



Micronutrient Forum external engagement policy

To advance its mission, the Micronutrient Forum (the Forum) strives to foster multi-sectorial and cross-discipline coordination and collaboration on micronutrient-specific and -sensitive topics. As such, it engages with a diverse set of stakeholders, including private sector actors, academics, policymakers, implementors, and civil society. The Forum recognizes that active engagement with all these stakeholders, including private sector actors, is required to contribute to a world without micronutrient malnutrition.

The Forum is therefore committed to working in partnership, guided by the following principles:

1. **Benefit:** The Forum is committed to engagements that have the potential to bring a benefit that it cannot attain on its own, such as access to networks, access to resources including financial donations and sponsorships, non-financial gifts in-kind of material goods, services, time, or expertise. Additionally, the benefits of an external engagement must outweigh any potential real or perceived risks.
2. **Relevance:** Any collaborative activities with a stakeholder must have relevance to and be in support of achieving the Forum’s strategic goals.
3. **Independence:** Engagements must be consistent with the mission of the Forum and not undermine the Forum’s integrity or credibility, notably by having its agenda be externally influenced.
4. **Evidence-Based:** Engagements must be committed to sound, evidence-based public health nutrition practice.
5. **Transparency:** The Forum strives for full transparency to all of its stakeholders, notably through the public disclosure of all engagements (including, but not exclusive to committee membership, technical consultations, sponsorship, and funders among other types of engagements) on the Forum’s website.
6. **Accountability:** All engagement activities will be defined in a manner that ensures clear and mutually agreed roles, responsibilities, and goals; any benefits will be spelled out in accordance with Forum policies.
7. **Diversity:** The Forum will strive to ensure a diversity and balance of stakeholder engagement.

A due diligence process must be undertaken for any potential partner before an agreement is made. In broad terms, the due diligence process is meant to determine – to the best of our ability –

what risks exist in the possibility of partnering with a particular entity. Some areas are seen as non-negotiable, while many should be discussed so that potential risks are understood and documented.

The Forum will not engage (collaborate with or accept funding from) partners and their leadership that:

1. Produce tobacco or armaments
2. Have been involved in child labor practices, human rights violations or corruption.



In addition, in the absence of better methods for assessing and monitoring compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS), the Forum will not, at this time, actively solicit or accept funding from any BMS Producers/manufacturers and charitables/foundations/trade associations funded by one or more BMS producers/manufacturers.

Financial Support for the Global Conference

All sponsors and exhibitors in the Forum’s Global Conference will be subject to the following:

- a) The Forum retains complete control over the choice of speakers, the setting, invitations to attendees, and other arrangements.
- b) All exhibits must be for educational purposes only and open only to registered attendees. Examples of products include: food supplements, (bio)fortified food, educational tools, technical or diagnostic equipment.
- c) Any exhibits by companies involved in the manufacturing of breast milk substitutes must acknowledge the superiority of breast-feeding.
- d) No exhibitors will be allowed to distribute or put on display samples of infant formula and follow-up formula, baby bottles, teats, or similar products; no exhibitors will be allowed to distribute or put on display samples of sugar-sweetened beverages.
- e) All sponsorships will be acknowledged in the Conference materials.
- f) Exhibits will be located in a room separated from the rest of the general conference area.
- g) Corporate sponsors will be listed separately from non-corporate sponsors in sponsorship materials (i.e., banners, handouts).
- h) Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed in written documentation for: chairs of sessions, speakers at sessions, discussants at sessions (verbally, when appropriate), abstracts, or publication materials. Examples of a conflict of interest include (but are not limited to): - employment of self or close family members in commercial organizations relevant to content of the session - funding of research by commercial organizations
- i) Research presented at the Global Conference must be conducted in an ethical manner and, whenever possible, institutional ethical review approval must be documented.