satisfied.

9. We are transparent in the activities carried out, in their practices and in their budgets. This implies the obligation to publish quantitative and qualitative documentation, as well as to facilitate the external control of our activities and resources.

10. Our activities are based and articulated around the goals of solidarity International cooperation. This implies the need for protection of children, the homeless, cooperation for development, the fight against inequalities and poverty and their causes, among the main objectives of the Association. In addition, it requires us to practice consistently and consistently for this purpose.

11. We believe that development, understanding it as a process of social, economic, political, cultural, technological change ..., etc. Requires participatory organization and

the democratic use of the power of members of a community. Development, thus understood, creates conditions of equity that open up more and better life opportunities to the human being so that it unfolds all its potentialities, and preserves for future generations access and good use of resources, the natural environment and the collection cultural.

12. In HORMIGA DEL COSMOS we strive to eradicate poverty and lack of education, as they create situations of deprivation of essential elements for the child to live and develop with physical, mental and spiritual dignity, taking into account their needs in relation With gender, abilities, cultural values, age and ethnic group. We consider that poverty is closely linked to lack, or inadequate levels of education.

13. In HORMIGA DEL COSMOS we carry out cooperation within and outside our borders. Understanding that this is an exchange between equals, mutual and enriching for all, which seeks to promote economic and social development, and achieve the eradication of poverty through education as the backbone. All based on the exercise of gender equality, respect for the environment and the promotion of human rights and their values.

14. Cooperation requires general coherence: between long-term objectives and concrete actions and initiatives; And between the results sought and the means employed.

### **3. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

The work that HORMIGA DEL COSMOS performs aims to act against the structural causes of poverty and to promote the social development of the peoples to whom it is directed. For this, it is necessary to analyze the causes of their problems, to maintain a fluid dialogue and constant work with the local organizations and always to take into account the priorities and the protagonism of the beneficiaries, as well as to prioritize children within the groups most vulnerable to Inequalities (age, gender, ethnicity, etc. and their organized groups) within the framework of their social, economic and cultural reality.

We believe that education is the driving force behind the development of countries. That is why we pay special attention to educational projects, children's education, infrastructures, the provision of educational materials, the training of local teachers and the provision of scholarships.

Collaboration should be translated into cooperation based on reciprocity and respect for common goals. This collaboration can be of several types:

- Support and technical and organizational support, to improve the technical capacity of the operational teams of the projects.
- Economic support for local initiatives.

- Encouraging local cooperation to share similar experiences and improve efficiency.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the actions undertaken, to know their real impact on the population and to take measures aimed at improving the quality of cooperation.

In the case of projects carried out jointly with a company, the Association will keep its singularities, among them the one of contributing to the strengthening of the social and organizational fabric of the countries in which we project our work, avoiding to become mere executors of actions, favoring the exercise of social responsibility of the company with which the project is carried out.

Aid must always be geared towards development and use of local resources must be taken into account, taking into account the population affected and seeking active participation at all times. It must also ensure that it is not conditioned by the interests of any government or business groups.

Fair and equitable international trade relations should be encouraged. Decent working conditions for local workers. These trade relations must respect the following principles:

- Elimination of unnecessary intermediaries, through direct purchase organizations.
- Consistent pricing with the producer.
- Respect for the environment, minorities and indigenous peoples.
- Supporting weaker groups and maintaining business relationships stable.
- Questioning of the functioning and unfair structures of trade international.

#### **4. SENSITIZATION AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

This activity is an active and creative process that promotes a change of attitudes and behaviors in the society, fomenting the values of justice and solidarity. With awareness and Education for Development, it is intended:

- To keep the public informed of the deficiencies and the causes and structures that perpetuate it; To facilitate a better understanding of the interdependence between countries, the origins of inequality and their possible solutions.
- To foster in the public opinion an environment of understanding and respect for the customs and ways of life of other cultures.
- Promote values and attitudes towards social change, based on criteria of justice, peace, equity, equality of rights and opportunities between women and men, democracy, participation, solidarity and care for the environment.
- Encourage concrete engagement with impoverished countries.

## 5. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### 5.1 RELATIONS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

COSMOS ANT must work in collaboration and in close relation with local organizations, NGOs, ENL's, popular movements and organized groups of beneficiary population. Share with them common goals and a vision of development work. Therefore it will establish relations of association that do not promote the paternalism or the imposition of criteria of developed country or of the North. The partnership is carried out from the principles of mutual commitment, co-responsibility and equality.

Our actions should encourage the construction of local social fabric and in no If they cause a deterioration of the same, so you should always watch that there are no side effects in this regard.

The association relationship will not be limited exclusively to the scope of projects, but will tend to incorporate reflection and joint analysis, the exchange of experiences, the establishment of joint strategies or the development of campaigns to raise awareness and denounce ...

### 5.2. RELATIONS BETWEEN NGOS

To achieve our objectives, we seek to work in a coordinated and collaborative way with other NGOs, avoiding isolated work, competitiveness and duplicity of tasks.

### 5.3. RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH SOCIETY AND ITS VARIOUS AGENTS

Our non-profit entity is a channel of citizen participation, so you have to assume that:

- Our work aims to promote education, freedom, justice and solidarity, fostering concrete and effective expression.
- We constitute a small cell in the sphere of effective influence in the society.

