



**PODER
Policy
Concerning
Funding
Organisations**



PODER Management staff, Board and individual Board members will follow this fundraising policy in every process towards securing funds for the organisation.



1. Funder Characteristics

1.1 Any funder of PODER must meet the following criteria.¹ Before any resources are transferred to PODER, every funder must be able to demonstrate that it clearly and unambiguously distinguishes itself from any for-profit entities by ensuring it has entirely separate and independent:

1.2 Furthermore, PODER will not accept resources from any funder (or entity operating as a pass-through for another funder) that generates finances from weapons manufacturing, non-renewable fossil fuels, building or operating prisons or detention centers, or tobacco manufacturing/selling. Also, PODER will not accept resources from any funder (or entity operating as a pass-through for a funder) that is convicted of sex, human and/or weapons trafficking.

1.2.1 Decision-making systems and structures, whereby all decisions of the funder are made by those duly appointed to do so, without external interference;

1.2.2 Documented systems of accountability for decisions it makes (or refrains from making);

1.2.3 Financial flows and structure for deciding how it generates its own resources;

1.2.4 People working for it or advising it (such as members of its board(s), staff and legal counsel), including nobody with immediate family, financial or professional relationships that might undermine – or be perceived to undermine – this requirement;

¹For the purposes of this document, ‘funder’ refers to any institution (political, educational or otherwise), organisation, funder, pass-through entity, or other private for-profit entity – or any other entity that in lay terms would be understood to act as a funder – that would be in apposition to provide financial resources to PODER. This policy does not apply to private individual natural persons – unless the private individual was provided, or intended to provide, resources as a conduit for any organisation otherwise covered by this policy.



2. *Reputational Risk Management Criteria*

2.1 Where any concern exists about the reputation and/or practice of a possible future or current funder (after already meeting the 'Funder Criteria' outlined above), PODER management and Board are encouraged to take additional measures to protect PODER from any possible reputational harm. Management staff or a minimum of three Board members can require that PODER will only enter into or continue a formal relationship with a funder if it agrees in writing to:

2.1.1 Not interfere in any way with PODER's activities, including litigation activities, research activities and/or public or private advocacy activities;

2.1.2 Refrains from including PODER's name (or any PODER-managed/operated entities) in any public materials, including press, web or social media materials without first receiving written permission from the Executive Director, or specifically delegated member of staff;

2.1.3. Terminating the relationship with PODER at the express written instruction of PODER's Executive Director.



3. *Additional Elements*

3.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years with a view to considering how it can be strengthened. Under no circumstances shall the policy be revised to lighten the burden on funders to be any less separate and independent from for-profit entities or permitted to derive resources from the aforementioned industries included in 1.3. above.

3.2 Should any two members of the Board express concerns about the reputation of any potential or current funder they can request in writing (or during a Board meeting) that Management arrange for a third-party evaluation to be conducted into the funder in question, examining whether the funder meets all of the criteria mentioned in this policy.

3.3 Before considering whether or not to receive funds from a funder that two or more Board members harbour concerns about, PODER Management and Board Financial Committee members will actively seek the input of social justice organisations that have knowledge about the funder (or entities or notable individuals connected with the funder).

3.4 After consideration and agreement during a Board meeting or meetings, PODER Management is authorised to engage privately with a funder that does not currently meet the requirements of this policy in order to encourage said funder to take steps to meet all requirements of this policy. Management and the Board will together periodically review the progress of any funder that agrees to take steps toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The timeline by which a funder must meet the requirements of this policy will be established by Management and the Finance Committee on a case-by-case basis. No funder that PODER engages with to improve its internal policies shall publicly divulge any association with PODER. Should special circumstances arise whereby it is in the interest of PODER to associate with said funder, PODER Management can authorise a funder to publicly divulge its association with PODER only after receiving unanimous approval in writing from all members of the Board.

3.5 Nothing in provision 3.4. shall be interpreted to contravene the overriding requirement that PODER is not permitted from receiving any resources from any funder that fails to meet all the requirements in this policy.

The **Project on Organization, Development, Education and Research (PODER)** is a regional, civil-society, non-profit organization. Its aim is to advocate for transparency and accountability in Latin American countries from a human rights perspective, and empower agents in civil society affected by corporate practices so they can act as champions of accountability in the long term.



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