

UICC Partnerships with Donors Policy

Last reviewed October 2023

Scope

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) believes that action against cancer on a global scale demands the engagement of a wide range of partners – including our members, international agencies, NGOs, foundations, the private sector and the general public.

Interacting with such a broad range of partners brings great benefits to our work but also means we should have a clear understanding of the potential conflicts of interest which may arise and a robust policy for managing external relationships. We believe in placing partnership at the heart of our strategy and recognise the significant expertise and financial resources that external actors bring to mobilise and maintain the change we seek to achieve.

All partnerships between UICC and external organisations shall be based on mutual respect, with the views and decisions of each partner being valued. All UICC partners would share a commitment to UICC's to unite and support the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, to promote greater equity, and to ensure that cancer control continues to be a priority in the world health and development agenda.

The aim of this policy is to outline our approach in developing and maintaining mutually beneficial partnerships which recognise and manage any potential conflicts of interests.

Definitions

UICC is a non-governmental organisation registered in Switzerland with membership drawn from cancer and health organisations around the world. UICC is governed by its Constitution and its General Assembly, which appoints the UICC Board of Directors.

UICC may enter into partnership agreements with external parties; such as UICC member organisations, corporations, organisations, foundations and individuals who wish to support UICC activities by providing financial or in-kind.

UICC recognises the importance of our financial donors, often referred to as “partners”, through a structured programme, with outlines benefits and acknowledgement for different levels of commitments.

Donations are defined as voluntary contributions by external parties. Accounting for donations will follow local law, practice and relevant accounting principles.

Criteria

In order to ensure meaningful long-term partnerships are established and to safeguard UICC's status as an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, the following criteria are considered when entering into new partnerships with donors:

- Partnerships and joint activities should be consistent with UICC's mission and strategic plan.
- The partnership should generate positive impact for both UICC and the partner organisation.
- The mission and activities of the external organisation should be compatible with the mission and values of UICC and the association with the partner should not expose UICC to reputational risks. Specifically,
 - UICC will not accept donations from entities whose public positioning promotes non-healthy behaviour or corporations or entities who are involved in illegal activities.
 - Donations cannot be accepted from entities that are known to have activities related to tobacco or alcohol products, their consumption or promotion, or other carcinogenic products and activities.

UICC will seek a diverse range of partners, so that it is not overly exposed to a single funding source, such as an individual person, single organisation or particular industry.

UICC seeks to establish multi-year partnerships with external organisations, subject to regular assessment and reviews.

UICC aims to ensure a letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, or partnership agreement, specifying the duration of the partnership, donation amount and purpose (as required), is signed by UICC and a new partner before collaboration begins.

UICC's "Policy on Partnerships with Donors" is publicly available, and all new partners are expected to should read and agree to comply with this policy.

UICC recognises that the framework of this policy cannot cover all circumstances. The decision to enter into partnership with an external organisation will to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

UICC retains the right to make the final decision whether to enter partnership with an external organisation.

Conflict of interests

UICC recognises that partnering with external organisations can bring significant added value to our work, but that special care must be taken to ensure that potential conflict of interests is evaluated and risks minimised particularly in the case of pharmaceutical, healthcare and food and beverage industries.

UICC believes in engaging with a wide range of external actors in order to fulfil our mission and objectives. The private sector plays an important role in this dialogue and in working towards potential solutions to prevent and cure cancer. UICC will not formally partner with organisations where there is a clear conflict of interests, but we may engage such organisations in our dialogues and discussions as deemed appropriate by the executive team.

The constitution of UICC dictates that UICC strategy and policy development is the responsibility of the Board, working with the executive team of UICC in Geneva. It is important for UICC and its members that these functions are delivered with professional integrity and without compromise. Should a conflict of interest emerge with a UICC partner, the executive team of UICC will review the relationship and take action as needed; up to and including retaining the right to cancel the partnership agreement with immediate effect.

Where possible, UICC will seek unrestricted donations. Restricted funds will be accepted to support programmatic activity which has been agreed by the Board of UICC. Private sector contributions to programmes will, as far as possible, be used in conjunction with funds from other donors and be given without influencing UICC's integrity as an independent organisation.

UICC will conduct a conflict of interest assessment on private sector partners before entering into a formal agreement.

As a general rule, UICC will not endorse products, brands or services owned by commercial organisations. In exceptional cases, the endorsement of a commercial product, brand or service may be proposed to and approved by the Board of Directors.

A full list of UICC partners is published on www.uicc.org and included in the UICC Annual Report.

Accountability

UICC is committed to transparency in its actions and accountability for donor funds. UICC's Annual Report provides a review of key achievements, membership, and partners, as well as financial reporting.

UICC aims to be in close communication with its donors and to review partnerships together on a regular basis. UICC will report diligently to donors who will receive designated reports and programme and financial reporting as appropriate.

Ultimately, the executive staff of UICC and the Board are accountable to the membership of UICC for developing partnerships which help deliver the ambitions of the organisation. We endeavour to keep the UICC membership informed of our new and existing partnerships.

Recognition

UICC is committed to acknowledging its partners appropriately for their support and celebrating our joint success. Recognition is structured through designated donor programmes and proportional to the level of donation received.

Specific recognition may include, but is not limited to, acknowledgment in:

- UICC Annual Reports, website and other UICC communication channels such as newsletters
- Partner Reports
- Programme or project specific materials (printed and online)
- Naming opportunities as appropriate – for example, named fellowships
- Special events (e.g. invitations, acknowledgement in event programmes)

Communications and logo

UICC partners are encouraged to communicate the partnership with UICC through their own channels. Partners should give advance notice of their intention to use UICC's name and logo in any external communications and obtain permission from UICC.

UICC may use the partners' name and logo in specified external communications (such as UICC Annual Reports, website, newsletters, event materials) to promote the partnership. For any other external communications opportunities arising, UICC will agree the use of the partner logo in advance.

UICC shall retain the sole discretion as to the use of its name and logo in case of dispute.

Decision making and responsibility

There needs to be a conscious decision made for each partner and donor relationship after considering the potential benefits and risks. The decision process of accepting a new partner and donor relationship will follow UICC's procedures which are based on this policy. The due diligence process will include a review of the business activities, public reputation and financial solvency of the external organisation and UICC's interaction with its representatives. Final responsibility for entering into partnership or acceptance of donations rests with

the UICC CEO acting under the authority of the Board of Directors. The UICC CEO will consult with the UICC President as needed in specific cases.

Managing the implementation, financial aspects and monitoring of Partnership Agreements will be under the responsibility of the CEO in conjunction with assigned staff.

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee of UICC will review the full income streams of the organisations which includes donations and funding received by partners at least annually on behalf of the Board of Directors. This “Policy on Partnerships with Donors” document is reviewed on a regular basis by the Governance Committee of UICC, a sub-group of the Board of Directors.