



AFRICA BITCOIN
CORPORATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST MANAGEMENT POLICY



Ownership of this policy is vested with The Africa Bitcoin Corporation Group of Companies

The Group of Companies (the company) ("**ABC**") consists of

- Africa Bitcoin Corporation Ltd, REG NO: 2021/540736/06 ("**ABC**")
- Altvest Credit Opportunities Fund Ltd, REG NO: 2022/737301/06 ("**ACOF**")
- Africa Bitcoin Strategies (Pty) Ltd, REG NO: 2022/388673/07 ("**ABS**")
- Altvest Capital Solutions (Pty) Ltd, REG NO: 2021/976835/07 ("**ACS**")
- Altvest Wealth (Pty) Ltd, REG NO: 2015/038780/07 ("**AW**")

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Document History

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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. Application of this policy

This policy applies to all board members and executive management of ABC and those of its subsidiaries (to the extent applicable).

1.2. Conflict of Interest

Conflict of Interest means any situation in which a provider or a representative has an actual or potential interest that may, in rendering a financial service to a client:

- influence the objective performance of his, her or its obligations to that client; or
- prevent a provider or representative from rendering an unbiased and fair financial service to that client, or from acting in the interest of that client, including but not limited to:
 - a financial interest;
 - an ownership interest;
 - any relationship with a third party.

1.3. Financial Interest

- Financial Interest means any cash, cash equivalent, voucher, gift, service, advantage, benefit, discount, domestic or foreign travel, hospitality, accommodation, sponsorship, other incentive or valuable consideration, other than:
 - an ownership interest;
 - training, that is not exclusively available to a selected group of providers or representatives, on:
 - products and legal matters relating to those products;
 - general financial and industry information;
 - specialised technological systems of a third party necessary for the rendering of a financial service, but excluding travel and accommodation associated with that training;
 - a recognised qualifying enterprise development contribution to a qualifying beneficiary by a provider that is a measured entity.

1.4. Immaterial Financial Interest

- Immaterial Financial Interest means any financial interest with a determinable monetary value, the aggregate of which does not exceed R1 000 in any calendar year from the same third party in that calendar year received by:
 - a provider who is a sole proprietor; or
 - a representative for that representative's direct benefit;
 - a provider, who for its benefit or that of some or all of its representatives, aggregates the immaterial financial interest paid to its representatives.

1.5. Ownership Interest

Ownership Interest means:

- any equity or proprietary interest, for which fair value was paid by the owner at the time of acquisition, other than equity or a proprietary interest held as an approved nominee on behalf of another person, and
- includes any dividend, profit share or similar benefit derived from that equity or ownership interest.

1.6. Third Party

Third Party means:

- a product supplier;
- another provider;
- an associate of a product supplier or a provider;
- a distribution channel;
- any person who in terms of an agreement or arrangement with a person referred to above provides a financial interest to a provider or its representatives.

1.7. Associate

Associate means:

- in relation to a natural person:

- a person who is recognised in law or the tenets of religion as the spouse, life partner, or civil union partner of that person;
- a child of that person, including a step-child, adopted child and a child born out of wedlock;
- a parent or step-parent of that person;
- a person in respect of which that person is recognised in law or appointed by a court as the person legally responsible for managing the affairs of or meeting the daily care needs of the first mentioned person;
- a person who is a spouse, life partner or civil union partner of a person referred to above;
- a person who is in a commercial partnership with that person;
- in relation to a juristic person:
 - which is a company, means any subsidiary or holding company of that company, any other subsidiary of that holding company and any other company of which that holding company is a subsidiary;
 - which is a close corporation registered under the Close Corporations Act, means any member thereof as defined in section 1 of that Act;
 - which is not a company or a closed corporation, means another juristic person which would have been a subsidiary or holding company of the first- mentioned juristic person:
 - had such first-mentioned juristic person been a company; or
 - in the case where that other person, too, is not a company, had both the first-mentioned juristic person and that other person been a company,
 - means any person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the board of director of or, in the case where such juristic person is not a company, the governing body of such juristic person is accustomed to act.
- in relation to any person:
 - means any juristic person of which the board of directors or, in the case where such juristic person is not a company, of which the governing body is accustomed to act in accordance with the directions or instructions of the person first-mentioned in this paragraph; and
 - includes any trust controlled or administered by that person.

