

# NGO Standards: International Developments

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# NGO Standard Setting Mechanisms

- *Accreditation or Certification* -- independent third party verifies compliance against an established set of norms
- *Voluntary Codes of Conduct* – organizations set standards by voluntary agreement
- *Watchdog or Ratings Agencies* – set standards and rate other organizations
- *Information Agencies* -- provide information without any rating or interpretation

# Certification Programs with Government Recognition

- Australia AID
  - Funding eligibility for some programs depends on accreditation
  - Peer review process in which a joint AID/NGO body recommends accreditation of foreign development NGOs
  - Includes organizational and financial review
  - Organizations must comply with a code of conduct, among other standards

# Certification Programs with Government Recognition

- The Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy NPO Certification Programme
  - PCP officially authorized as a certification agency by government
  - Certification can be used as basis to obtain exemption from tax
  - Standards are in the areas of good governance, transparency and program effectiveness
  - Certification Panel composed of government and NGO representatives determines whether to certify the organization

# Certification Programs with Government Recognition

- Philippine Council for NGO Certification
  - Government delegates to PCNC authority to certify NGOs for tax benefit purposes
  - Standards are in the areas of program and financial management, governance and accountability
  - PCNC Board of Directors makes final decision as to whether an organization will be certified

# Self-Certification Programs

- Canada: Code of Ethics of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation
- Lesotho: Code of Conduct of the Lesotho Council of Non-governmental Organizations
- Macedonia: The Code of the Association of Children's Organizations in the Republic of Macedonia
- Spain: Fundacion Lealtad's Guia de al Transparencia

# Certification of Fundraising Organizations

- The Netherlands: The Central Bureau On Fundraising
- France: La Charte de Déontologie
- Germany: The DZI Donation Seal
- Switzerland: Le Label de Qualité ZEWO
- India: Give India

# International Initiatives

## The Sphere Project

- Launched by a group of humanitarian NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement
- Handbook with Minimum Standards and indicators that “inform different aspects of humanitarian action
- Highly collaborative development process

## HAP – I

- Purpose is to make humanitarian action accountable to beneficiaries
- Seven “Principles of Accountability”
- Seeking to develop an accreditation process for members
- Consultative Process