

III. funding principles

ASTM carries out its work with professionalism and commitment while maintaining its autonomy and its right to pursue any initiative it so wishes with its partners, donors and financing institutions.

- ASTM's activities are funded through private donations and public grants.
- Private donations are regarded as an expression of an individual's solidarity with ASTM's activities as a whole.
- Government grants are seen as an expression of collective solidarity. Their value is greater for the fact that they pass from civil society actors in rich countries to their counterparts in poor countries.
- Any fund-raising campaign must respect the dignity of human beings and avoid catastrophic or idyllic images, in accordance with CONCORD's code of conduct for «Images and Messages».
- ASTM's private donors and public funders support the implementation of its policies and strategies both in developed and developing countries. They have no influence over ASTM policy and strategy.
- Donors have the right to be informed of ASTM's actions and how it functions with full transparency.

IV. operating principles

ASTM has put in place democratic and participatory structures, which allow for personal initiative while ensuring the coherence of all its activities.

- ASTM's operations rely on cooperation between paid and voluntary staff and great importance is given to people's involvement at all levels of activity.
- Decisions are taken by democratic, transparent and participatory means.
- All ASTM's bodies are required to set and follow the association's guidelines;
- All those involved must work to ensure the effectiveness of the organisation and its management, as well as efficiency in the use of resources.
- ASTM is composed of various work sectors ("agencies") under the responsibility of one or more paid staff members, with each supported by a group of volunteers.

In addition to the work areas, various ad hoc working groups ensure the monitoring of certain specific issues.

- The decision-making structure is composed of various bodies:
- The statutory General Assembly convenes annually; it includes active members and staff and is the association's highest decision making body.
- The Governing Board meets monthly and sets the objectives, priorities and work plans of the various sectors for the year; it takes decisions on strategic choices.
- The Management Committee meets monthly and manages the affairs of the association; it oversees the implementation of decisions adopted by the Governing Board.
- The Coordinator should ensure that decisions taken by the various organs are implemented on a day-to-day basis, whilst also ensuring the coherence of the activities of the various sectors with general ASTM policy.

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This charter was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on April 25, 2006. It serves as a reference for members of Action Solidarité Tiers Monde a.s.b.l. (ASTM). It recalls the values which they agree to unite around and act together for, as well as the organisation's objectives and working principles.

I. for a united world

Members of ASTM are aware that uneven development in today's world affects the developed world as well as the developing world, but that the causes lie mainly here in the centres of economic and political power. We, members of ASTM, are convinced that a change towards a more just world is possible and that every individual has a responsibility and duty to make every effort to achieve this:

1. values we adhere to

ASTM supports development founded on human rights and the following values:

- solidarity among different peoples, nations and cultures of the world;
- participatory democracy and the right to self-determination of peoples as the basis of economic, social, cultural and political development;
- social and economic justice as a framework for the empowerment of groups and individuals in a free, peaceful and equitable environment;
- sustainable development as an expression of the responsibility of every individual and every community on behalf of future generations;
- equality between men and women;
- cultural diversity and the right to freedom of thought.

2. goals that we are pursuing

A real change towards a fairer world is feasible only when solidarity exists among different peoples and cultures of the world. Government policy does not always respond appropriately to the challenges of underdevelopment. ASTM wants to contribute to real change by:

- networking between civil societies in developing and developed countries;
- supporting social movements in developing countries in their quest for economic, political and social empowerment;
- promoting a realistic image of developing countries in developed nations, and combating stereotypes and preconceptions;
- defending cultural wealth and diversity;
- advocating policies in developed and developing countries that give a central role to the concerns of the people and their organisations.

II. overall strategy

ASTM recognizes the equal importance and complementarity of its three areas of activity:

1. Solidarity projects
2. Development education
3. Political analysis and policy advocacy

This three-pronged approach determines the association's strategies and operations.

1. solidarity projects

Every human being has the right to lead a life free of oppression and misery. Poverty and under-development are not natural occurrences but rather the result of situations of injustice created and maintained by human actions. Development assistance is a duty and should never be seen as a gesture of charity.

Solidarity projects are based on partnerships with organisations in developing countries. It is a partnership based on reciprocity, which goes beyond mere financial support to take the form of political cooperation. In turn, this collaboration contributes to defining the direction of our policy agenda and our development education activities. It is the partners who manage the projects funded by ASTM, and it is they who are responsible for the identification and implementation of the projects. ASTM can play a supporting role according to the needs of the partner concerned.

Solidarity projects are in the main intended to further the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights, including:

- food sovereignty and sustainable management of natural resources;
- strengthening the role of women and support for income generating activities;
- institutional strengthening of partner organisations;
- the right to health and education.

Partnerships are built:

- with account being taken of the realities of the countries concerned and the needs and skills of the partner organisation;
- on a basis of trust/confidence. The intensity of our follow-up will depend on the capacity of the partner and specific requests made by him;
- over the long term;

with partners that are:

- rooted in their social environment, and that have democratic, transparent structures;
- autonomous, in their actions and decisions, from political and religious authorities;
- close to their beneficiary populations;
- have the financial capacity, human resources and infrastructure to properly manage the actions envisaged.

2. development education

ASTM sees development education as a process designed to promote awareness and behavioural change in both individuals and collectively in order to bring about a fairer world.

The aim of Development Education is to:

- create a better understanding of the interdependencies and mechanisms that generate unjust relations between developed and developing countries;
- promote intercultural dialogue based on respect and equality;
- contribute to dismantling stereotypes and preconceptions by giving as faithful a representation as possible of the reality of life in developing countries;
- promote values and attitudes that encourage solidarity between rich and poor countries and behavioural changes that contribute to creating a just world;
- initiate and strengthen advocacy and solidarity among rich and poor societies.

ASTM's development education activities:

- are based on the realities of poor countries;
- advocate methods that enable the public to change their perspectives;
- promote learning in terms of knowledge, expertise and life skills;
- encourage individual and collective action.

3. analysis and political action

ASTM considers its political actions to be essential components of citizenship education and active solidarity. ASTM's political actions aim to:

- analyse political and economic developments at the national, European and wider international levels;
- ensure consistency in Luxembourgish and European policies in the interest of sustainable development in all its components;
- influence the political and economic policy-making bodies with a view to making structural changes in relations between rich and poor countries;
- make the voice of poor countries heard through the rich world's media.