

LAB 593 Code of Ethics

Preamble

LAB 593 is a nonprofit think tank whose mission is to contribute to the reduction of multidimensional poverty in Ecuador. We understand multidimensional poverty as the lack of means, rights, capabilities, and opportunities that prevent citizens from achieving their goals and living fulfilling lives. This complex and persistent reality demands rigorous, creative, and ethically grounded responses.

We believe in economic freedom as a driver of human development and in the responsibility of solidarity with present and future generations. Our work is oriented toward long-term structural solutions that are sustainable, replicable, and capable of generating lasting change in people's lives.

This Code of Ethics establishes the principles, commitments, and standards that guide the conduct of LAB 593, its directors, researchers, staff, and partners. It is an accountability instrument before Ecuadorian society and before the national and international organizations that accompany us in this endeavor.

I. Institutional Nature and Mission

LAB 593 is a private, nonprofit organization, independent of partisan political activity or nonpartisan and unconnected to any electoral process. Its purpose is the analysis, design, and promotion of public policies, strategies, and initiatives that contribute to reducing multidimensional poverty in Ecuador, from a perspective of economic freedom, intergenerational solidarity, and technical rigor.

LAB 593 operates with full independence from political parties, governments, economic interest groups, and any entity that could compromise the objectivity of its work. This independence is an essential condition of its credibility and effectiveness.

II. Guiding Principles

The following principles guide all activities of LAB 593 and constitute the reference framework for the selection, design, implementation, and evaluation of all its projects.

- 1. Reduction of Multidimensional Poverty.** All activities of LAB 593 must contribute, directly or indirectly, to reducing the lack of means, rights, capabilities, and opportunities that prevent Ecuadorian citizens from achieving their goals and living lives of dignity.

- 2. Structural and Long-Term Focus.** LAB 593 addresses the underlying problems and opportunities that define the living conditions of the population. Short- and medium-term actions are designed in service of sustained structural transformation.
- 3. Intergenerational Responsibility and Sustainability.** Projects must be environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and economically viable, so that present-day decisions do not compromise the opportunities of future generations.
- 4. Feasibility and Scalability.** Initiatives must be fundable with reasonable resources, executable with available capabilities, and designed in such a way that they can be replicated and scaled to maximize their impact.
- 5. Measurement, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement.** LAB 593 is committed to establishing clear indicators for each project and evaluating them systematically in order to make responsible, evidence-based decisions.
- 6. Efficiency and Collaboration.** Resource use must be optimized by leveraging existing capabilities and fostering alliances with other institutions, in a spirit of cooperation aimed at generating the greatest possible impact efficiently.
- 7. Commitment and Sense of Purpose.** LAB 593 initiatives must inspire genuine conviction in those who implement them and in those who benefit from them. We recognize the commitment of all stakeholders and the generation of social value as a condition of success.
- 8. Third-Party Implementation.** LAB 593 designs, promotes, and/or funds projects whose implementation is carried out by strategically identified third parties. This distinction between design and implementation ensures the objectivity of monitoring and evaluation and, above all, allows for the maintenance of a broad, long-term view of Ecuador's structural needs.
- 9. Beauty as a Public Good.** LAB 593 recognizes beauty, in its physical, cultural, artistic, and intellectual dimensions, as a fundamental element of human well-being. Diversity of thought, the novelty of ideas, and the quality of design are expressions of beauty that enrich the lives of citizens and contribute to their dignity. LAB 593 projects deliberately seek to integrate this principle.

III. Integrity and Transparency

3.1. Intellectual Independence

LAB 593 guarantees that its analyses, research, and recommendations are produced with academic rigor and full independence. No funder, partner, or external entity has the

authority to determine the conclusions of LAB 593's work. Any undue influence over content will be rejected.

3.2. Financial Transparency

LAB 593 will maintain complete, accurate, and auditable financial records. Financial statements will be available to its funders and, under the terms established by law and institutional agreements, to the general public. Funds received will be used exclusively for their declared purposes.

