

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION MONDIALE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT
世界发展协会
الرابطة العالمية للتنمية
Всемирная ассоциация по развитию
ASOCIACION MUNDIAL PARA EL DESARROLLO

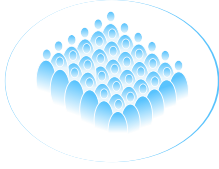
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

BODIES OF THE DISTINCTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLES

A global mission - A vision of the WAD





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This framework document defines the conceptual, institutional, and strategic foundations of the Bodies of Distinction of the World Association for Development (WAD). These bodies are conceived as a structured arrangement for the recognition of merit, intended to honour the individuals, institutions, and initiatives whose commitments contribute significantly to peace, the development of peoples, and human dignity. The document rests on an approach to development that fully integrates intangible dimensions, holding that lasting transformations cannot be dissociated from the human trajectories that embody them. From this perspective, the recognition of merit constitutes a structuring lever, in that it strengthens collective reference points, guides social norms, and supports the dissemination of practices aligned with the principles of responsibility, justice, and solidarity.

In response to the insufficiency and fragmentation of recognition mechanisms at the international level, the WAD establishes a demanding framework, grounded in criteria of real impact, coherence of commitments, and lasting contribution to development. This arrangement aims to rebalance the logics of recognition by favouring the effective reach of actions, independently of dynamics of visibility or influence. The Bodies of Distinction are part of the WAD's overall architecture, in complementarity with the programmes, observatories, and support structures. They constitute an intangible pillar of the Association's action, contributing to linking operational dynamics to the trajectories that carry them, and to strengthening the legibility and coherence of the entire apparatus. The document specifies the purpose and objectives of the distinctions, their typology, and the principles governing their attribution, including in the context of posthumous recognition. It also establishes the guarantees necessary to their credibility, resting on requirements of ethics, independence, transparency, and rigour, as well as on mechanisms intended to prevent the risks of drift or trivialisation.

Beyond one-off recognition, the Bodies of Distinction contribute to the constitution of a structured memory of development, by ensuring the capitalisation and transmission of significant trajectories. They thereby contribute to forming a body of references that can be drawn upon over time, strengthening the capacity of societies to rely on credible models of commitment. Through this arrangement, the WAD affirms a strategic orientation: to establish the recognition of merit as a full-fledged instrument of development, in coherence with a holistic vision grounded in the articulation between action, values, and transmission.

PREFACE

The development of peoples is reducible neither to economic dynamics nor to institutional arrangements. It also rests on human trajectories whose commitment, vision, and constancy contribute to durably transforming societies. Behind every advance in matters of peace, justice, and human dignity are actors whose action, often little visible, constitutes an essential foundation of collective progress.

From this perspective, the recognition of merit is not a secondary matter. It constitutes a structuring instrument of development, in that it makes it possible to guide social norms, strengthen ethical reference points, and consolidate the moral capital of societies. To recognise is at once to value, to legitimise, and to durably anchor trajectories that contribute to the common good. The World Association for Development (WAD) embeds this approach within a systemic vision in which operational action is articulated with an essential intangible dimension: the production of meaning, the transmission of values, and the constitution of a shared moral heritage. The Bodies of Distinction are thus integrated into the WAD's overall architecture as arrangements dedicated to the recognition, memory, and promotion of commitments in the service of peoples. This positioning responds to an observation: at the global level, recognition mechanisms remain fragmented and unevenly structured, leaving many major contributions insufficiently identified and transmitted.

This situation limits the capacity of societies to draw inspiration from positive references and to strengthen their cohesion around shared values. By instituting Bodies of Distinction framed by a rigorous structure, the WAD aims to organise a recognition grounded in real impact, integrity, and lasting contribution to development. These distinctions contribute to the construction of a collective memory and an intangible heritage of development, while strengthening the coherence and reach of the actions carried out within the Association.

