

Principles for Independent Research and Convening

Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) is an institute founded to promote the study and investigation of international affairs by conducting independent and objective research and by convening conferences and events. The institute is registered with the UK Charity Commission.

Chatham House is independently funded. It receives discretionary support from its membership and other individuals, and receives funding for its research and other activities from governments, the private sector, and charitable foundations.

This document sets out the institute's principles, as adopted by its Council, for ensuring the continuing independence and objectivity of its research, events, publications and other outputs.

Principles

1. Mission and public benefit

Chatham House raises funds for the fulfilment of its mission to be a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a sustainably secure, prosperous and just world. The institute undertakes work for the public benefit.

2. Integrity

Chatham House works to avoid any financial obligation which would undermine or contravene the pursuit of its mission and the principles laid out in this document. Sponsorship or financial support of research or events is not an indication of an endorsement of the past or present activities of the source of funding.

3. Independence and objectivity

Chatham House always retains independent control over its substantive outputs and public and private events, irrespective of the source of funding. Chatham House fosters objectivity in the research and events conducted under its name, including by pursuing an evidence-based approach to research and engaging a balance of diverse stakeholders in its meetings.

4. Openness and accountability

Chatham House applies a culture of openness regarding sources of funding. Anonymity may be granted to donors only in exceptional circumstances and according to specific guidelines. Confidential research and publications can be commissioned from the institute only if this supports its mission and does not constitute more than a small part of its overall annual income, not exceeding five per cent.

5. Awareness and responsibility

Chatham House believes that there is no substitute for a culture of awareness among all staff and associates of the importance of these principles. This culture is based on personal responsibility and extends to detailed knowledge of sources of funding and close attention to ethical considerations and potential conflicts of interest.

Council requires the institute's Senior Management to promote and support these overarching principles through leadership and by example. Formal processes are in place to ensure that these principles are upheld by all staff in their day-to-day work.

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