

## OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C.

# Code of Conduct

### INTRODUCTION

OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C., doing business also as “Bonilla + Torres H Consultoría en Educación”, “Bonilla + Torres H Education Consulting” or “BOTH” (“The Company”), strives to conduct all business activities responsibly, efficiently, transparently, and with integrity and respect towards all stakeholders. Our values underpin everything we do and form the essence of our Code of Conduct (“CoC”).

### PURPOSE

The CoC supports our vision and strategic objectives of value creation for all stakeholders and holds every partner, director, manager and employee to the highest standards of business conduct. We place great value on our CoC, which is fundamental to our reputation and continued success.

### SCOPE

The CoC contains the policies and principles that govern how each employee of OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C is expected to conduct his or herself while carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities on behalf of OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C. Compliance with these principles is a condition of employment or engagement with OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C.

This Policy applies to all employees, officers, directors and partners of OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C, contract staff and others engaged through an agreement (collectively referred to as the “Employees”).

OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C’s management team is responsible for the implementation of the CoC. The effectiveness of the CoC is monitored through our Compliance Program and hence ensures all employees are aware of and committed to our CoC.

### STANDARD OF CONDUCT

We conduct our operations with the highest standards of honesty, reliability, respect and accountability. We foster a business environment that protects the rights and interests of all stakeholders.

Because no code or policy can anticipate every situation that may arise, we expect each employee to act with honesty, reliability, respect and accountability, to exercise independent professional judgment and to deter wrongdoing in the conduct of all duties and responsibilities.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C. and all its employees are required to comply with the applicable laws, rules and regulations of the jurisdictions in which we operate.

## **PRINCIPLES**

### **Principle 1: Honesty, Integrity and Fair Play**

The Company and its staff are fully committed to the principle of honesty, integrity and fair play in the delivery of services and goods to the public. All staff should ensure that the business operations, applications for services, procurement or staff recruitment, are dealt with in an open, fair and impartial manner.

This Code of Conduct sets out the basic standard of conduct expected of all staff and the Company's policy on matters like acceptance of advantages and conflict of interest of staff in connection with their official duties. This Code also applies to temporary and part-time staff employed by the Company.

### **Principle 2: Equal Opportunity for All Employees**

The Company is an equal employment opportunity employer. Employment opportunities are available regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability or other legally protected status. This Principle applies to all aspects of the employment relationship, including recruiting, hiring, training, work assignment, promotion, transfer, termination, and wage and salary administration.

### **Principle 3: Safety, and Health Practices**

The company is committed to an injury-free and illness-free workplace that is operated in an environmentally sound manner in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations that protect worker safety and the environment. Employees should perform work in a safe manner.

### **Principle 4: Fair Competition**

The Company's policy will prohibit any anticompetitive practices which could effect in bounding, restraining or distorting competition, as well as any practices of an unfair competition. Accordingly, our employees cannot agree (formally or informally) with competitors to x prices or

any other conditions of transaction; to limit or control the production, commercialization, technical development or investment; to manipulate or divide markets or sources of provisioning; to participate with fake offers in tenders or any other forms of competitions for offers; to limit or restrain access to market and freedom of competition for other enterprises; to apply unequal conditions for equivalent performance to commercial partners, creating in this way a disadvantage in competition; to condition signing of acceptance contracts by the partners for supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of such contracts.

Our employees are prohibited from performing any act of unfair competition manifested through: misappropriating clients of a company by using the relations established with such clients within the function previously held at the company, dismissal or attracting employees of a company for the purpose of setting up a competing company to capture customers of that company or hiring employees of a company in order to disorganize of its work. At the same time, our employees must not take actions that harm the legitimate interests of consumers or other operations in breach of the competition law.

#### **Principle 5: Governance and anti-corruption**

The Company has zero tolerance for corruption. All employees must never offer to provide anything of value directly or indirectly to government officials and business partners to secure an undue advantage. The company prohibits payment, offers of payment as well as anything of value directly or indirectly with the purpose of influencing or obtaining undue business or personal advantage.

Third parties will only be contracted to perform tasks which aid business interests provided: fees to be paid are reasonable; all arrangements are clearly documented; arrangements are in compliance with the Company's policies.

#### **Principle 6: Prohibition of Bribery**

The Company conducts its business free from bribery and corruption and expects the same from its employees and those with whom it conducts business. OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C. and its employees do not receive or offer, directly or indirectly, any tangible or intangible bribes, or anything of value that could be construed as a bribe, in any form.

Bribery can take many forms, amongst others in gifts, entertainment, travel & lodging. All employees can find further guidance in OTH Praxis Estratégica S.C.'s Anti-bribery and Anti-corruption Policy ("ABAC").

### **Principle 7: Financial Reporting**

All transactions of the Company must be duly recorded so as to permit preparation of clear financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. No false or misleading entries may be made in the books and records of the Company for any reason, and no employee may engage in any arrangement that results in such a prohibited act.

