

ACT Alliance

Policy on Membership and Observer Agreements

May 2016

*Approved by the ACT Alliance Governing Board
May 2016*

I. Introduction

The ACT Alliance is an ecumenical membership-based organization created to provide high quality development, humanitarian and advocacy programmes in a transparent and accountable manner. The alliance provides a platform for members to strategize, coordinate, and collaborate in their work through the national, sub-regional, regional and global forums. The ACT Alliance membership is drawn from churches and church related organizations that meet the criteria for Voting members and Observer members as stipulated in the Founding Document and formulated in the Alliance Statutes and By-laws.

Upon ACT Governing Board's approval for membership application the organization must sign the Membership/Observer Agreement in order to become respectively an ACT member/observer.

II. Nature of the Membership/Observer Agreement

The Membership/Observer Agreement represents the expressed commitment of the organization and the ACT Alliance to work collaboratively in advancing the mission of the alliance; a shared member commitment to effective partnerships and to seek ways to broaden and deepen trust within the alliance. The Membership/Observer Agreement is therefore mandatory and must be signed by the management of each ACT member/observer organisation.

The Membership/Observer agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties to the agreement, namely, the member organization, and the ACT Alliance secretariat which represents the alliance. It also spells out the responsibilities of the ACT Alliance governance and management structures, the Governing Board, the Executive Committee, and the Membership and Nominations Committee. The agreement has also a section on settlement of disputes and complaints, and a section on member/observer status suspension or exclusion from membership in the alliance.

The ACT Code of Good Practice for the Alliance which outlines the values, principles and commitments that shape the humanitarian, development and advocacy work of ACT members is mandatory for all ACT members/observers and must be signed by the management of each ACT member/observer organisation. The Code of Good Practice is contained in the annex of the Membership Agreement and is an integral part of the agreement.

III. Consequences of non-signing Membership/Observer Agreement

An organization whose member/observer status to the alliance has been approved by the ACT Governing Board but, has not signed a membership/observer agreement within a six (6) months period, will not be considered as a member/observer of the Alliance. The approval will be considered ineffectual. The organization will therefore not benefit or participate in the alliance activities, including participation in the national, sub-regional, regional and global forums, accessing humanitarian funds through the alliance and participating in ACT structures and cannot co-brand under the ACT Alliance name and logo.

IV. Policy implementation

This policy will be implemented with immediate effect.