



# Policy on Grants, Donations, Sponsorship and Gifts

## 1. Purpose of the policy

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) solicits and/or accepts grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts for purposes that will help the organisation further and fulfil its mission. All grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts to FIGO must be in accordance with the overall mission of the organisation; its policies and directives; and national laws and regulations.

FIGO's work must be governed by ethical standards. A guiding ethical principle of FIGO which underpins its relationship with others, is its commitment to the welfare of women's health worldwide.

This policy is to govern acceptance of all grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts by FIGO whether to support the FIGO Executive Board, the work of FIGO Committees and Working Groups, gifts or hospitality to individual FIGO officers or staff, grants for FIGO projects and the organisation of the FIGO Congress.

## 2. Scope of the policy

The following activities are considered to be covered in this document:

- direct grants, donations and contributions to FIGO;
- advertisement in FIGO publications;
- commercial stands at FIGO events and conferences;
- the use of identifying material from a company such as a logo on wallets or badges at meetings;
- sponsorship of educational material;
- provision of funds to attend meetings and lectures and hospitality.

The policy applies to all staff, officers, FIGO Working Group and FIGO committee chairs and members and applies to all projects, publications, events and research undertaken in the name of FIGO.

### **3. FIGO's values and purpose**

FIGO's vision is that women of the world achieve the highest possible standards of physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

The mission statement of the organisations states that:

1. FIGO is a professional organisation that brings together obstetrical and gynecological associations from all over the world.
2. FIGO is dedicated to the improvement of women's health and rights and to the reduction of disparities in healthcare available to women and newborns, as well as to advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynecology.
3. The organisation pursues its mission through advocacy, programmatic activities, capacity strengthening of Member Associations, education and training.

The goals of FIGO are:

- to improve the health and wellbeing of women and newborn children worldwide;
- to raise the status of women and enable their active participation to achieve their reproductive and sexual rights with access to efficient education and services throughout their life cycle;
- and to upgrade the practice of obstetrics and gynecology through education, training and research to maintain a high standard of professionalism and ethical adherence

### **4. Factors for consideration in accepting grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts**

When considering whether to solicit or accept grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts, FIGO should undertake due diligence and consider, but not be limited by, the following factors:

- Values—whether the acceptance of the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift compromises any of the core values, mission or goals of FIGO
- Compatibility—whether there is compatibility between the intent of the donor and FIGO's use of the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift.
- Public Relationships—whether acceptance of the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift will damage the reputation of FIGO or would affect FIGO's image of impartiality
- Partner Relationships – whether acceptance of the grant, donations, sponsorship or gift will damage relationships with any of FIGO's partner organisations or stakeholders
- Primary Benefit—whether the primary benefit is to FIGO, versus the donor

- Consistency—is acceptance of the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift consistent with prior practice?
- Form —is the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift offered in a form that FIGO can use without incurring substantial expense or difficulty?
- Effect on Future Giving—will the grant, donation, sponsorship or gift encourage or discourage future grants, gifts or sponsorship?

## **5. Restrictions on grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts**

FIGO will not accept grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts that:

- (a) would result in FIGO violating its mission,
- (b) would result in FIGO losing its status as a registered charity,
- (c) are too difficult or too expensive to administer in relation to their value,
- (d) would result in any unacceptable consequences for FIGO
- (e) are for purposes outside FIGO's mission.

No grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts should knowingly be accepted from any organisation involved in the following:

- Production of tobacco
- Manufacture or dealing of arms,
- Manufacture or promotion of alcohol
- Promotion of gambling
- Provision of pay-day loans
- Exploitation of women or men (including pornography)
- Human rights abuses including any form of child abuse
- Environmental degradation
- Inappropriate promotion of breast milk substitutes

With reference to arms, tobacco, alcohol and exploitation of women, some companies may not be clearly identified with these activities. It is considered that it is only practical to consider the activities of the donating or sponsoring company itself, as it would be difficult to identify all companies which have subsidiary or parent companies which fall into this category.

In relation to arms manufacture and dealing, the international portfolio of development departments of National Governments should be considered separate from activities by Governments with their armed forces or protecting their citizens through armed conflict.

Exclusive breast-feeding ideally for the first 6 months of life is the optimal form of nutrition for all babies and formula feeding undoubtedly causes many infant deaths in developing countries where poverty and the lack of safe water do not allow mothers to prepare feeds hygienically. For children in developing countries breast milk substitutes, when used inappropriately, undermine the initiation and the continuation of breastfeeding. Grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts from companies producing breast milk substitutes are only acceptable if the company does not participate in practices considered to promote inappropriately their product (in keeping with the WHO International code on marketing of breastmilk substitutes) and if the company does not use any FIGO event or publication to promote their product or idealise the use of breast-milk substitutes.

In relation to publication of guidelines or health educational material, due consideration will be applied to ensure that no woman considers guidelines or educational messages to be influenced by commercial or vested interests.

#### **6. Process for acceptance of grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts**

- All grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts received by FIGO must be fully and transparently recorded in FIGO accounts and annual reports.
- All donations, however small, from third parties to FIGO must be declared in FIGO accounts and cannot be anonymous. Should an individual donor wish to remain anonymous, the name must be disclosed to the FIGO Officers Group who may approve the donation.
- Sponsorship for individuals should be modest and hospitality should not be lavish. The guiding principles should be whether individual officers or staff would be happy for it to be generally known that they are receiving support for a particular activity.
- FIGO reserves the right to refuse any donor or sponsor that they deem is in conflict of interest with its guiding principles or on subjective grounds of nature, taste, content or positioning.
- The FIGO Senior Management team reporting to the FIGO Chief Executive will have responsibility for monitoring this policy.

#### **7. Decision making process**

Many grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts can be accepted without review, for example grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts from donors with whom FIGO has an established and beneficial funding relationship or from non-controversial donors whose aims and values clearly align with those of FIGO or who explicitly share the mission and values of FIGO.

Certain forms of grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts will be subject to review prior to acceptance. These include:

- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts from unknown or unfamiliar donors with which FIGO does not have an established funding relationship
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts from institutional donors (including foundations, foreign government agencies, corporations, corporate foundations, or for-profit entities) that might not implicitly or explicitly share the core values of FIGO
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts that require review by legal counsel: e.g. securities, tangible personal property, life insurance, or real estate
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts that could lead to conflicts of interest
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts that include significant restrictions

In addition any officer or member of staff of FIGO can refer a potential grant, donation, sponsorship or gift for review, via the SMT.

Controversial grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts will be considered by the FIGO Officers Group who may then refer the decision to the FIGO Ethics Committee. Any decisions to solicit and/or accept potentially controversial grants, donations, sponsorship or gifts will be made by the Officers Group with advice from the Senior Management team, if required. These decisions do not have to await a formal Officers Group meeting but can be made by email.

The SMT will keep records summarising discussions and decisions, and will undertake an annual review of this policy to determine if any amendments are necessary.

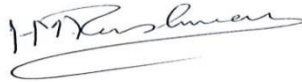
FIGO will seek the advice of legal counsel in matters relating to acceptance of grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts when deemed appropriate. Review by legal counsel is recommended for:

- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts of securities that are subject to restrictions or buy-sell agreements.
- Documents naming FIGO as trustee or requiring FIGO to act in any fiduciary capacity.
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts requiring FIGO to assume financial or other obligations.
- Transactions with potential conflicts of interest.
- Grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts of property which may be subject to environmental or other regulatory restrictions.

Policy accepted by FIGO	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Date for review of policy	June 2017

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer



DATE 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016