

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
CODE OF CONDUCT
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PREAMBLE

Regulation 17(5) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015 requires, as part of Corporate Governance the listed entities to lay down a Code of Conduct for Directors on the Board of an entity and its Senior Management.

The Code of Conduct attempts to set forth the guiding principles on which the Bank shall operate and conduct its daily business with its multitudinous stakeholders, government and regulatory agencies, media and anyone else with whom it is connected.

साकेत मेहरोत्रा
मुख्य प्रबन्धक
(कंपनी सचिव)

विन्नी मखीजा
सहायक महाप्रबंधक

महिमा अग्रवाल
उपमहाप्रबंधक(लेखा)

I. Need and objective of the Code

Regulation 17(5) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015 requires, as part of Corporate Governance the listed entities to lay down a Code of Conduct for Directors on the Board of an entity and its Senior Management.

“senior management” shall mean the officers and personnel of the listed entity who are members of its core management team, excluding the Board of Directors, and shall also comprise all the members of the management one level below the Chief Executive Officer or Managing Director or Whole Time Director or Manager (including Chief Executive Officer and Manager, in case they are not part of the Board of Directors) and shall specifically include the functional heads namely General Managers / Deputy General Managers, the Company Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer.

Accordingly the Bank has laid down this Code for its Directors on the Board and its Core Management.

II. Bank’s belief system

This Code of Conduct attempts to set forth the guiding principles on which the Bank shall operate and conduct its daily business with its multitudinous stakeholders, government and regulatory agencies, media and anyone else with whom it is connected. It recognizes that-the Bank is a trustee and custodian of public money and in order to fulfill its fiduciary obligations and responsibilities, it has to maintain and continue to enjoy the trust and confidence of public at large.

The Bank acknowledges the need to uphold the integrity of every transaction it enters into and believes that honesty and integrity in its internal conduct would be judged by its external behaviour. The Bank shall be committed in all its actions to the interest of the countries in which it operates. The Bank is conscious of the reputation it carries amongst its customers and public at large and shall endeavour to do all it can to sustain and improve upon the same in its discharge of obligations. The Bank shall continue to initiate policies, which are customer centric and which promote financial prudence.

III. Philosophy of the Code

The Code envisages and expects –

- a) adherence to the highest standards of honest and ethical conduct, including proper and ethical procedures in dealing with actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships.
- b) full, fair, accurate, sensible, timely and meaningful disclosures in the periodic reports required to be filed by the Bank with government and regulatory agencies.
- c) compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- d) to address misuse or misapplication of the Bank’s assets and resources.

e) the highest level of confidentiality and fair dealing within and outside the Bank.

A. General Standards of conduct

The Bank expects all Directors and members of the Core Management to exercise good judgement, to ensure the interests, safety and welfare of customers, employees, and other stakeholders and to maintain a cooperative, efficient, positive, harmonious and productive work environment and business organization. The Directors and members of the Core Management while discharging duties of their office must act honestly and with due diligence. They are expected to act with that amount of utmost care and prudence, which an ordinary person is expected to take in his/her own business. These standards need to be applied while working in the premises of the Bank, at offsite locations where the business is being conducted whether in India or abroad, at Bank-sponsored business and social events, or at any other place where they act as representatives of the Bank.

B. Conflict of Interest

A “conflict of interest” occurs when personal interest of any member of the Board of Directors and of the Core Management interferes or appears to interfere in any way with the interests of the Bank. Every member of the Board of Directors and Core Management has a responsibility to the Bank, its stakeholders and to each other. Although this duty does not prevent them from engaging in personal transactions and investments, it does demand that they avoid situations where a conflict of interest might occur or appear to occur. They are expected to perform their duties in a way that they do not conflict with the Bank’s interest such as-

- **Employment / Outside Employment** - The members of the Core Management are expected to devote their total attention to the business interests of the Bank. They are prohibited from engaging in any activity that interferes with their performance or responsibilities to the Bank or otherwise is in conflict with or prejudicial to the Bank.
- **Business Interests** - If any member of the Board of Directors and Core Management considers investing in securities issued by the Bank’s customer, supplier or competitor, they should ensure that these investments do not compromise their responsibilities to the Bank. Many factors including the size and nature of the investment; their ability to influence the Bank’s decisions; their access to confidential information of the Bank, or of the other entity, and the nature of the relationship between the Bank and the customer, supplier or competitor should be considered in determining whether a conflict exists. Additionally, they should disclose to the Bank any interest that they have which may conflict with the business of the Bank. Insider Trading Regulations & Code of Conduct to regulate, monitor and reporting trading by Insider and Code of practices & procedures for fair disclosures are to be strictly complied with by all the Directors on the Board and Core Management Team.

Related Parties - means subsidiaries, associates, joint controlled entities, KMP and their relatives or an entity as may be defined by RBI for compliance of Accounting Standards.

Relatives means and includes anyone who is related to another, if –

- i) They are members of a Hindu undivided family;

- ii) They are husband and wife; or
- iii) Father (including step-father)
- iv) Mother (including step-mother)
- v) Son (including step-son)
- vi) Son's wife
- vii) Daughter
- viii) Daughter's husband
- ix) Brother (including step-brother)
- x) Sister (including step-sister); or
- xi) as may be notified by RBI or Ministry of Corporate Affairs from time to time.

