



KMF Conflict of Interest Policy

Background:

- The Consortium Partners – Clingendael, IDLO, and Saferworld – play a strategic guiding role in the governing the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL) Secretariat, based on their legal role as accountable contract holders.
- Since 2017, Platform participants have had a greater voice in strategic guidance of the KPSRL Secretariat, through rotating seats on the Advisory Committee, one of the pillars of the governance structure.
- To avoid creating a disincentive to participate either in the Consortium Partnership or the Advisory Committee, members of either of these groups are eligible to submit applications to the Knowledge Management Fund (KMF), one of the Secretariat's most popular instruments for network engagement, knowledge generation and uptake.

Key features of the KPSRL governance structure

The governing body of the KPSRL is comprised of three elements:

1. A Management Committee, formed by the Consortium Partners and Head of Secretariat.
2. An Advisory Committee, formed by nine members including a Chair. Four members are selected by the Management Committee, and four members are selected through an open call to the Platform community. The ninth and final seat on the Committee is filled by a representative of the MFA. The Advisory Committee selects one of its members as Chair.
3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the contract holder will interact with the Management Committee through regularly scheduled policy dialogues. It will also participate in the Advisory Committee.

Role of the Advisory Committee on Conflicts of Interest

The Consortium Partners are permitted to submit applications to the Knowledge Management Fund. These are processed through the KMF normal procedures, and scored against the same criteria as any other application. In addition, when the Secretariat receives an application for the KMF from one of the Consortium Partners, the Advisory Committee Chair and one other Advisory Committee member without interest in the application will be asked to use the KMF criteria and scoring system to assess the application individually, and make their scoring and assessment available to the Head of Secretariat. This does not replace the role of the Head of Secretariat in using the criteria and scoring system to make her decision, but is intended as a further check and to ensure transparency. The Secretariat will take the Advisory Committee's assessment under advisement. This process is clearly outlined on the KMF webpage, alongside the application and scoring criteria. The MFA reserves the right to query decisions made on any conflict of interest issue involving any Consortium Partners use of KMF money.

KMF Applications from Advisory Committee Members

Advisory Committee members are permitted to submit applications to the Knowledge Management Fund. These are processed through the KMF normal procedures, and scored against the same criteria as any other application. In addition, when the Secretariat receives an application for the KMF from one of the Advisory Committee members (or their affiliated organization), two of the Consortium Partners will be asked to use the KMF criteria and scoring system to assess the application individually, and make their scoring and assessment available to the Head of Secretariat. This does not replace the role of the Head of Secretariat in using the criteria and scoring system to make her decision, but is intended as a further check and to ensure transparency. The Secretariat will take the Consortium Partners' assessment under advisement. This process is clearly outlined on the KMF webpage, alongside the application and scoring criteria.

No joint applications to the KMF from an Advisory Committee member (meaning the individual member as well as the organization for which they work) and a Consortium Partner (individual or organization) will be accepted. Applications from the MFA will not be accepted, nor does the MFA participate in reviewing any KMF applications.