

## **Statement of Recognition of Independence for Private Sector Partners**

FIND is a Swiss non-profit foundation, recognized by the Swiss government as an international organization under Swiss UID No. [CHE-110.162.567](#). With headquarters located in Geneva, Switzerland, FIND has offices in India, Uganda, Vietnam and South Africa. Its mission is to turn complex diagnostic challenges into simple solutions to overcome diseases of poverty and transform lives. Its vision is a world where diagnosis guides the way to health for all people.

In order to achieve its charitable goals, FIND works closely with the private and public sectors. It does so based on objective standards that are data-driven and scientifically validated in accordance with [FIND's Policy & Guidelines for Working with Private Sector Partners](#). This Statement of Recognition document is primarily intended for private sector partners working with, supporting, or seeking to make donations to FIND. It contains at its end a declaration form to be signed by private sector partners or donors whenever possible. The term “private sector” in this context includes all entities that are privately owned, or are developing or commercialising products or services for commercial purposes.

FIND is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and became a WHO Collaborating Centre for TB diagnostics and laboratory capacity building in 2014. It intends to maintain its “NGO in official relations” status with WHO in order to be able to continue to inform, advise and provide data on diagnostics that can help to inform public health policies. It also needs to find sustainable ways of financing its projects in order to provide essential diagnostics to patients in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs). All of FIND's personnel, including its directors, employees, consultants and advisors are required to comply with FIND's [Code of Conduct & Ethics](#). FIND's private sector partners may also be required to adhere to FIND's Code of Conduct and Ethics if they do not already have a similar code of conduct of their own. This ensures not only that FIND acts professionally, independently and ethically at all times, but that it is and its private sector partners are also seen to act accordingly, working on the basis of objective data and opinions.

FIND acts transparently and without favouritism. It seeks to avoid conflicts of interest. The purpose of this Statement of Recognition is therefore to ensure that any private sector partners working with FIND understand and recognize FIND's need for independence, and respect the criteria and basis on which FIND and its staff are expected to act at all times. FIND's partnerships, projects and programmes need to be free from bias and based on objective standards, validated by independent experts or consensus opinions. As a result, private sector partners working with FIND are required to execute this document, recognising FIND's

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independence and freedom from undue influences at all times.

Accordingly, any private sector partner working with FIND is asked to recognise and accept that:

1. FIND is an independent charitable foundation that is bound by its [Policy and Guidelines for Working with Private Sector Partners](#) and its [Code of Conduct & Ethics](#). FIND acts as a neutral and independent NGO in official relations with WHO, acting in the best interests of patients in LMICs at all times. It cannot be influenced by any relationships, recommendations or partnership preferences when providing a report or recommendation.
2. FIND is required to work effectively and optimally with all stakeholders in the diagnostics sector, including public and private sector bodies. It may also work with private sector partners who are in competition with one another. No exclusivity or preferential treatment can be expected at any time as a result of working with FIND.
3. Subject to any contractual, legal or regulatory obligations of confidentiality it may be required to comply with, FIND needs to be free to make public and publish its findings, and provide any advice, recommendations or opinions as it deems fit and justified, even if they may be adverse to the interests of any partner or donor. FIND may not be influenced by inappropriate private sector, organisational, economic, social or political interests.
4. FIND seeks to create open diagnostic platforms that are appropriate and accessible for use in all LMICs, in accordance with FIND's global access and intellectual property (IP) policies. This includes assessing the costs and affordability of any products or services, and the ease of access to technology and any freedom to operate issues when making any recommendations.
5. Private sector support may be received for specific projects that are consistent with FIND's charitable goals and are summarised in written agreements that are available for review. Unless they are dedicated to a scientific research project that can be independently validated by FIND's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) or another external review body, no donations will be accepted by FIND with any conditions or restrictions. As a result, any sums received by FIND will be treated as unrestricted donations, unless they are made pursuant to a written agreement that may be independently reviewed and approved as described above, and disbursed in accordance with FIND's usual financial review systems, governance controls and practices.
6. In order to promote transparency, all private sector partnerships and any

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commercial relations that FIND may have with any private sector entities may be published on FIND's website. FIND intends to issue periodic reports explaining how donated funds have been allocated and used. It may refer to its sources of funding when issuing any scientific publications or giving any presentations.

7. Private sector partners and donors may be required to sign the Private Sector Partner or Donor Declaration Form provided below, confirming that they have read and accepted the principles contained in this document.

*See next page for FIND's Private Sector Partner or Donor Declaration Form*

**PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER OR DONOR DECLARATION FORM**

The undersigned entity confirms that it has been provided access to the following documents, which can be found on FIND’s website:

1. [FIND’s Code of Conduct & Ethics](#)
2. [FIND’s Policy and Guidelines for Working with Private Sector Partners](#)
3. FIND’s Statement of Recognition of Independence for Private Sector Partners (current document); and
4. FIND’s Global Access and Intellectual Property policies (coming soon)

It agrees that all resources, funds or donations granted to FIND may be used in accordance with these documents and free from any undue influences, at FIND’s discretion, subject to any contractual agreements that may be reviewed by FIND’s Scientific Advisory Committee or another external review body.

The undersigned entity confirms that it shall not be entitled to any particular findings, outcome, product endorsement, returns on investment, special consideration or preferential treatment as a result of it having provided any support, materials, funds or donations to FIND. Nor shall it seek to influence, delay or change FIND’s findings, reports or recommendations if they may be unfavourable to the undersigned entity’s personal interests.

FIND shall be free at all times to spend all funds or donations it receives from the undersigned entity in accordance with FIND’s charitable goal and mission and in accordance with any projects for which these funds were approved (subject to any contractual, legal or regulatory restrictions). It shall be free to provide similar assistance and support to competing companies and to publish and use any results it deems appropriate to advance the state of diagnostics in general.

Read and agreed to by (*Please print below*):

**Name of Entity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorised Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_