1.8. Distribution Channel

Distribution Channel means:

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- any arrangement between a product supplier of any of its associates and one or more providers or any of its associates in terms of which arrangement any support or service is provided to the provider or providers in rendering a financial service to a client;
 - any arrangement between two or more providers or any of their associates, which arrangement facilitates, supports or enhances a relationship between the provider or providers and a product supplier;
 - any arrangement between two or more product suppliers or any of their associates, which arrangement facilitates, supports or enhances a relationship between a provider or providers and a product supplier.

2. PURPOSE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST MANAGEMENT POLICY

In terms of Section 3A(2) every provider, other than a representative, must adopt, maintain and implement a conflict of interest management policy which complies with the provisions of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 37 of 2002, as amended.

In terms of the General Code of Conduct a provider and a representative must avoid, and where this is not possible, mitigate any conflict of interest between the provider and a client, or a representative of the provider and his, her or its clients.

ABC and its representatives are committed towards acting within the best interests of our clients and to avoid all conflict of interests in relation to the provision of financial services.

Where we are unable to avoid a conflict of interest, we will take all necessary precautions to ensure that any actual or potential conflict of interest is mitigated and adequately disclosed to our clients.

In order to ensure the continued demonstration of our commitment, management has adopted a Conflict of Interest Management policy to provide for the effective management of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise wholly or partially, in relation to the provision of financial services.

- The purpose of the Conflict of Interest Management Policy is therefore to:
 - establish internal controls and mechanisms towards the identification of conflicts of interest;
 - establish measures to avoid conflicts of interest, and where avoidance is not possible, to provide the reasons therefore;
 - establish measures to ensure that any unavoidable conflicts of interest are mitigated;
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- establish measures to ensure the proper disclosure of any conflicts of interest;
- establish processes, procedures and internal controls to facilitate compliance with the policy;
- communicate the consequences of non-compliance with the policy.

3. Identifying a Conflict of Interest

3.1. Individual Identification

The primary responsibility for the identification of a conflict of interest rests with the representatives, employees and individual members of the governing body of Africa Bitcoin Corporation and its subsidiaries;

Throughout the process of rendering a financial service to a client, a representative must apply his or her mind to answering the following questions:

- is there any situation that exists that influences the objective performance of my obligations to my client?
- is there any situation that exists that prevents me from rendering an unbiased and fair financial service to my client?
- is there any situation that exists that prevents me from acting in the best interest of my client?

If the answer to all three questions is “no”, then there is no conflict of interest associated with the financial service and the representative may proceed.

If the answer to any one of the three questions is “yes”, the representative must proceed to answer the following additional questions:

- is the situation caused as a result of an actual or potential relationship with a Third Party?
- is the situation caused by an actual or potential Financial Interest or Ownership Interest?

If the answer to any one of these questions is “yes”, an actual or potential conflict of interest will have been identified.

3.2. Further Guidance on Identifying A Conflict of Interest

The definition of a Conflict of Interest incorporates the following:

- influence over the “**objective performance**” of obligations towards a client;
- anything preventing a provider or representative from rendering an “**unbiased and fair financial service**” to a client;
- including but not limited to a “**financial interest**”.

It is generally understood that the word “objective” refers to a situation where an individual’s personal feelings or opinions are completely removed from the equation. The “objective performance” of ABC’s or representative’s obligations therefore implies a situation where financial services are rendered without any untoward influences.

The word “bias” or “biased” is understood to mean a form of prejudice towards a particular person or viewpoint, whereas the word “fair” or “fairness” indicates a situation of just circumstances or being treated on an equal footing. An unbiased financial service therefore implies a financial service that does not lend itself to a particular persuasion, where no reasonable justification for such persuasion can be found. Similarly, a fair financial service implies a situation where the same conclusion or outcome will consistently present itself given the exact same set of circumstances.

