

## Good governance

“Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It’s not about making ‘correct’ decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions.”<sup>1</sup>

“Good governance has 6 main principles; it is participatory and inclusive, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, and follows the rule of law. Implicit in this is a zero tolerance towards corruption, that the views of minorities are taken into account, and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.

The above-mentioned principles have the following characteristics:

- Participation and inclusiveness – participation of all relevant stakeholders, which includes both men and women, directly or through institutions (public and private).
- Accountability – in general organisations and institutions should be accountable to those who will be affected by decisions or actions.
- Transparency – decisions and enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations; information is freely available and directly accessible.
- Effectiveness and efficiency – institutions and processes produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal.
- Rule of law – a fair legal framework that is enforced impartially, including respect of human rights, and without corruption.”<sup>2</sup>

The INGO Accountability Charter<sup>3</sup> provides a set of principles regarding good governance for NGOs:

1. Respect for Human Rights
2. Independence
3. Transparency
4. Good Governance
5. Responsible Advocacy
6. Participation
7. Diversity/Inclusion
8. Environmental Responsibility

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<sup>1</sup> Good Governance Guide: <http://www.goodgovernance.org.au/about-good-governance/what-is-good-governance/>. Last retrieved: 4/4/2014.

<sup>2</sup> Annex 9, Programme Operators’ Manual, EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> The Accountability Charter: [http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/wp-content/uploads/INGO\\_CHARTER\\_web.pdf](http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/wp-content/uploads/INGO_CHARTER_web.pdf). Last retrieved: 1/9/2014.

## 9. Ethical Fundraising

## 10. Professional Management

Read the Accountability Charter and learn more about these principles and how to abide by them. You may wish to consider to what extent the NGO you work for abide by these principles at the moment. What do you need to change? How could the “We are all Citizens” Programme help your NGO improve its governance?

