



## PARTNERSHIP POLICY

### I. Introduction

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), a Trust formally established in 1996 to combat corruption in the manner set out in the Trust Deed is the accredited national chapter of the Berlin-based Transparency International. It is an independent, non-government and non-partisan organization with a mission of catalyzing a sustained and effective demand and a social movement in Bangladesh against corruption. In order to receive foreign donations, TIB was subsequently registered under the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh. TIB is committed to the:

- **vision** of Bangladesh in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the people are free from corruption;
- **core values** of democracy, justice, rule of law, transparency, accountability, integrity, courage and equal right of every individual irrespective of age, sex, religion, culture, ethnic origin or any other marker of identity; and
- **mission** to catalyze and strengthen a participatory social movement to promote and develop institutions, law and practices for combating corruption in Bangladesh and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business having regard to gender equality and a policy of non-discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste or place of birth.

### II. Guiding Principle

With full commitment to strictly adhering to the above vision, values and mission, TIB has adopted the following Partnership Policy. In this regard TIB is guided by :

- the Trust Deed which declares that TIB shall cooperate with approved institutions and bodies for the purpose of enabling transparency; and the Governance Manual and Code of Ethics adopted on February 25, 2005 having regard to institutions and bodies approved by regulatory authorities and the TIB Board of Trustees.

### III. Scope of Partnership/Cooperation

The term “Partnership” or “Cooperation” here indicates relationships or arrangements ranging from participation in, and collaboration with, and/or joint organization or co-sponsoring of, specific events and/or programmes to common platform, forum, coalition and/or other forms of institutional arrangements that would promote and/or

strengthen a social movement against corruption and towards increased demand for accountable and transparent governance in Bangladesh.\*

#### **IV. Terms of Reference**

1. TIB shall participate in, and/or facilitate and develop institutional and/or programmatic or issue-based partnerships with all such organisations and/or initiatives that are registered under relevant laws of Bangladesh and that would promote TIB's vision values, mission and objectives. Status as a legal entity in Bangladesh and commitment of partner organizations to transparency and accountability are to be considered as minimal requirements.
2. All partnerships shall be on equal footing, and with due recognition of all partner's contributions-organizational, technical, financial and/or otherwise.
3. The use of TIB name and logo in connection with any partnership/cooperation shall be only on the basis of approval of TIB, and shall be limited to the purpose and duration of the partnership only.
4. All partnerships shall be on voluntary basis having no implication of imposition in terms of objectives, ideas and policies, and organizational, technical and financial capacity.
5. TIB shall not take part in any partnership that may impair or constrain TIB's:
  - a. independence in pursuance of its own goals and activities;
  - b. anti-corruption values and goals;
  - c. governance, management and financial independence and self-reliance; and
  - d. freedom to pursue its activities in accord with its mission
6. TIB shall not engage in any partnership that may:
  - a. bring TIB into disrepute or impair the credibility of TIB by giving an impression that such partnership is fostering ideas or policies or promoting individuals or institutions in a manner that is not consistent with TIB's values;
  - b. facilitate or bring favours or benefits in private life of any individual or institution involved;
  - c. promote any partisan objective, ideas, belief or position, or interfere with the non-partisanship and neutrality that are the hallmarks of TIB; and
  - d. influence the prospect of present or future employment, business, financial or any other forms of material interest.

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\* Initiatives taken in collaboration with GO-NGOs for creating islands of integrity in public service delivery institutions are not covered by this Partnership Policy

7. TIB shall not undertake any partnership that may be detrimental to the terms of its accreditation with Transparency International.
8. Before entering into partnership/cooperation with any approved institution or body, TIB shall undertake due diligence on the intending partner-institution or body. Towards that end TIB shall determine:
  - a. whether that intending partner-institution has the legal capacity to undertake the particular activity under its own charter, governing document, etc.;
  - b. whether that intending partner-institution has the legal capacity to enter into a partnership consistent with TIB's objectives as set out in the Trust Deed and its other governing documents;
  - c. whether the disclosures made by Trustees or Members of the Governing Board of the intending partner-institution, by whatever name called, have made disclosures on matters as have been made by TIB's own Trustees;

*Provided that*

- i. Where TIB's Board of Trustees are of the opinion that a partnership may be fostered for a specific purpose or purposes for a short period of time, Clause 8 a, Clause 8 b, Clause 8 c above and Clause ii below need not be strictly applied.
- ii. Upon such due diligence, TIB may itself verify the findings with its own criteria for transparency and accountability.

## **V. Termination**

9. TIB shall retain the right to suspend or terminate any partnership arrangement at any point of time when it deems appropriate in the interest of TIB.
10. In case at any time during or after TIB's partnership with any institution or body it is proven that the partner(s), body (bodies) or individuals involved have by their acts of commission or omission brought TIB to disrepute or attempted to do so, TIB shall disown such partnership and shall never again be involved in any partnership with these institution(s) or body (ies) or individuals).

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