No undisclosed or unrecorded fund or asset of the Company may be established for any purpose. No payment on behalf of the Company (including those by cash) may be done without adequate supporting documentation or made with the intention or understanding that any part of such payment is to be used for any purpose other than as described by the documents supporting the payment.

From time to time, the Company may publish or inform of policies on financial reporting, disclosure and compliance to reinforce the financial reporting expectations in this Code. All employees at any level are expected to implement and strictly follow these policies.

### **Principle 8: Restrictive Agreements with Third Parties**

The Company does not condone activities that seek to gain an unfair competitive advantage. No individual may engage in any activity which violates any valid restrictive agreements entered into by that individual for the benefit of a third party, and no individual may, directly or indirectly, use or disclose any confidential information or trade secrets of a third party that the individual obtained while employed by or associated with such third party.

### **Principle 9: Government Contracts and Services**

The Company is committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations relating to government (public procurement) contracts and services and to ensuring that its reports, certifications and declarations to government officials are accurate and complete and that any deviations from contract requirements are properly approved.

### **Principle 10: Acceptance of Advantages**

It is the policy of this Company to prohibit all staff from soliciting or accepting any advantage from any persons having business dealings with the Company (e.g. clients, suppliers, contractors).

Any gifts offered voluntarily to the staff in their official capacity are regarded as gifts to the Company and they should not be accepted without prior permission. By default, staff should

decline the offer if the acceptance could be perceived as against the interest of the company, or that of society, or lead to complaints of bias or impropriety.

For inexpensive “token” non-cash gifts presented to staff in their official capacity and of low nominal value, the refusal of which could be seen as unsociable or impolite, can be exceptionally accepted. In other circumstances, the staff should seek for a clear (i.e. in writing) and immediate (within 2 days from the offer) prior consent from the Compliance Officer to accept the gifts.

The Compliance Officer should keep proper records of the applications and permissions. Each permission will indicate the name of the applicant; the occasion of the offer; the nature and estimated value of the gift, and whether permission has been granted for the applicant to retain the gift or other directions have been given to dispose of the gift. The permissions must be signed and dated by both the Compliance Officer and the applicant.

### **Principle 11: Conflict of Interest**

A conflict of interest situation arises when the “private interests” of the staff compete or conflict with the interests of the Company. “Private interests” means both the financial and personal interests of the staff or those of their connections including: family members and other close affiliates; personal friends; the clubs and societies to which they belong; and any person to whom they owe a favor or are obligated in any way.

Staff should avoid using their official position or any information made available to them in the course of their duties to benefit themselves, their affiliates or any other persons with whom they have personal or social ties. They should avoid putting themselves in a position that may lead to an actual or perceived conflict of interest with the Company. Failure to avoid or declare any conflict of interest may give rise to criticism of favoritism, abuse of authority or even allegations of corruption.

In particular, staff involved in the procurement process should declare conflict of interest if they have beneficial interest in any company which is being considered for selection as the Company supplier of goods or services.

When called upon to deal with matters of the Company for which there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest, the staff member should make a declaration in writing to the Compliance Officer. She/he should then abstain from dealing with the matter in question or follow the instruction of the Compliance Officer who may reassign the task to other staff.

### **Principle 12: Political Donations**

Political contributions refer to contributions of anything of value to support a political goal.

OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C. does not support political parties and does not make political donations or contributions to political parties. Employees are not allowed to make political donations or voice political opinions in the name of OTH Praxis Estratégica, S.C.

Contributions to industry associations or fees for memberships in organizations that serve business interests are not considered to be political contributions.

### **Principle 13: Misuse of Official Position**

Staff who misuses their official position for personal gains or to favor their relatives or friends are liable to disciplinary action or even prosecution. Examples of misuse include a staff member responsible for the selection of suppliers giving undue favor or leaking information to his/her relative's company with a view to giving away an undue advantage.

### **Principle 14: Handling of Classified or Proprietary Information**

Staff is not allowed to disclose any classified or exclusive information to anybody without authorization. Staff who have access to or are in control of such information should at all times provide adequate safeguards to prevent its abuse or misuse. Examples of misuse include disclosure of information in return for monetary rewards, or use of information for personal interest. It should also be noted that unauthorized disclosure of any personal data may result in a breach of the applicable legislation on privacy.

### **Principle 15: Property of the Company**

Staff given access to any property of the Company should ensure that it is properly used for the purpose of conducting the Company's business. Misappropriation of the property for personal use or resale is strictly prohibited.

### **Principle 16: Outside Employment**

Employees who wish to take up paid outside work, including those on a part-time basis, must seek the written (date and signed) permission and guidance from the Compliance Officer before accepting the job. Approval will not be given if the outside work is considered to be in conflict with the interest and values of the corporation.

