

## **FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) Statement on Working with Industry.**

### **Introduction**

FDI is the global voice of the dental profession and works with its members to improve the oral health of people worldwide. As a membership organisation, FDI's is committed to representing the interests of its members: National Dental Associations (NDAs) and to support their efforts to improve oral health. FDI transforms this commitment into action by actively engaging with other stakeholders such as the World Health Organization, United Nations, health partnerships, governments, and industry partners.

Working with this broad range of organisations brings enormous benefits and strengths to FDI's work. It also requires a clear understanding of the risks (actual or perceived) that may arise from these collaborations. FDI is committed to maintaining the highest levels of integrity and transparency throughout its partnerships working.

This document sets out FDI's position in relation to engaging with Industry to fulfil its mission.

### **Rationale for working with Industry**

FDI recognizes and values Industry as a vital part of the global fight to improve oral health worldwide. The entire oral health community relies on quality, products, services, materials and equipment in order to serve their patients. FDI is delighted to work in partnership with forward-thinking, like-minded companies who demonstrate a clear commitment to FDI's mission.

### **Core Principles**

FDI is transparent about its engagement with industry. Furthermore, in recognition of industry support, FDI is pleased to acknowledge that support publicly in annual reports, on its website and on materials produced as a result of their support.

FDI reserves the right to refuse support from any business based on a perception of poor corporate reputation or behaviour.

In line with its values, FDI will not accept any form of support from the following industries:

- Weapons industry
- Tobacco industry
- Pornography industry

### **Protecting the Independence of FDI**

In order to deliver its mission, it is essential that FDI's stakeholders have full confidence in its expertise, integrity and independence. This is particularly the case with FDI's policy and advocacy work. Any conflict of interest, real or apparent, would serve to undermine over a century of work and erode the trust placed in FDI by its members, policy makers and the general public.

It is critical that the FDI's internal processes are robust and that FDI's policy development, project work and campaign messaging are carried out with full independence from commercial influence. FDI's leadership comes from within its membership. All are required to declare any interest on matters of discussion. As such, members of FDI's Council and Committees are required to sign a declaration of interest. By signing, they are



committing to full independence in their contribution to the work of FDI. This, de facto, excludes active involvement of company employees or major shareholders of a company supporting that work.

### **Other Considerations**

Any form of support received from a company is based on a legal contract.

FDI Council has the right to decline any form of support from a partner or a potential partner, if it believes the support may compromise the integrity of the work. The decision of the Council is final.

FDI seeks to diversify its range of partners in order not to become overly reliant upon one particular company or industry sector.

Where possible, FDI prefers to develop multi-year support in order to increase the chances of the long-term success of a particular initiative.

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