3.3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Staff, researchers, and collaborators of LAB 593 are required to promptly disclose any personal, professional, or financial relationship that could generate a conflict of interest incompatible with the organization's activities. When a declared conflict could negatively affect the legitimacy of LAB 593's actions or results, the person involved will recuse themselves from related decisions.

3.4. Ethical Use of Resources

LAB 593's resources, whether of public or private origin, will be administered with austerity, efficiency, and absolute honesty. The use of institutional resources for personal benefit or for purposes other than the organization's mission is expressly prohibited.

IV. Political Independence

LAB 593 does not participate in partisan political activities or electoral campaigns. Its institutional positions, when adopted, are grounded exclusively in technical analysis and the values stated in this Code. The organization may engage with government bodies and actors of various ideological persuasions to the extent that doing so advances its mission, without such engagement implying adherence to or support for any electoral cause.

Staff and collaborators of LAB 593 have full freedom to exercise their civic rights in a personal capacity; however, they must refrain from invoking their affiliation with LAB 593 when doing so, and from compromising the organization's image in partisan political debates.

V. Scientific and Academic Responsibility

LAB 593 is committed to the highest standards of rigor in the production and dissemination of knowledge. This entails:

- Properly citing all sources used and respecting intellectual property rights.
- Not fabricating, falsifying, or omitting data in order to support predetermined conclusions.
- Openly acknowledging the methodological limitations of studies conducted.

- Submitting work to external review when the nature of the project so warrants.
- Publicly correcting any errors identified in already-published works or reports.

VI. Respect and Safeguarding of Beneficiaries

LAB 593 ensures that the projects it promotes cause no harm to the populations they serve or to third parties. In particular:

- The dignity, privacy, and rights of individuals involved as beneficiaries or research subjects will be protected at all times.
- Personal data collected within the framework of projects will be handled confidentially and in accordance with applicable law.
- Informed and voluntary participation in the design and evaluation of relevant initiatives will be promoted.
- Specific safeguards will be adopted for the protection of groups in vulnerable situations.

VII. Project Selection and Management

Every project that LAB 593 decides to promote must comply with the nine guiding principles set forth in Chapter II of this Code. The selection process will be documented, transparent, and subject to review by the organization's Board of Directors.

Since project implementation is carried out by third parties, LAB 593 will establish clear agreements on responsibilities, timelines, performance indicators, and accountability mechanisms. Monitoring will be ongoing, and results will be communicated honestly, regardless of whether they confirm or contradict the initial hypotheses.

VIII. Relationship with Funders and Partners

LAB 593 will value and cultivate long-term relationships with its funders, built on trust, transparency, and mutual respect. Within this framework:

- It will provide timely information on the progress, results, and challenges of funded projects.
- It will not accept funds from sources that require, directly or indirectly, compromising the intellectual independence or values of the organization.
- It will reject any funding derived from unlawful activities or activities contrary to the principles of this Code.
- It will publicly acknowledge the support of its funders under agreed terms, without this implying endorsement of their particular positions.

IX. Institutional Governance

LAB 593 will have governance structures that ensure independent oversight of its activities, the proper administration of its resources, and compliance with this Code. Governing bodies will be responsible for:

- Ensuring consistency between the institutional mission and the activities carried out.
- Approving financial management, personnel, and project selection policies.
- Periodically reviewing this Code to keep it current with emerging challenges and international standards.
- Maintaining adequate channels to receive inquiries, handle complaints, and foster a culture of institutional integrity.

X. Non-Compliance and Reporting Mechanisms

LAB 593 establishes accessible and confidential channels through which any staff member, partner, beneficiary, or member of the public may report conduct that violates this Code. Reports will be investigated impartially and diligently. Individuals who report in good faith will be protected against retaliation.

Non-compliance with the provisions of this Code may result in disciplinary measures proportional to the severity of the violation, including termination of the contractual or associative relationship, without prejudice to any legal liability that may apply.

XI. Effective Date and Updates

This Code of Ethics takes effect on the date of its adoption by the governing bodies of LAB 593 and is mandatory for all directors, researchers, staff, and partners of the organization. It will be reviewed periodically to incorporate institutional learning and sector best practices, while maintaining full alignment with the standards required by leading funders in the United States and Europe.

Approved on June 1, 2026