



Policy Name : **Sustainable Donations and External Funding Acceptance Policy**

Related Documents : MOHESR Outcome-based Evaluation Framework (OEF), ADEK Standards and Procedure for Higher Education Institutions in Abu Dhabi – 2023, ESG 2015 Standards. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Principles of Sustainability (ADSM Sustainability Strategic Plan). ESG 2015 Standards

Section 1 : Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that ADSM accepts donations, sponsorships, grants, gifts, and other external funding in a manner that is ethical, transparent, and aligned with ADSM's environmental sustainability commitments and institutional values.
- 1.2 This Policy establishes criteria and procedures for assessing whether proposed sources of funding or donations present unacceptable environmental, ethical, legal, or reputational risk to ADSM.

Section 2 : Scope and applicability

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all monetary and non-monetary donations, sponsorships, grants, gifts, partnerships, naming opportunities, and other external funding offered to ADSM by individuals, companies, foundations, charities, and other entities.
- 2.2 This Policy applies to all ADSM units, employees, and representatives involved in the solicitation, review, recommendation, acceptance, administration, or approval of external funding and donations.
- 2.3 This Policy applies in addition to ADSM's Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy and any other applicable financial, procurement, governance, or compliance requirements.

Section 3 : Definitions

- 3.1 **Donation:** A voluntary transfer of money, property, goods, services, or other support to ADSM without commercial consideration.
- 3.2 **External Funding:** Any financial or in-kind support provided to ADSM by a third party, including grants, sponsorships, endowed support, project funding, and charitable contributions.
- 3.3 **Donor/Funder:** Any individual, company, foundation, government entity, charity, or other organization offering a donation or funding to ADSM.

- 3.4 **High-Risk Source:** A donor or funder whose activities, reputation, or source of funds may expose ADSM to significant legal, ethical, environmental, governance, or reputational risk.
- 3.5 **Environmental Risk:** The risk that a donor's or funder's activities, products, services, or business practices are associated with significant environmental harm, environmental non-compliance, or material inconsistency with sustainability principles.
- 3.6 **Due Diligence:** The proportionate review conducted by ADSM before accepting a donation or external funding to assess the legitimacy, conditions, and risks associated with the source.

Section 4 : Policy Statement

- 4.1 ADSM is committed to accepting donations and external funding only from sources that are consistent with the University's legal obligations, ethical standards, and sustainability principles.
- 4.2 ADSM shall assess proposed donations and external funding with due regard to the environmental impact of the donor's or funder's activities, the legitimacy and transparency of the source of funds, and any associated reputational or integrity risks.
- 4.3 ADSM reserves the right to decline any donation or external funding where acceptance could reasonably compromise the University's values, independence, reputation, compliance obligations, or sustainability commitments.

Section 5 : Exclusions

- 5.1 This Policy does not replace requirements under anti-bribery, procurement, financial control, or conflict of interest policies. Such requirements shall continue to apply where relevant.
- 5.2 Student tuition fees, standard commercial payments for approved services, and routine operational receipts are outside the primary scope of this Policy unless they are structured or presented as donations, sponsorships, or special-purpose funding.

Section 6 : Principles

- 6.1 All ADSM units and employees involved in external funding, donations, sponsorships, or partnerships shall comply with this Policy and submit relevant proposals for review before acceptance.
- 6.2 Legality and transparency
 - 6.2.1 ADSM shall only accept donations and external funding from lawful and identifiable sources.

6.1.2 The donor or funder must provide sufficient information to enable ADSM to understand the origin, purpose, value, and conditions of the proposed support.

6.3. Environmental sustainability considerations

6.3.1. ADSM shall consider the environmental impact of the donor's or funder's core activities when deciding whether to accept funding.

6.3.2. In assessing environmental sustainability, ADSM may consider whether the donor or funder is associated with activities that involve significant pollution, unsustainable resource extraction, repeated environmental violations, or other material environmental harm.

6.3.3. ADSM may decline donations or funding from sources whose activities are materially inconsistent with the University's sustainability commitments or whose environmental impact presents an unacceptable reputational risk.

6.4. Ethical and reputational considerations

6.4.1. ADSM shall not accept donations or funding that may compromise, or appear to compromise, its academic integrity, governance independence, decision-making, or public reputation.

6.4.2. ADSM shall not accept donations or funding linked to unlawful conduct, corruption, bribery, fraud, human rights abuses, or misleading conditions.

6.5. Independence and conditions of funding

6.5.1. Donations and external funding must not impose conditions that improperly influence ADSM's academic freedom, admissions decisions, staffing, assessment, research independence, or institutional governance.

6.5.2. ADSM may reject funding where the conditions attached are inconsistent with the University's mission, policies, or regulatory obligations.

6.6. Risk-based review

6.6.1. Donations and funding proposals shall be assessed on a proportionate, risk-based basis.

6.6.2. Enhanced review shall be required where the source, amount, purpose, conditions, or public profile of the proposed funding indicates elevated environmental, ethical, legal, or reputational risk.

6.7. Documentation

6.7.1. ADSM shall maintain appropriate records of due diligence, review findings, approvals, and final decisions related to donations and external funding.

Section 7 : Procedures

- 7.1. Any ADSM unit or employee receiving or proposing a donation or external funding opportunity shall submit the proposal for review before acceptance or public commitment.
- 7.2. The review shall include, as applicable:
 - 7.2.1. identification of the donor or funder;
 - 7.2.2. description of the amount, nature, and purpose of the donation or funding;
 - 7.2.3. review of any conditions, restrictions, naming rights, or expected benefits;
 - 7.2.4. assessment of legal, ethical, reputational, and environmental sustainability risks;
 - 7.2.5. confirmation that the proposed support does not conflict with ADSM policies or applicable regulations.
- 7.3. Where a proposal is considered high risk, ADSM shall conduct enhanced due diligence before any approval decision is made.
- 7.4. ADSM may request additional information or clarification from the donor or funder where necessary to assess the proposal.
- 7.5. ADSM shall reject any donation or funding where:
 - 7.5.1. the source of funds cannot be adequately verified;
 - 7.5.2. the donor or funder refuses to provide information reasonably required for review;
 - 7.5.3. the funding creates unacceptable environmental, ethical, legal, or reputational risk; or
 - 7.5.4. the conditions attached to the funding are inconsistent with ADSM's mission, policies, academic independence, or regulatory obligations.
- 7.6. Final approval shall be granted in accordance with ADSM's authority framework and internal approval requirements.
- 7.7. Records of accepted and rejected high-risk proposals shall be maintained by the Policy Owner or designated responsible unit.

Section 8 : Responsibilities

- 8.1. The President shall cause this Policy to be implemented.
- 8.2. The Head of Finance shall monitor implementation of this Policy and report violations.



Section 9 : Cancellations

9.1. None.

Section 10 : Review Statement

10.1. ADSM's Policy Committee shall review this Policy at least annually. This Policy may be reviewed more frequently based on a request from the President, Policy Owner or in response to changes in applicable regulations. Reviewed policies shall be recommended and approved in accordance with ADSM's P 110 – Policy on Policies.

Section 11 : Approval

Authorization / Ownership	Signature and Date
Policy Owner: The President	
Approved by: Executive Committee	Minutes of Meeting on 25/06/2026

Section 12 : Revision History

Revision No.	Effective Date	Description
0	25/06/2026	Policy First Approved

Next scheduled review: 25/06/2027

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