



Background paper on the Code of Conduct of the Standing Committee on Finance

I. Introduction

1. At its 4th meeting, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) considered the proposal for the Committee to adopt a code of conduct based on the background paper prepared by the secretariat compiling examples of codes of conduct among UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies (SCF/2013/4/10) and on the submission from a member of the SCF.
2. The SCF noted that there are UN-wide rules on ethics and conduct which the SCF may consider.

II. Standards of conduct in the United Nations system

3. There are Standards of Conduct which apply to personnel of the United Nations system, including civilian, police and military peacekeeping personnel.¹ These standards are not enforced to the SCF members as they are not UN personnel. However, the SCF may adopt these standards if the Committee wishes to do so. .
4. There is no one single code of conduct applicable to all bodies under the UN. Each of the bodies under the UN can establish its own code of conduct if it is deemed necessary. Related provisions are more often reflected in rules of procedure rather than in a separate document, for example: the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;² and Charter for the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Evaluation Service.³ Such provisions set basic principles of professional conduct and may cover the following areas: (1) competence, integrity and impartiality of members; (2) disclosure and resolution of conflicts of interest; and (3) confidentiality.
5. Several UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies have adopted codes of conduct: Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board; Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee; and the Adaptation Fund Board.⁴ Relevant provisions are also contained in the rules of procedure for the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol and the Board of the Green Climate Fund.
6. No codes of conduct have been adopted in other UNFCCC bodies such as: the Technology Executive Committee, the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.
7. In light of the information above, the SCF may wish to decide whether to adopt a code of conduct and what would be the elements of such a code.

¹ See <http://cdu.unlb.org/UNStandardsofConduct/CodeofConduct.aspx>

² See <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/>. Note also that in 2012 in Addis Ababa, Chairpersons of human rights treaty committees adopted "Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies."

³ See FAO's Basic Texts at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/K8024E.pdf#page=121>

⁴ See background paper on code of conduct (SCF/2013/4/10).