H. Benjamin GNIMADI
Président Exécutif



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INTRODUCTION

The development of peoples is reducible neither to economic dynamics nor to institutional arrangements. It also rests on human trajectories whose commitment, vision, and constancy contribute to durably transforming societies. Behind every advance in matters of peace, justice, and human dignity are actors whose action, often little visible, constitutes an essential foundation of collective progress.

From this perspective, the recognition of merit is not a secondary matter. It constitutes a structuring instrument of development, in that it makes it possible to guide social norms, strengthen ethical reference points, and consolidate the moral capital of societies. To recognise is at once to value, to legitimise, and to durably anchor trajectories that contribute to the common good. The World Association for Development (WAD) embeds this approach within a systemic vision in which operational action is articulated with an essential intangible dimension: the production of meaning, the transmission of values, and the constitution of a shared moral heritage. The Bodies of Distinction are thus integrated into the WAD's overall architecture as arrangements dedicated to the recognition, memory, and promotion of commitments in the service of peoples. This positioning responds to an observation: at the global level, recognition mechanisms remain fragmented and unevenly structured, leaving many major contributions insufficiently identified and transmitted.

This situation limits the capacity of societies to draw inspiration from positive references and to strengthen their cohesion around shared values. By instituting Bodies of Distinction framed by a rigorous structure, the WAD aims to organise a recognition grounded in real impact, integrity, and lasting contribution to development. These distinctions contribute to the construction of a collective memory and an intangible heritage of development, while strengthening the coherence and reach of the actions carried out within the Association.



I — THE RECOGNITION OF MERIT AS A LEVER FOR DEVELOPMENT

1.1. THE STRUCTURING ROLE OF EXEMPLARITY IN SOCIAL DYNAMICS

The development of societies does not rest solely on economic or institutional instruments. It also draws on trajectories of commitment that give substance to the values of peace, justice, and responsibility. These trajectories play a structuring role in that they orient behaviours, influence collective representations, and contribute to the formation of shared reference points. Where exemplarity is identified and recognised, it becomes a vector of cohesion and a factor of lasting mobilisation.

1.2. A STRUCTURAL INSUFFICIENCY OF RECOGNITION MECHANISMS

At the international level, the mechanisms for recognising merit remain partial and unevenly structured. They tend to favour visible or institutionally established forms of commitment, to the detriment of contributions rooted in local or little-publicised contexts. This situation creates an imbalance, in which real impact is not systematically correlated with the recognition granted, thereby limiting the capacity of societies to identify and value relevant references.

1.3. THE DISTINCTION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF ORIENTATION AND LEGITIMATION

Formalised recognition, through distinctions, contributes to the construction of social norms. It is not limited to valuing paths; it contributes to legitimising forms of commitment and to orienting collective expectations. By bringing to light coherent and lasting contributions, it strengthens the credibility of certain models of action and fosters their dissemination across different contexts.

1.4. A FUNCTION OF CAPITALISATION AND TRANSMISSION

The recognition of merit also contributes to structuring a collective memory of development. By identifying, documenting, and consecrating significant trajectories, it makes it possible to preserve experiences and practices that can be drawn upon over time. This function of capitalisation strengthens the continuity of dynamics of transformation and supports the intergenerational transmission of references.

1.5. A LEVER INTEGRATED INTO A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

From a systemic perspective, the recognition of merit does not constitute an isolated arrangement, but a lever complementary to programmatic and institutional action. It contributes to the consolidation of values, the alignment of commitments, and the creation of an environment conducive to action. As such, it is fully part of a holistic approach to development, in which material and intangible dimensions interact to produce lasting transformations.



II — THE LEGITIMACY OF THE WAD IN THE RECOGNITION OF MERIT AND COMMITMENT

2.1. A LEGITIMACY GROUNDED IN AN INTEGRATED CONCEPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The World Association for Development (WAD) embeds its action within an approach to development that articulates material and intangible dimensions. From this perspective, the recognition of merit does not constitute a peripheral function, but a direct extension of its mission. By valuing trajectories aligned with the principles of peace, human dignity, and responsibility, the WAD contributes to structuring reference points coherent with the aims it pursues in its other areas of intervention.

