Ethical Charter

PREAMBLE

The SeaCleaners Swiss aims to combat aquatic pollution and to fulfil its missions of waste collection, awareness raising, scientific research and international advocacy, as defined in its associative project.

The search for resources from companies, foundations and individuals is fundamental to the operation of The SeaCleaners Swiss, as it makes it possible to:

- diversify resources to develop new projects;
- raise awareness among new audiences, particularly employees of partner companies, through dedicated communication, workshops and operations;
- build relationships with donors, patrons and partners to closely associate them with the missions of The SeaCleaners Swiss.

Partnerships with businesses and contributions from individual donors enhance the organisation's ability to take action, fostering a connection between the economic, associative and civic sectors for the common good. The SeaCleaners Swiss upholds, among others, values of innovation, responsibility, transparency and efficiency. The organisation collaborates with businesses and foundations from all sectors.

As an organisation dedicated to protecting oceans and aquatic environments, The SeaCleaners Swiss notably advocates for the reduction of single use plastic. In doing so, it contributes to a more sustainable and sober society, committed to the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

This charter aims to define the ethical criteria governing the relationships of The SeaCleaners Swiss with its patrons, partners and individual donors, whether in the form of financial support, contributions in kind, skills patronage or public philanthropy.

ARTICLE 1

Preservation of the integrity of The SeaCleaners Swiss and prevention of conflicts of interest in patronage, partnerships and public philanthropy

The SeaCleaners Swiss reserves the right to refuse a patronage, a partnership or a donation if such an agreement creates doubts, even in appearance, regarding its integrity or independence. No patronage, partnership or donation will be accepted if it violates applicable laws.

Before concluding a patronage or partnership, or accepting a donation, The SeaCleaners Swiss gathers all information that may shed light on the specific nature of a potential partner's activities and on how that partner is perceived in its usual field of operation. The SeaCleaners Swiss rejects any agreement with partners whose integrity is legitimately in doubt and with whom it would be harmful to associate its image.

ARTICLE 2

Unsolicited sectors and businesses

All stakeholders of The SeaCleaners Swiss promote open mindedness and synergy with most economic sectors, to encourage contributions from all parties and to inspire long term behavioural change.

When collaborating with the private sector, The SeaCleaners Swiss establishes bilateral patronage agreements that respect:

- the principles of corporate patronage as defined by legislation;
- the associative project of the organisation as defined in its statutes.

However, The SeaCleaners Swiss refuses partnerships with companies whose core activities are incompatible with its values or contrary to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

These activities include:

- the production or trade of ammunition, antipersonnel mines or cluster bombs;
- the production or trade of tobacco;
- hydrocarbon companies without an established and applied strategy for the development of renewable energy and energy transition. This condition is evaluated by the organisation based on information that is accessible or provided by the company. If the commitments toward renewable energy are deemed sufficient, the organisation may decide to enter into discussions;
- companies affiliated with governments under international economic sanctions for financing

terrorism, using chemical weapons, conducting cyberattacks threatening other nations or committing serious human rights violations.

The SeaCleaners Swiss evaluates the environmental impact of emerging technologies, such as cryptocurrencies, before accepting donations in these forms. The organisation ensures that these technologies comply with its values of sustainability and with legal requirements, particularly regarding transparency and traceability of funds. If a donation in cryptocurrency or via an emerging technology presents risks or conflicts with these principles, The SeaCleaners Swiss reserves the right to refuse it.

ARTICLE 3

Grounds for termination of engagement

Before establishing a partnership, The SeaCleaners Swiss evaluates each proposal case by case, analysing the company's general information, sectors of activity, corporate social and environmental policy, financial health and reputation. The Committee may be consulted before approving a new corporate patron.

Within its means, the organisation conducts thorough due diligence on corporate statements and reserves the right to terminate a patronage that jeopardises its values or image.

The SeaCleaners Swiss implements a regular process to ensure that its partners uphold their ethical and environmental commitments. In cases of non compliance, the organisation reserves the right to reconsider or terminate the relationship. The SeaCleaners Swiss also reserves the right to terminate a partnership immediately if such activities are later revealed.