## **Principle 17: Compliance with the Code**

It is the personal responsibility of every staff member to understand and comply with the Code of Conduct. Every member of the staff shall sign a declaration of Principle to this purpose. The Compliance Officer or other mandated employee will keep declarations of Principle.

Higher ranked employees should ensure that their subordinates understand and comply with the standards and requirements stated in the Code. Any doubts of interpretation or problems encountered, as well as any suggestions for improvement, should be addressed to the Compliance Officer for consideration and advice.

When facing a potential unethical behavior the staff member should ask her/himself the following questions: a) Is it in accordance with the company's practices and policies, and its Code of Conduct? b) Is it legal? c) Will my behavior negatively affect the Company or me? d) What do my colleagues/Manager/Director/Compliance Officer think? e) How would I feel about telling someone else what I had done? f) How would our client react? g) To what extent will this affect the Company's reputation?

Any staff member who violates any provision of the Code will be subject to disciplinary action. In cases of suspected corruption or other criminal offenses, a report will be made to the appropriate authorities.

## **Principle 18: Sanctions**

The Company can take prompt and appropriate remedial action in response to violations of the Code. Any employee who engages in conduct prohibited by the Code as determined by the Compliance Officer will be subject to discipline actions and sanctions in accordance with the labor law.

Once a complaint has been placed, the Compliance Officer will initially analyze it and she/he may meet privately with the applicant to understand the facts surrounding the issue. Following a fact-finding phase, an investigative meeting could be held with the employee alleged of the violation, to further ascertain the facts and receive observations. The decision should be issued in writing (date and signed), indicating a summary of the facts, reference to the specific violation and motivations.

The sanction may be under the form of:

- Warning
- Private or public letter of reprimand
- Transfer to other tasks or unit

- Suspension from duties
- Termination

The Compliance Officer shall report serious violations to appropriate government or legal authorities.

### **Principle 19: Reporting**

Employees have a responsibility to promptly report to the Compliance Officer ([compliance@both.mx](mailto:compliance@both.mx)). The Compliance Officer will deal and investigate all the reports with the highest degree of trust and confidentiality.

Employees will not be disciplined or retaliated against in any way for reporting violations in good faith. Retaliation against any employee for reporting policy violations, or for testifying, assisting or participating in any manner to inspections is strictly prohibited. Any employee who believes he or she has been subjected to or has witnessed retaliation must immediately report the alleged retaliation to the Compliance Officer or the Managing Director.

### **Principle 20: Compliance Officer**

The Compliance Officer shall be a person of trust, independence and competence; she/he should be prepared, trained and/or certified in dealing with matters related to this code of conduct. The Compliance Officer ([compliance@both.mx](mailto:compliance@both.mx)) shall perform his duty with the utmost tact, confidentiality, respect, fairness and proficiency. The Compliance Officer will handle day-to-day compliance matters, including:

- Receiving, reviewing, investigating and resolving concerns and reports on the matters described in this Code;
- Interpreting and providing guidance on the meaning and application of this Code; and
- Reporting periodically and as matters arise to senior staff of the Company on the implementation and effectiveness of this Code and other compliance matters, and recommending any updates or amendments to this Code deemed necessary or advisable.

### **Appendix 1: Definition of Advantage and examples of prohibitions**

“Advantage” means:

- Any gift, loan, fee, reward or commission consisting of money or of any valuable security or of other property or interest in property of any description;
- Any office, employment or contract;



- Any payment, release, discharge or liquidation of any loan, obligation or other liability, whether in whole or in part;
- Any other service, or favor, including protection from any penalty or disability incurred or apprehended or from any action or proceedings of a disciplinary, civil or criminal nature, whether or not already instituted;
- The exercise or tolerance from the exercise of any right or any power or duty; and
- Any offer, undertaking or promise, whether conditional or unconditional, of any advantage within the meaning of any of the preceding paragraphs above.

Every employee commits to:

- Do not solicit, accept, offer, promise or pay a bribe either directly or through a third party. This includes “facilitation payments”.
- Do not accept transportation, travel expenses or accommodations for trips that are not business related.
- Do not offer or accept donations for parties, including going-away parties.
- Do not solicit or accept personal discounts that are not available to all employees or available to the general public.
- Do not offer or accept personal rebates or refunds that are a result of the Company's purchases.
- Do not offer or accept excessive or inappropriate meals or entertainment. Generally, an excessive amount would be an amount you would not normally spend on yourself.

Gifts provided should not give the appearance of unduly influencing, obligating the recipient or providing an improper advantage to the company. Gifts or entertainment should not reflect adversely on the Company or the recipient's company and the gifts should be given openly. The gift or entertainment should be accurately accounted for in the employee's expense report and on the company's books and records. If you have questions regarding whether or not to accept or offer a gift or invitation, consult with the Compliance Officer.