



Ethics – Statement of General Principles

The World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (WCSS22) is committed to ethical and responsible conduct in its ways of working, whether that is internally, with the global soil science community or with external partners.

As a UK registered company and charity registered with the Charity Commission, we will comply with all UK laws and regulations and conduct our operations in accordance with accepted principles of good corporate governance.

This statement covers the WCSS22:

- delivery team: Trustees and working groups
- volunteers
- congress participants (in Glasgow or by virtual attendance)
- directly contracted suppliers, including Speakeasy our professional congress organiser.

As far as possible, we expect our suppliers' supply chains to follow this statement.

This statement's purpose is to:

- Outline the requirements for the good ethical behaviours from all people involved in WCSS22: fairness, honesty, respect for others and integrity.

WCSS22 commits to:

- Respect the dignity of the individual and support the [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and other core conventions
- Conduct our operations on sound business principles with trust, honesty and integrity at the core of our activities
- Consider our impact on the environment and work to reduce the impact our operations have
- Ensure contributors to WCSS22 feel confident to report any non-compliance to this statement. Information received will remain confidential and the issue will be investigated fully, by the WCSS22 Trustees in the first instance. Any person expressing in good faith and selflessly their ethical or compliance concerns will not have any measures brought against them for expressing this
- Tackle bribery and conflicts of interest. No one to whom this statement relates must accept gifts, rewards or hospitality from any organisation or individual as an inducement either for doing something or not doing something in their capacity of delivering WCSS22. Suspected bribery should be reported to WCSS22 Trustees as soon as possible. In the event of a conflict of interest, which may occur if an employee or volunteer has an interest in an organisation providing goods or services, that interest must be declared in writing at the earliest possible opportunity and maintained in a Register of Interests.
- Prevent modern slavery. WCSS22 is committed to preventing modern slavery or human trafficking in supply chains or any part of business activities. Suppliers will be required to

operate in line with these principles, including responsible sourcing and paying employees at the prevailing minimum wage. If any of our suppliers are engaged in, or supporting modern slavery, we will immediately cease trading with them and report these activities to the relevant authorities.

- Seek sponsorship and support which reflects our environmental and ethical principles. We will not engage with sponsors or third-parties which do not support our charitable aims and objectives.

This ethics statement is fully supported by WCSS22 Trustees.

April 2021