

Anti-corruption policy

GIZ expects a prompt, extensive and consistent clarification in all cases of corruption and other property crimes. Its corporate guidelines and principles clearly define what is expected of staff to prevent corruption. GIZ's anti-corruption management system forms the basis for preventing corruption within the company.

Corruption is the abuse of public or private-sector power or influence for private gain. Forms of corruption under criminal law include bribery and corruptibility, embezzlement, misappropriation, extortion and fraud. Anti-corruption measures include all activities aimed at tackling corruption in a preventive, informative and reactive manner, and to combat it wherever it occurs.

As a public-benefit federal enterprise in the field of sustainable development, GIZ is in the public eye worldwide. GIZ is highly accountable for the funds entrusted to it. Using taxpayers' money responsibly and protecting it against corruption is a top priority. Corruption involves high risks of criminal prosecution for individuals and immense reputational risks for the company. The mere suggestion of corruption can be damaging. As awareness of corruption rises among policy-makers and civil society, the range of client groups broadens, and commissions and procedures grow more and more complex, GIZ is increasingly called upon to reinforce its commitment to ensure that its actions are in line with the rules, to act with integrity and to actively combat corruption. For this reason, GIZ shapes its framework conditions in a way that enables the prevention of corruption.

GIZ's anti-corruption management system forms the basis for preventing corruption within the company. All staff are obliged to comply with the anti-corruption policy and all applicable anti-corruption legislation and regulations. They are responsible for preventing corruption through the actions they take and how they behave. The aim is to promote a corporate culture of anti-corruption that consistently raises awareness on corrupt activities and encourages all staff to take proactive steps to prevent all forms of corruption. Staff receive support in avoiding any possible organisational negligence and in preventing corruption to the greatest extent possible.

GIZ is clearly committed to combating corruption and demonstrating the consequences of corrupt activities. The basis for combating corruption is a comprehensive company-wide framework which is binding for all staff:

- GIZ Corporate Principles with corporate values and guidelines
- GIZ Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics
- Processes and Rules (P+R): GIZ's internal set of rules
- Policy on the prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing

GIZ defines clear rules for dealing with conflicts of interest and preventing corruption. Staff are prohibited from taking part in corrupt activities both actively (granting benefits) or passively (accepting benefits). Staff are called upon to take an active stand against non-ethical conduct. They are obliged to familiarise themselves with the applicable national anti-corruption legislation and to comply with it. Staff can access support at any time via the GIZ whistleblower system.

GIZ requires all third parties who provide services on its behalf and with whom it cooperates to comply with all applicable anti-corruption laws. GIZ expects consistent action both internally and from all third parties in the event of a (suspected) case of corruption and the establishment of an appropriate and suitable system to prevent and combat corruption. With this policy GIZ expresses that a lack of action will not be tolerated in corruption cases (zero tolerance for inaction).