Therefore, an essential part of our work should be aimed at:

- Strengthen and reinforce the leading role of citizens.
- Intensify its relationship with public authorities, the private sector and other social agents, in order to positively influence their policies. All this within a strategic framework and based on the ethical principles defined in this code.
  - Mobilize the citizens to denounce, exert pressure, seek and propose alternatives to the injustices that affect the disadvantaged peoples of the Earth.
- Seek agreements and alliances with other organizations and social movements with which there are strategic overlaps.



#### 5.4. RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIVATE DONORS

It will be ensured that the source of the donations received do not prevent our free action and do not pose any obstacle to the achievement of the objectives that are our own.

The will of donors will always be respected as regards the final destination of their funds. The right to confidentiality of personal data will be respected.

#### 5.5 RELATIONS WITH COMPANIES

Collaboration with companies will respect the values of independence, transparency and efficiency, among others.

The companies with which a collaboration is established must:

- Respect human rights, as well as international treaties and conventions on migrant workers and their families, and those relating to the fight against racism and xenophobia.
- Comply with the fundamental ILO Conventions on forced labor, child labor and the right to organize.
- Respect the environment, complying with the current legislation of the country of origin and maintaining the same standards wherever they act.
- Respect public health both in its products and in its production processes, in compliance with the legislation in force in the country of origin. We will not associate with any advertising campaign that enhances and promotes the consumption of products harmful to health such as tobacco or distilled alcohol.
  - We will not establish relationships with companies that manufacture or traffic weapons.

### 6. GENERAL CRITERIA OF ORGANIZATION OF THE NGO

#### 6.1. TRANSPARENCY AND MANAGEMENT

Our Non Profit Organization must act at all times in accordance with the law.

The management must be responsible and loyal, seeking at all times the achievement of the objectives of the institution.

As an organization at the service of society, we will facilitate anyone who requests it periodic information on our lines of action, programs, objectives, form of obtaining resources, quantity of them, and composition of its governing bodies.

An annual report will be issued with information on its activities, programs, resources, and governing bodies.

## 6.2. ECONOMIC RESOURCES

All fundraising activities carried out by the NGO will be in accordance with the legal framework and in accordance with ethical principles.

All fundraising activities should be truthful and avoid misleading messages, correctly describe the identity of the organization, make calls to which the organization will be able to respond adequately and avoid the use of pushing or blaming tactics.

We will be obliged to attach the economic accounts to the annual report that will be made and will give the economic data to the partners and donors and to the counterparts with which it works.

When an income exceeding 300,000 euros is exceeded, an annual external economic audit of the organization shall be carried out, which shall be available to all who request it.

The distribution of expenditures will be made public, specifying the amounts allocated to administrative expenses, as well as the definition of the concepts included in the calculation of such expenses.

## 6.3. HUMAN RESOURCES

In HORMIGA DEL COSMOS will establish the conditions of volunteering respecting their rights.

When the relationship is between the Association and persons with obligations within the Public Administration, the rules of this and the rights granted by her to such people.

In no case will the tasks carried out by social workers collaborate with the tasks that may be carried out by the workforce. The data referring to the total number of unpaid persons in the service of the Association shall be public.

## 7. COMMUNICATIVE GUIDELINES, ADVERTISING AND USE OF IMAGES

Communication is an instrument of awareness and education for development and should serve to:

- Promote awareness of development issues; Knowing and understanding the causes of poverty and its possible solutions; The interdependence of all peoples; The necessary reciprocity for mutual understanding and respect for different cultures.
- Increase citizen participation in the processes of education for children, homeless people and development cooperation, fostering the public debate necessary to

promote correct policies of cooperation, intensifying solidarity between North and South and struggling to change Structures.

For this, HORMIGA DEL COSMOS must respect in its work of communication the following guidelines:

- Promote the objective knowledge of the reality both local and national as well as the countries where it is projected.
- Put people, situations and peoples of the South as protagonists of communication, not the NGO and its members.
- Show absolute respect for the dignity of people and peoples.
- Always emphasize "radical" values of the NGO such as justice, solidarity and responsibility and gender equity.
- Promote the active participation of people in communication.
- Be rigorous in all communication work, taking into account the different communicative supports.
- Work together with media professionals.
- Follow the recommendations contained in the "Image and Message Code" of CONGDE.
- The message should ensure that all forms of discrimination (racial, sexual, cultural, religious, socio-economic ...) are avoided.
- Avoid messages and catastrophic images, idyllic, generalizing and discriminatory.
- Messages and images that express a superiority of the North and / or that present the people of the South as objects of our penalty and not as partners in the joint work of development.
- Promote consultation with organizations in the South regarding the messages to convey about their reality.
- Facilitate access to the media to the protagonists of the South.
- Encourage messages that promote changes in individual and social attitudes in the North that make real change possible in the South.

In cases where the communication takes place within the framework of a collaboration with companies, HORMIGA DEL COSMOS will also ensure compliance with the guidelines mentioned in this point.

## **8. DISCLOSURE OF THE CODE**

The code of conduct should be known by:

- Partners and collaborators (of any kind) who wish to meet you.
- Southern counterparts.
- The public administrations that collaborate with the Association and all others that wish to do so.
- The media, companies and any other institution that regularly collaborates with HORMIGA DEL COSMOS.



- Public opinion in general.
- Local Coordinators, when applicable.

