

Non-Partisanship and Political Independence

How ADCN stays independent while taking clear positions on public-interest

RULE

ADCN is independent of political parties, candidates, governments and private political interests. It may take clear positions on laws, public policy, institutional conduct and public-interest questions. It does not endorse, campaign for or campaign against a political party or electoral candidate.

PERSONAL POLITICAL VIEWS

Members and contributors remain free to hold personal political opinions and affiliations. Personal political activity must be kept separate from ADCN work, accounts, data, mailing lists, meetings, funds and visual identity.

- Do not present a personal party preference as ADCN's position.
- Do not use ADCN channels to solicit votes, donations or campaign support for a party or candidate.
- Do not use participation in ADCN to imply that the network endorses a member's political activity.

DISCLOSURE AND CONFLICTS

A person must disclose a current or recent role, candidacy, paid advisory relationship, campaign role, material financial interest or close relationship that could reasonably be seen as affecting a ADCN decision.

Disclosure does not automatically exclude participation; the response should be proportionate to the risk.

Party officials, candidates and people with a direct political conflict should not control sensitive decisions about institutional scrutiny, political statements, election-period communications, public endorsements, use of signatory data or complaints concerning their interests.

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

ADCN may meet ministers, MPs, opposition representatives, local officials, diplomats, regulators, parties and civic actors where that helps a public-interest objective. Engagement is issue-based and does not imply endorsement. The same evidence and standards should be applied regardless of political alignment.

REFERENDA AND CIVIC CAMPAIGNS

Supporting a citizen-led referendum or advocating for a change in law is not, by itself, party-political activity. ADCN's referendum work must remain focused on the legal question, verified evidence and civic participation. Party logos, slogans, candidate promotion and party fundraising must not be integrated into ADCN campaign materials. A political party may independently support the same public objective. That support does not transfer control, ownership or spokesperson authority to the party and should be described accurately.

RESOURCES AND BRANDING

- ADCN contact lists, signatory data, volunteer data and private groups must not be shared with political campaigns.
- ADCN funds or donated resources must not be used for candidate or party campaigning.
- Co-branded work with elected officials or political groups requires clear purpose, attribution and approval so that independence is not confused.

BREACHES

Concerns about political capture, undisclosed conflicts or misuse of ADCN resources may be raised through the complaints and protected-reporting route. Serious or repeated breaches can result in recusal, loss of access, removal from a role or ending participation in ADCN work.

This policy is a ADCN governance standard. It does not create a separate legal personality for the network or replace obligations imposed by applicable law.