Repeated and known criminal convictions for activities such as human rights violations, ecosystem destruction, human trafficking, animal abuse, corruption or support for terrorism will result in the termination of the relationship. Serious suspicion of such activities may lead to a temporary suspension of the collaboration, followed by an in depth review by the Committee.

ARTICLE 4

Ethical commitments of patrons, partners and individual donors

4.1 Commitments of patrons and partners

By becoming patrons and/or partners of The SeaCleaners Swiss, companies and foundations commit to:

- adhering to the patronage and/or partnership agreement signed with the organisation;

- reducing the environmental impact of their activities, particularly regarding plastic pollution;
- raising awareness among their stakeholders (employees, customers, suppliers and others) to promote more environmentally responsible behaviour.

4.2 Commitments of individual donors

Public philanthropy plays a crucial role in supporting the missions of The SeaCleaners Swiss. In this capacity, individual donors commit to:

- supporting the objectives and values of the organisation;
- making donations transparently and in compliance with donation legislation;
- encouraging their networks to raise awareness about plastic pollution and the initiatives of The SeaCleaners Swiss.

ARTICLE 5

Ethical commitments of The SeaCleaners Swiss

5.1 Commitments to transparency, compliance and the fight against corruption

In their relationships with companies, patron foundations and individual donors, The SeaCleaners Swiss and its employees commit to:

- upholding the values and statutory missions of the organisation;
- acting with sincerity and respect in relationships with partners and donors;
- ensuring transparency in its actions and in the use of funds;
- regularly informing patrons and donors about project progress;
- reducing its own ecological footprint and applying the principles it advocates.

The SeaCleaners Swiss and its employees adhere to the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commit to respecting and promoting these rights in all activities and relationships with patrons, donors and partners. The SeaCleaners Swiss condemns all forms of modern slavery, forced labour and child labour, as well as any discrimination based on age, gender, religion, ethnic origin or any other personal characteristic.

The SeaCleaners Swiss and its employees also commit to conducting their activities in strict compliance with anticorruption laws and to applying reasonable due diligence principles before engaging with new partners. The organisation commits to refusing contributions from partners involved in unethical practices, ensuring that integrity and probity remain central to its actions.

The Committee of The SeaCleaners Swiss has implemented a zero tolerance policy regarding corruption, fraud and other irregularities, affirming its commitment to preventing and penalising any illegal or unethical practice within the organisation and in its relationships with partners, donors and patrons.

5.2 Environmental commitments

The SeaCleaners Swiss commits to respecting and promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The organisation aligns its actions and partnerships with these goals, particularly those related to:

- **Good Health and Wellbeing (Goal 3)**, contributing to healthier environments for coastal communities by eliminating plastic waste, which affects both human health and marine wildlife;
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6)**, protecting drinking water sources and reducing plastic contamination in streams, rivers and oceans, which are essential for many populations' access to drinking water;
- **Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11)**, working with local authorities to develop sustainable infrastructure and waste management systems, supporting resilient coastal and urban communities;
- **Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12)**, encouraging the reduction of plastic use, promoting sustainable practices and raising public awareness about the importance of recycling and waste management;
- **Climate Action (Goal 13)**, integrating environmentally friendly solutions and technologies into its operations, notably by adopting sustainable transport practices for its vessels;
- **Life Below Water (Goal 14)**, protecting and preserving marine ecosystems from plastic pollution and supporting the restoration of marine biodiversity.

ARTICLE 6

Relationships with associative partners

The SeaCleaners Swiss ensures, within its means, that the associative and institutional partners it collaborates with adhere to this charter and are not funded by companies or corporate foundations whose activities contradict the principles of this charter.

If evidence suggests that an associative partner is funded by a company that violates the charter, the Committee will be consulted for thorough review and decision.

Approved by the Committee of The SeaCleaners Swiss

On 17.10.2024

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