2.2. A FUNCTION EMBEDDED IN THE WAD'S OVERALL ARCHITECTURE

The Bodies of Distinction are integrated into an overall logic, in complementarity with the WAD's other components. Where the programmes organise action and the observatories produce knowledge, the distinctions intervene as a vector for the promotion and visibility of the trajectories that embody these dynamics. This articulation strengthens the coherence of the overall apparatus and prevents recognition from being dissociated from the realities of development.

2.3. A CREDIBILITY GROUNDED IN MECHANISMS AND NOT IN POSTURE ALONE

The WAD's legitimacy in the attribution of distinctions rests on its capacity to structure a rigorous framework. This implies the existence of explicit criteria, a framed selection process, and arrangements guaranteeing the coherence of decisions over time. The independence claimed by the Association takes on meaning only if it is accompanied by concrete mechanisms ensuring the impartiality and quality of recognition.

2.4. A REQUIREMENT OF COHERENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Recognition directly engages the credibility of the WAD. It presupposes constant vigilance regarding the alignment between the values upheld by the Association and the trajectories distinguished. Every distinction contributes to producing references; as such, it implies a responsibility in the selection of the commitments valued and in the message they convey.

2.5. A LEGITIMACY BUILT OVER TIME

Recognition does not derive its value from a declared authority, but from constancy and rigour in its implementation. The legitimacy of the Bodies of Distinction is built progressively, through the quality of the choices made, their coherence with established principles, and their acceptability to diverse audiences. It is thus part of a long-term logic, a necessary condition for the credibility and reach of the arrangement.



III — PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE BODIES OF DISTINCTION

3.1. GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE BODIES OF DISTINCTION

The WAD's Bodies of Distinction have as their purpose to recognise, consecrate, and durably anchor significant contributions to peace, the development of peoples, and human dignity. This recognition is not limited to one-off promotion; it aims to confer lasting reach on the trajectories distinguished, by integrating them into a body of references capable of orienting social dynamics. It thereby contributes to the constitution of an intangible heritage of development, grounded in exemplarity and transmission.

3.2. PROMOTION OF REAL IMPACT AND STRUCTURING COMMITMENTS

The distinctions aim first and foremost to bring to light contributions whose impact extends beyond immediate or circumstantial effects. They seek to recognise coherent commitments, anchored over time and carrying measurable or observable transformations within societies. This orientation makes it possible to rebalance the logics of recognition in favour of effective impact, independently of renown or media visibility.

3.3. STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE REFERENCE POINTS AND REFERENCE VALUES

By consecrating trajectories aligned with the principles of peace, justice, and responsibility, the Bodies of Distinction contribute to structuring collective reference points. They participate in the dissemination of positive norms and the consolidation of reference frameworks capable of orienting individual and institutional behaviours. This function strengthens the coherence between the values promoted by the WAD and the commitments effectively valued.

3.4. FUNCTION OF MOBILISATION AND KNOCK-ON EFFECT

Recognition also aims to produce a knock-on effect beyond the actors distinguished. By making paths of commitment visible, it contributes to encouraging other initiatives and supporting collective dynamics. This function of mobilisation is part of a logic of disseminating transformative practices, by fostering their appropriation in varied contexts.