If such a related party transaction is unavoidable, they must fully disclose the nature of the related party transaction to the appropriate authority. Any dealings with a related party must be conducted in such a way that no preferential treatment is given to that party.

In the case of any other transaction or situation giving rise to conflicts of interests, the appropriate authority should after due deliberations decide on its impact.

C. Applicable Laws

The Directors of the Bank and Core Management must comply with applicable laws, regulations, rules and regulatory orders. They should report any inadvertent noncompliance, if detected subsequently, to the concerned authorities.

D. Disclosure Standards

The Bank shall make full, fair, accurate, timely and meaningful disclosures in the periodic reports required to be filed with Government and Regulatory agencies. The members of Core Management of the Bank shall initiate all actions deemed necessary for proper dissemination of relevant information to the Board of Directors, Auditors and other Statutory Agencies, as may be required by applicable laws, rules and regulations.

E. Use of Bank's Assets and Resources

Each member of the Board of Directors and the Core Management has a duty to the Bank to advance its legitimate interests while dealing with the Bank's assets and resources. Members of the Board of Directors and Core Management are prohibited from:

- using corporate property, information or position for personal gain;
- soliciting, demanding, accepting or agreeing to accept anything of value from any person while dealing with the Bank's assets and resources;
- acting on behalf of the Bank in any transaction in which they or any of their relative(s) have a significant direct or indirect interest.

F. Confidentiality and Fair Dealings

1. Bank's Confidential Information

- The Bank's confidential information is a valuable asset. It includes all trade related information, trade secrets, confidential and privileged information, customer information, employee related information, strategies, administration, research in connection with the Bank and commercial, legal, scientific, technical data that are either provided to or made available to each member of the Board of Directors and the Core Management by the Bank either in paper form or electronic media to facilitate their work or that they are able to know or obtain access by virtue of their position with the Bank. All confidential information must be used for Bank's business purposes only.
- This responsibility includes the safeguarding, securing and proper disposal of confidential information in accordance with the Bank's policy on maintaining and managing records. This obligation extends to confidential information of third parties, which the Bank has rightfully received under non-disclosure agreements.
- To further the Bank's business, confidential information may have to be disclosed to potential business partners. Such disclosure should be made after considering its potential benefits and risks. Care should be taken to divulge the most sensitive information, only after the said potential business partner has signed a confidentiality agreement with the Bank.
- Any publication or publicly made statement that might be perceived or construed as attributable to the Bank, made outside the scope of any appropriate authority in the Bank, should include a disclaimer that the publication or statement represents the views of the specific author and not the bank.

2. Other Confidential Information

The Bank has many kinds of business relationships with many companies and individuals. Sometimes, they will volunteer confidential information about their products or business plans to induce the Bank to enter into a business relationship. At other times, the Bank may request that a third party provide confidential information to permit the Bank to evaluate a potential business relationship with that party.

Therefore, special care must be taken by the Board of Directors and members of the Core Management to handle the confidential information of others responsibly. Such confidential information should be handled in accordance with the agreements with such third parties.

- The Bank requires that every Director and the member of Core Management, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Company Secretary and Chief Financial Officer should be fully compliant with the laws, statutes, rules and regulations that have the objective of preventing unlawful gains of any nature whatsoever.
- Directors and the members of Core Management shall not accept any offer, payment promise to pay, or authorization to pay any money, gift, or anything of value from customers, suppliers, shareholders/ stakeholders, etc. that is perceived as intended, directly or indirectly, to influence any business decision, any act or failure to act, any commission of fraud, or opportunity for the commission of any fraud.

IV. Good corporate governance practices

Each member of the Board of Directors and Core Management of the Bank should adhere to the good Corporate Governance practices. Some of the good Corporate Governance practices are enumerated hereunder. These are only illustrative and not exhaustive:

- Attending Board meetings regularly and participate in the deliberations and discussions effectively [Member(s) of Core Management, however attend the meetings on a 'need-based' requirement].
- Studying the Board papers thoroughly and enquire about follow-up reports on definite time schedule.
- Involving actively in the matter of formulation of general policies.
- Familiarising with the broad objectives of the Bank and the policies laid down by the Government and the various laws and legislations.
- Ensuring confidentiality of the Bank's agenda papers, notes and Minutes.
- Not interfering in the day to day functioning of the bank [not applicable to wholetime director(s) and members of the Core Management].
- Not revealing any information relating to any constituent of the Bank to anyone.
- Not displaying the logo / distinctive design of the Bank on their personal visiting cards / letter heads.
- Not sponsoring any proposal relating to loans, investments, buildings or sites for Bank's premises, enlistment or empanelment of contractors, architects, auditors, doctors, lawyers and other professionals etc.
- Not doing anything, which will interfere with and / or be subversive of maintenance of discipline, good conduct and integrity of the staff.

V. Periodic Review

All Board of Directors and members of Core Management shall affirm compliance with the code on an annual basis or upon revision. New Director(s) and new member(s) of the Core Management will sign the code at the time when their Directorship begins or Membership of Core Management begins respectively. All existing members of the Board of Directors and Core Management shall give declaration on adoption of this Code.

VI. Waivers

Any waiver of any provision of this Code of Conduct for a member of the Bank's Board of Directors or a member of the Core Management must be approved in writing by the Board of Directors of the Bank.

The matters covered in this Code of Conduct are of the utmost importance to the Bank, its stakeholders and its business partners, and are essential to the Bank's ability to conduct its business in accordance with its value system.