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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – AVSI FOUNDATION

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Introduction

AVSI FOUNDATION, created in 1972, is a non-profit organization which carries out development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects throughout the world.

Vision

AVSI works for a world where the person, aware of his/her value and dignity, is the protagonist of his/her own integral development and that of his/her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

Mission

AVSI implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. Each project is conceived as an instrument to promote this awareness in everyone involved, has in itself a need for communicating and sharing, and creates an impact capable of generating a positive change.

Method

In project implementation, AVSI uses the following approach:

- to start from the value of the person, who is never defined by the circumstances in which s/he lives
- to consider the person always in his/her family and community context
- to do with: accompany and let ourselves be accompanied, recognizing that we all share the same human experience
- to involve all stakeholders: encourage the participation of beneficiaries, providers, partners, donors, and the private sector
- to learn from experience and capitalize on the lessons learned.

AVSI has been recognized since 1973 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a non-governmental organization for international cooperation (NGO), registered as Civil Society Organization by AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation).

- Registered as a PVO with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- Holds General Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York, with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York and with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.
- Accredited participant of the UN Global Compact,
- Accredited participant of the Global Nutrition Cluster
- Recognized on the NGO Special List of the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- Associated General Member of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.
- Associated member of the Global Alliance for Clean Cooking (GACC)
- Associated member of Cities Alliance.
- Joined and signed the Code of Conduct of the "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGO's in Disaster Relief".
- Recognized as an NGO for international cooperation by the European Union and is authorized by the Italian Government for international adoptions.

Principles of AVSI Environmental Policy

In the activities and projects AVSI implements and recognizes its role and responsibilities with reference to the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are part of the United Nations Agenda 2030

AVSI intends to continue to develop projects, initiatives and adopt behaviors consistent with, among others, the objectives:

- SDG N.7, which expresses the need to ensure access to clean, cheap and sustainable energy for all;
- SDG N.9, which expresses support for the construction of infrastructure needed to promote innovation and fair, responsible and sustainable industrialization;
- SDG N.11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, durable and sustainable;
- SDG N.12, to ensure sustainable patterns of production and consumption of resources and energy;
- SDG N.13, which summons rapid action to combat climate change and its consequences;
- SDG N.15, which expresses the need to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of the earth's ecosystem; sustainable forest management; combating desertification, land degradation and loss of biological diversity.

Application

This Policy applies to all AVSI offices worldwide, starting with those in Italy (Cesena and Milan), in full compliance with the environmental regulations in force in the various countries where AVSI works.

This document defines AVSI's Environmental Policy and provides general guidance for all locations with the aim of responsibly and sustainably protecting the environment in which we operate through appropriate organizational and management processes implemented at all levels of both HQ and Local.

To this document must be given maximum visibility and dissemination not only to AVSI's internal staff but also to collaborators, partners, stakeholders, donors, suppliers, etc. and must be publicly displayed in our offices.

Areas of intervention and elements of the Policy

Through this Policy, AVSI recognizes the importance of identifying and evaluating all impacts, positive and negative, including potential ones, that its activities and projects may have on the environment, and accordingly undertakes to adopt behaviors that reduce its carbon footprint, in full compliance with the relevant legislation applicable to all the countries in which AVSI operates.

AVSI therefore intends to pursue the following goals:

Use of resources

- Gradual improvement of the systems for the efficient use of energy by promoting development projects and personal behaviour to contain energy consumption.
- Monitoring and promoting development projects and behaviours aimed at a conscious use of water resources.
- Monitoring and promoting behaviours focudes on a conscious consumption of paper and the spread of a ecological or recycled paper use.
- Monitoring and promoting behaviours focused on reducing the use of plastic.
- Optimize in a proper way the management of the products waste according to the principle of 4R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) through proper collection and proper disposal especially through separate collection where possible and permitted.

Renovations, new constructions and installations.

- Use, where possible and functional, solutions and technologies aimed to improving the energy performance of buildings (Solar Systems, Geothermal Air Conditioning and Heating, low consumption equipment and machinery, etc.) paying particular attention to plants and equipment, their operation and maintenance, ensuring maximum efficiency in the use of natural resources.

Awareness raising

- Raising the awareness of the beneficiaries of our projects to environmental issues also through specific activities included in the projects themselves.

Sustainable mobility

- Introduce the use of low environmental impact cars (Hybrid or Electric), where possible and functional to the activities of the headquarters.

Suppliers and Purchases

- Endorse where possible and always in full compliance with internal and external purchasing procedures aimed to ensuring maximum transparency, fairness and competitiveness, the selection of those suppliers of equipment, consumer goods and services with the lowest environmental and social impact throughout the product life cycle.

Staff training and information

As already mentioned in the previous paragraphs, to this document must be given maximum visibility and dissemination also through training of employees and collaborators on environmental issues, making them responsible for the contribution that the individual, through his or her behaviour, can make to environmental protection.

Our employees must always have at their disposal the necessary information to apply internal procedures in order to make informed choices and the means to implement them effectively.

The induction and training process for all new staff members should include a specific session to present this Policy.

This Policy shall be periodically reviewed and supplemented in the light of any legal provisions or new aspects to be considered.