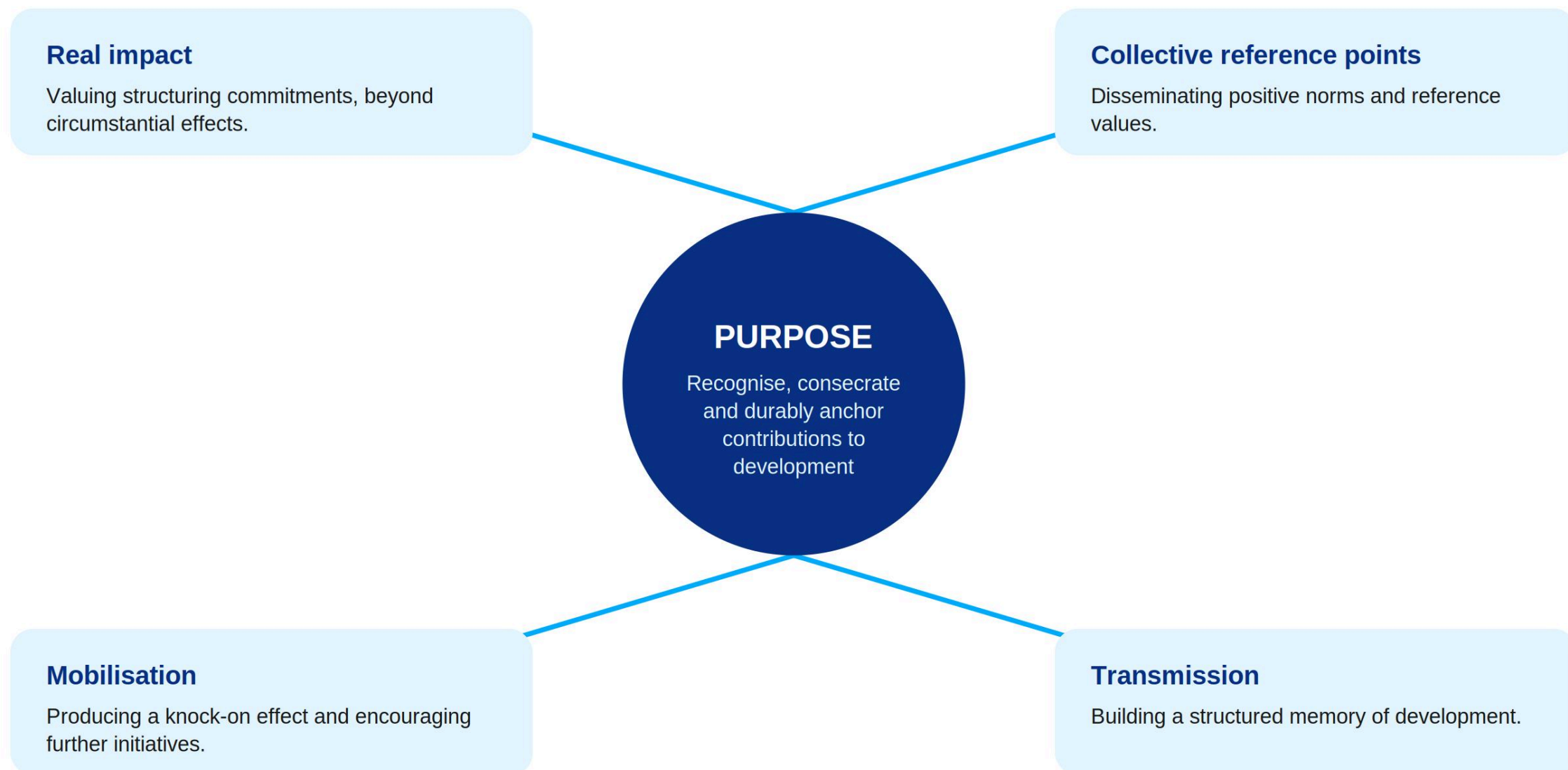
3.5. TRANSMISSION AND ANCHORING IN THE MEMORY OF DEVELOPMENT

Finally, the Bodies of Distinction fulfil a function of transmission by ensuring the preservation and promotion of significant trajectories. By documenting these contributions, they make it possible to constitute a structured memory of development, that can be drawn upon over time. This dimension strengthens the continuity of the dynamics undertaken and supports the capacity of future generations to rely on consolidated references.