- an **immaterial financial interest** (subject to any other law)
- a **financial interest**, for which a consideration, fair value or remuneration that is reasonably commensurate to the value of the financial interest, is paid by that Altvest or representative at the time of receipt thereof.

ABC may not offer any financial interest to its representatives:

- that is determined with reference to the **quantity of business** secured for ABC without also giving due regard to the delivery of fair outcomes for clients; or
- for giving preference to a **specific product supplier**, where a representative may recommend more than one product supplier to a client; or
- for giving preference to a **specific product of a product supplier**, where a representative may recommend more than one product of that product supplier to a client.

ABC must be able to demonstrate that the determination and entitlement to the financial interest, that may not be offered to representatives as determined by quantity of business secured without also giving due regard to the delivery of fair outcomes for clients, takes into account measurable indicators relating to the –

- achievement of **minimum service level** standards in respect of clients;

- delivery of **fair outcomes** for clients;
- **quality** of the representative's compliance with the Fais Act,

as agreed between ABC and the representative, and that sufficient weight is attached to such indicators to materially mitigate the risk of the representative giving preference to the quantity of business secured for the provider over the fair treatment of clients.

3.3. Internal Controls to Identify Conflicts of Interest

ABC has implemented the following internal controls to identify actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise:

- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent shall conduct annual reviews on material contracts held with third parties in order to assess whether the contractual relationship in any way influences ABC's objective performance towards its clients;
- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent shall conduct annual reviews on material contracts held with third parties in order to assess whether the contractual relationship in any way influences ABC's ability to render fair and unbiased financial services towards its clients;
- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent shall conduct annual reviews on material contracts held with third parties in order to assess whether the contractual relationship in any way influences ABC's ability to act in the best interest of the client;
- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent shall conduct annual reviews on material relationships where an ownership interest exists between ABC and a third party. The purpose of the review is to assess whether the relationship in any way influences ABC objective performance towards its clients;
- ABC's objective performance towards its clients;
- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent shall conduct annual reviews on relationships where an ownership interest exists between an ABC company and a third party in order to assess whether the relationship in any way influences ABC's ability to render fair and unbiased financial services towards its clients;
- Conflict of Interest declarations shall be signed by all relevant personnel and governing bodies on a quarterly basis in order to assist ABC and its appointed risk officer to identify actual or



potential conflicts of interest;

- A list of ABC associates will be reviewed on an annual basis;
- A list of all third parties that hold an ownership interest in ABC will reviewed on an annual basis;
- ABC shall maintain a gift register. All gifts received from a third party with an estimated value of R500 or more will be recorded in the gift register;
- All relevant personnel are required to immediately disclose in writing ABC's governing body and its risk officer, any actual or potential conflicts of interest as soon as they become aware of such situations.

4. AVOIDING AND MITIGATING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Once an actual or potential conflict of interest has been identified, the following procedures will be followed in order to determine whether the conflict of interest is avoidable:

- The Social and Ethics Committees of ABC or their equivalent will convene and evaluate the actual or potential conflict of interest in an open and honest manner;
- All information that's led up to and resulting in, or causing the actual or potential conflict of interest will be disclosed to the Social and Ethics Committee or its equivalent and ABC's risk officer;
- The Social and Ethics Committee will apply its mind and determine by way of majority vote whether ABC is in a position to avoid the actual or potential conflict of interest;
- During the evaluation process, the Social and Ethics Committee will consider the following possible outcomes prior to a finding in favour of unavailability:
 - The possible negative impact it will have on ABC's clients where the actual or potential conflict of interest is deemed to be unavoidable;
 - The possible negative impact it will have on the integrity of the financial services industry where the actual or potential conflict of interest is deemed to be unavoidable;
- Where the Social and Ethics Committee has determined that the actual or potential conflict of interest is in fact avoidable, the following processes will be followed:

