



## AGSA Alumni Association code of ethics

The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) is the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of South Africa as mandated by section 181(1)(e) of the Constitution. Our mission is to strengthen the country's democracy by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector through auditing, thereby building public confidence. The ethical conduct of the AGSA alumni is thus of paramount importance.

The AGSA has adopted, Intosai – code of Ethics – ISSAI 30 as well as the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants as the organisation's Code of Ethics. The IFAC Code of Ethics is also applicable to the AGSA Alumni Association as a related association of the AGSA.

This Code serves as a basis for ethical behavior and decision-making in the conduct of the AGSA Alumni Association work. As members operate in other capacities with organizations outside the AGSA Alumni Association, they should also be aware of the outside organisation's code of ethics and, where appropriate, adhere to that code as well.

### Fundamental principles

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires the Auditor-General to be independent and impartial, subject only to the Constitution and the law, and the Auditor-General must exercise his or her functions without fear, favour or prejudice. In order to assist the Auditor-General in fulfilling these constitutional imperatives, all members of the AGSA Alumni Association should duly observe the following fundamental principles.

#### **Integrity**

Integrity is closely linked to the principles of honesty, transparency, confidentiality and trust. These values are central to the performance of our duties as professionals. It requires one to avoid any form of deceit, deception and the misrepresentation of facts in statements, and to hold the truth paramount to any other consideration.

#### **Objectivity**

Objectivity is the quality of being able to maintain an impartial attitude and to not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others to override professional or business judgments. Being seen to be independent and objective is as important as actually being independent and objective.

#### **Professional competence and due care**

There is a responsibility to maintain professional knowledge and skill at the level required to perform professional services based on current developments in practice, legislation and techniques, and to act diligently and with reasonable care in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards.

### **Confidentiality**

There is an obligation to respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships. One should always observe confidentiality unless specific authority has been given to disclose information or there is a legal or professional right or duty to disclose such information. Confidentiality also requires that persons acquiring information in the course of performing professional services shall neither use nor appear to use that information for personal advantage or for the advantage of a third party. The duty of confidentiality continues even after the end of the relationship with the office or other stakeholders.

### **Professional behaviour**

It is of fundamental importance that one should act in a manner consistent with the good reputation of the AGSA and refrain from any conduct that may harm the professional image, cause an embarrassment or bring discredit to the AGSA. One should conduct oneself with courtesy and consideration towards all stakeholders in an endeavour to promote cooperation, mutual understanding and the fostering of sound relationships.

*For full details of the code of ethics, please refer to the IFAC Code of Ethics which is available on the IFAC website: <http://www.ifac.org>.*

### **Corrective action**

All members are responsible for complying with this code of ethics as well as any guidelines and standards in support of this code. Any member who is aware, or becomes aware, of a situation that may violate or lead to a violation of the code of ethics, shall promptly report this to the Ethics Officer of the AGSA. This includes violations members themselves may have inadvertently or otherwise committed. A member who reports a violation or potential violation will, to the fullest extent possible, remain anonymous.

Non-adherence with the principles in this code of ethics shall be brought to the attention of the AGSA leadership for appropriate action which may include cessation of membership to the Alumni Association.

### **Implementation and review**

The Association's committee will actively administer this Code for all members. Every year, members shall sign a statement attesting that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics, have read and understand the contents thereof, and agree to comply with the Code.

This Code will be reviewed at least every 2 years by the Association's committee, which will approve all changes made to the Code.