- Purpose and objectives

Purpose and objectives of the distinctions

One central purpose, four objectives



IV — POSTHUMOUS DISTINCTIONS: RECOGNITION AND CONTINUITY OF TRAJECTORIES

IV — POSTHUMOUS DISTINCTIONS: RECOGNITION AND CONTINUITY OF TRAJECTORIES

The dynamics of development and peace are part of the long term, and many major contributions continue to produce effects well beyond the lives of their authors. Limiting recognition to contemporary actors alone would amount to restricting the field of available references and weakening the continuity of reference points. Posthumous distinctions thus make it possible to integrate founding trajectories into the recognition arrangement.

4.2. A FUNCTION OF STRUCTURING COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Posthumous recognition contributes to the consolidation of a memory of development by identifying and valuing commitments whose influence remains active. It makes it possible to document significant experiences and to anchor them within a structured reference framework. This function contributes to strengthening continuity between generations and to maintaining the availability of models drawn from varied contexts.

4.4. A RECOGNITION ORIENTED TOWARDS TRANSMISSION RATHER THAN COMMEMORATION

Posthumous distinctions do not fall within a commemorative or heritage logic in the strict sense. They aim to render trajectories operative in the present, by integrating them into a body of references that can be drawn upon. The objective is to enable these commitments to continue orienting practices and nourishing dynamics of transformation.

4.3. A HEIGHTENED REQUIREMENT OF RIGOUR AND VERIFICATION

The attribution of posthumous distinctions entails specific requirements, linked to the impossibility of contradiction or clarification by the person concerned. It presupposes rigorous documentation of trajectories, verification of the impacts claimed, and an overall analysis of the coherence of commitments. This requirement aims to guarantee that recognition rests on established elements and not on partial perceptions.

4.5. AN ARTICULATION WITH THE OTHER DIMENSIONS OF THE RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT

Posthumous distinctions are part of the overall framework of the Bodies of Distinction and obey the same principles of coherence, impact, and alignment with the WAD's values. They contribute to completing the arrangement by integrating the historical dimension of trajectories, while maintaining a constant requirement as to the relevance and reach of the recognitions granted.



V — TYPOLOGY OF THE BODIES OF DISTINCTION

5.1. A STRUCTURING GROUNDED IN THE DIVERSITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The development of societies does not rest solely on economic or institutional instruments. It also draws on trajectories of commitment that give substance to the values of peace, justice, and responsibility. These trajectories play a structuring role in that they orient behaviours, influence collective representations, and contribute to the formation of shared reference points. Where exemplarity is identified and recognised, it becomes a vector of cohesion and a factor of lasting mobilisation.

5.2. DISTINCTIONS OF UNIVERSAL REACH

Distinctions of universal reach are intended to consecrate trajectories whose impact extends beyond national or sectoral frameworks and is part of a global dynamic. They recognise contributions that have produced lasting and structuring effects on peace, human rights, or large-scale development. Their attribution rests on demanding criteria, including the coherence of commitment over time, the reach of the transformations brought about, and the capacity to constitute cross-cutting references.

5.3. THEMATIC DISTINCTIONS AND TARGETED RECOGNITIONS

Thematic distinctions make it possible to value significant commitments in specific fields of development.

They respond to the need to recognise contributions rooted in particular contexts, whose impact, although circumscribed, is decisive for the populations concerned. This framework fosters the visibility of often little-publicised initiatives and contributes to a better representation of the diversity of dynamics of transformation.

5.4. RECOGNITION OF SUSTAINED COMMITMENT

Certain distinctions are oriented towards the promotion of trajectories characterised by the constancy and continuity of commitment. They seek to recognise paths marked by lasting fidelity to the values of peace, justice, and human dignity. This approach makes it possible to highlight contributions whose strength lies in their persistence and their capacity to produce cumulative effects over time.

5.5. AN EVOLVING TYPOLOGY, COHERENT WITH THE CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT

The typology of the Bodies of Distinction is not intended to be fixed. It constitutes an adaptable framework, capable of evolving in line with the transformations of global challenges and the forms of commitment observed. This evolvability is part of a requirement of relevance and coherence, ensuring that the full set of distinctions remains aligned with the WAD's principles, priorities, and strategic vision.