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- The underlying cause or situation that results in the actual or potential conflict of interest will be removed as soon as reasonably possible;
 - Any immediate negative impact or prejudice towards clients pending the removal of the actual or potential conflict of interest will be kept to a minimum;
 - The reasons why the actual or potential conflict of interest was determined to be avoidable will be recorded in ABC's Conflict Register;
 - Similar circumstances that has led up to the actual or potential conflict of interest will be avoided in the future;
- Where the Social and Ethics Committee has determined that the actual or potential conflict of interest is unavoidable, the following processes will be followed:
 - The Social and Ethics Committee will convene and determine the measures that will be implemented in order to mitigate the actual or potential conflict of interest as far as reasonably possible;
 - The reasons why the actual or potential conflict of interest was considered to be unavoidable will be recorded in ABC's Conflict Register.
 - Any measures implemented towards mitigating the actual or potential conflicts of interest will include the following arrangements:
 - The status of whether the actual or potential conflicts of interest's is still deemed to be unavoidable shall be reassessed on a continuous basis;
 - Where a previously deemed unavoidable actual or potential conflicts of interest is subsequently deemed to be avoidable, such actual or potential conflict of interest shall immediately be avoided;
 - All representatives will be notified of any actual or potential conflicts of interest as well as the reasons for its unavoidability;
 - When rendering a financial service, a representative shall be required to disclose to the client in writing that an actual or potential conflict of interest exists.
 - ABC and/or ABC's risk officer shall, in respect of matters relating to a registered financial



services provider or juristic representative as the case may be, report on the status of the actual or potential conflict of interest in the ABC compliance report to be submitted to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

It is acknowledged that while disclosure alone will often not be enough, disclosure must be treated as an integral part of managing conflicts of interest. ABC is therefore committed to ensure that clients are fully informed about actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the provision of financial services.

ABC has adopted the following disclosure measures:

- ABC shall disclose to a client any conflict of interest in respect of that client;
- The disclosure shall be made in writing at the earliest reasonable opportunity, and may be communicated by way of appropriate electronic media;
- The disclosure shall include the nature of any relationship or arrangement with a third party that gives rise to a conflict of interest;
- The disclosure shall be made in sufficient detail to enable the client to understand the exact nature of the relationship or arrangement and the conflict of interest, and shall include the measures taken to avoid or mitigate the conflict;
- The disclosure shall include any ownership interest or financial interest, other than an immaterial financial interest, that ABC or any of its representatives may be or become eligible for;
- The disclosure shall include a reference to ABC's Conflict of Interest Management Policy and how it may be accessed.

6. COMPLIANCE MEASURES

The responsibility for the measures implemented towards ensuring ABC's continued compliance with the Conflict of Interest Management Policy rests with the Social and Ethics Committee. ABC's risk officer shall monitor ABC's continued compliance with the policy on an ongoing basis.

ABC has adopted the following internal controls and processes:

- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that the Conflict of Interest Management Policy is kept up to date;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that all relevant personnel read the Conflict of Interest Management Policy and understand their duties in respect thereof;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that all personnel, and where appropriate, Associates are made aware of the contents of the Conflict of Interest Management Policy and shall provide personnel with training and educational material where deemed appropriate;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that all Conflict of Interest declarations are signed by relevant personnel on annually;
- Where an employee or representative have any concerns whether or not an actual or potential conflict of interest might arise in a particular situation, the employee or representative will be required to refer his or her concern to ABC's Risk Officer;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that a list of all ABC Associates is available and that a review of the list shall be conducted annually;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that the proper disclosures are made to the client regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest;
- The Conflict of Interest Policy shall be regularly reviewed by the risk officer, and where necessary, updated to ensure that the measures contained herein remains effective;
- The Social and Ethics Committee shall ensure that the Conflict of Interest Management Policy is reviewed on at least an annual basis;

7. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Where there is reason to believe that an employee or representative has failed to disclose an actual or potential conflict of interest via the proper communication channels, ABC will proceed to investigate and take any appropriate steps it deems necessary to limit any financial prejudice that may be suffered by ABC its clients or any other third party.

Where an investigation concludes that an employee or representative of ABC has indeed failed to disclose an actual or potential conflict of interest, ABC shall immediately take appropriate



disciplinary steps and corrective actions against such employee or representative. Any failure by an employee to comply with the Conflict of Interest Management Policy will be considered a serious form of misconduct and a dismissible offence.