- Typology of the Bodies

Typology of the Bodies of Distinction

Three main categories, an evolving framework

Universal reach

Trajectories whose impact extends beyond national or sectoral boundaries. Lasting, structuring effects on peace, human rights or large-scale development.

Thematic & targeted

Significant commitments in specific fields of development. Visibility of locally-rooted, often under-publicised initiatives.

Sustained commitment

Trajectories marked by the constancy and continuity of commitment. Fidelity to the values of peace, justice and human dignity.

An evolving typology, aligned with the WAD's principles and strategic vision

VI — POSITIONING OF THE BODIES OF DISTINCTION WITHIN THE WAD'S VISION AND ACTION

6.1. AN INTANGIBLE PILLAR INTEGRATED INTO THE WAD'S ARCHITECTURE

The Bodies of Distinction occupy a specific place in the WAD's architecture, as an intangible component of the overall apparatus. They fall neither within operational implementation nor the direct production of policies, but intervene as a vector for the recognition and promotion of the trajectories that embody the dynamics of development. As such, they contribute to completing the WAD's other pillars by bringing a dimension of meaning and legibility.

6.2. A FUNCTIONAL ARTICULATION WITH THE PROGRAMMES, OBSERVATORIES, AND STRUCTURES

The distinctions are part of a logic of complementarity with the WAD's global programmes, observatories, and structures. They make it possible to link the results produced by these arrangements to the actors that carry them, by strengthening the visibility of commitments and facilitating their appropriation. This articulation contributes to better overall coherence, by ensuring that recognition rests on real and documented dynamics.

6.3. AN INSTRUMENT FOR ALIGNING VALUES AND PRACTICES

By valuing trajectories aligned with the WAD's principles, the Bodies of Distinction contribute to the alignment between the values promoted and the practices observed. They help strengthen the Association's credibility by ensuring that the commitments recognised effectively reflect the strategic and ethical orientations upheld.

6.4. A FUNCTION OF MOBILISATION AND DISSEMINATION OF REFERENCES

The distinctions play a role in disseminating models of commitment and in mobilising actors around shared references. By making significant contributions visible, they foster the circulation of experiences and encourage their adaptation in different contexts. This function contributes to amplifying the impact of development actions by facilitating their appropriation.

6.5. A CONTRIBUTION TO STRUCTURING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO DEVELOPMENT

In complement to operational action, the Bodies of Distinction contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to commitment and responsibility. They help strengthen the legibility of dynamics of transformation and support the construction of collective reference points. As such, they are part of a long-term logic, in support of the consolidation of the social and institutional foundations of development.

6.6. AN ARRANGEMENT UNDERPINNED BY STRUCTURED GOVERNANCE

The Bodies of Distinction rest on a governance arrangement guaranteeing the quality and coherence of decisions. This governance rests on dedicated bodies, organised so as to ensure the independence of assessments, the plurality of expertise, and alignment with the principles upheld by the WAD. It is articulated with the Association's other components, notably the knowledge-production arrangements, in order to guarantee that recognition rests on objectified and documented elements.



- Positioning within the WAD's architecture

Positioning within the WAD's architecture

The distinctions, an intangible pillar linked to operational components



Linking the results produced to the actors and trajectories that embody them

VII — GUARANTEES OF CREDIBILITY, ETHICS, AND LEGITIMACY OF THE DISTINCTIONS

7.1. CREDIBILITY AS A STRUCTURING CONDITION OF THE ARRANGEMENT

The value of the distinctions rests first and foremost on their credibility. Recognition perceived as insufficiently demanding or incoherent loses its capacity to produce references and to orient behaviours. This credibility is built over time, through the constancy of choices, the rigour of the criteria applied, and the coherence between the distinctions granted and the principles upheld by the WAD.

7.2. AN ETHICAL REQUIREMENT APPLIED TO TRAJECTORIES IN THEIR ENTIRETY

The distinctions do not bear solely on results or one-off achievements, but on trajectories as a whole. The evaluation takes into account the coherence of commitments, the modalities of action, and respect for the principles linked to human dignity and responsibility. This approach aims to guarantee that recognition values contributions aligned both with the ends and the means of development.

7.3. MECHANISMS GUARANTEEING INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

The legitimacy of the distinctions rests on the existence of arrangements ensuring the impartiality of decisions. This implies in particular a separation of the proposal and selection functions, the identification and management of conflicts of interest, and the application of explicit and consistent criteria. These mechanisms aim to prevent any external influence liable to alter the quality of recognition.

7.4. A BALANCE BETWEEN TRANSPARENCY OF PRINCIPLES AND INTEGRITY OF PROCESSES

The recognition approach rests on a transparency of criteria and aims, ensuring its legibility. At the same time, deliberation processes must be protected in order to guarantee their integrity and to avoid any external pressure. This balance constitutes a necessary condition for maintaining trust in the arrangement while preserving the quality of decisions.

7.5. CONTROL OF ATTRIBUTION AS A GUARANTEE OF VALUE

The reach of the distinctions also depends on their rarity and on the rigour in their attribution. An excessive or insufficiently justified proliferation of recognitions weakens their significance. The WAD thus adopts an approach grounded in selectivity, favouring the quality and relevance of distinctions in order to preserve their symbolic reach and credibility over time.

7.6. MANAGEMENT OF RISKS LINKED TO RECOGNITION

The implementation of the distinctions is accompanied by particular attention to the risks liable to affect their credibility. Among these are notably the risks of politicisation, instrumentalisation, loss of coherence, or trivialisation of recognition. The WAD takes care to prevent these drifts through the rigorous application of its principles, the constancy of its requirements, and a regular review of its practices, in order to preserve the integrity and reach of the arrangement over time.



VIII — ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE BODIES OF DISTINCTION

8.1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

The governance of the World Association for Development's (WAD) Bodies of Distinction rests on the principles of independence, integrity, transparency, plurality of expertise, and institutional responsibility. It aims to guarantee that the attribution of distinctions rests exclusively on the quality of contributions, the impact of commitments, and their coherence with the values upheld by the WAD.

This governance is designed so as to prevent any form of partiality, external pressure, or conflict of interest liable to alter the credibility of the distinctions. It also ensures the coherence of decisions over time, the traceability of procedures, and respect for the ethical requirements that underpin the legitimacy of the arrangement.

8.2. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF DISTINCTIONS

The International Council of Distinctions constitutes the highest decision-making body of the arrangement. It is responsible for examining the recommendations submitted to it, for deliberating on the attribution of distinctions, and for guaranteeing the coherence of decisions with the WAD's principles, priorities, and strategic vision. It ensures, at the highest level, the independence, collegiality, and responsibility of the recognition process.

Its work rests on the analyses produced by the Technical Evaluation Committee and on the opinions issued by the Ethics and Conduct Committee, in order to guarantee that each decision is grounded in rigorous, objective, and documented elements.

8.3. TECHNICAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Technical Evaluation Committee ensures the examination of candidacies and the conduct of the analyses preliminary to the attribution of distinctions. It carries out the study of the dossiers, the verification of the information provided, the appraisal of the impacts claimed, and the evaluation of the coherence of commitments in light of the criteria defined by the WAD.

This body mobilises expertise adapted to the various categories of distinctions and may, where necessary, seek the opinion of independent specialists. Its work aims to provide the International Council of Distinctions with a rigorous, objective, and documented basis of analysis.

8.4. ETHICS AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE

The Ethics and Conduct Committee ensures respect for the moral principles and integrity requirements that frame the recognition arrangement. It intervenes in particular in the examination of situations liable to raise questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, or the compatibility of a candidacy with the WAD's values.

The Committee may issue advisory opinions, recommend additional investigations, or propose measures intended to preserve the credibility and reputation of the distinctions. Its action contributes to strengthening trust in the arrangement and to guaranteeing the coherence between the recognitions granted and the principles upheld by the Association.

8.5. SECRETARIAT OF THE DISTINCTIONS

The Secretariat of the Distinctions ensures the administrative, technical, and organisational coordination of the arrangement. It is responsible for the receipt of candidacies, document management, the organisation of the work of the various bodies, the preservation of archives, and the preparation of ceremonies and promotional activities.

It constitutes the permanent interface between candidates, partners, evaluation bodies, and decision-making bodies. Its role is to ensure the continuity of the arrangement's functioning and to guarantee the quality of the procedures implemented.

8.6. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Bodies of Distinction carry out their missions in compliance with the principles of responsibility and accountability. Each attribution decision must be justifiable in light of the established criteria and the available elements of appraisal. The bodies concerned take care to document their work and to ensure the preservation of the information necessary to the traceability of the process.

This requirement contributes to preserving the credibility of the distinctions, to strengthening their acceptability among stakeholders, and to consolidating the legitimacy of the Bodies of Distinction as instruments of recognition in the service of development, peace, and human dignity.



IX — PROCEDURE FOR THE ATTRIBUTION OF DISTINCTIONS

9.1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ATTRIBUTION

The attribution of the WAD's distinctions rests on a structured process aimed at guaranteeing the equity, objectivity, and coherence of decisions. This process is grounded in the rigorous examination of contributions, the verification of available information, and the evaluation of the real impact of commitments in light of the principles that underpin the Association's action.

The distinctions are attributed independently of any consideration linked to the nationality, origin, social position, institutional affiliations, or renown of candidates. Only the quality of contributions, the reach of achievements, and their coherence with the WAD's values constitute the foundations of recognition.

9.2. MODALITIES FOR PROPOSING CANDIDACIES

Candidacies may be presented by public or private institutions, civil society organisations, international bodies, the WAD's partners, or any other entity possessing relevant elements making it possible to appraise the contribution proposed.

The Bodies of Distinction may also identify and examine candidacies on their own initiative when objective elements justify the opening of a recognition procedure. This faculty aims to guarantee that significant contributions do not remain excluded from the process owing to their low visibility or the absence of a proposal mechanism.

9.3. RECEIPT AND ADMISSIBILITY OF DOSSIERS

Every candidacy is subject to a preliminary examination intended to verify its administrative admissibility and its conformity with the objectives of the distinctions concerned. This step makes it possible to ensure that the information submitted is sufficient to undertake an in-depth evaluation and that the candidacy effectively falls within the field of competence of the Bodies of Distinction.

Where the available information is deemed insufficient, additional material may be requested from the persons or institutions concerned in order to enable an adequate appraisal of the trajectory examined.

9.4. EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS OF CANDIDACIES

Admissible candidacies are submitted to an in-depth analysis conducted by the Technical Evaluation Committee. This analysis bears in particular on the nature of the contributions made, their impact, their sustainability, their coherence over time, and their effective contribution to peace, the development of peoples, or human dignity.

The evaluation may draw on reference documents, testimonies, reports, publications, or any other relevant source making it possible to establish objectively the reach of the achievements examined. Where necessary, additional verifications may be carried out in order to consolidate the appraisal of the dossiers.

9.5. DELIBERATION AND DECISION

At the conclusion of the evaluation, the Technical Committee transmits its conclusions to the International Council of Distinctions. The latter examines the recommendations and deliberates on the appropriateness of granting, deferring, or refusing the distinction sought.

Decisions are taken in compliance with the principles of independence, collegiality, and responsibility. They rest on the overall appraisal of the merits of candidacies and on their conformity with the objectives and requirements of the WAD's recognition arrangement.

9.6. PROCLAMATION AND CONFERRAL OF DISTINCTIONS

The distinctions granted are the subject of an official proclamation according to modalities defined by the WAD. This recognition may be accompanied by ceremonies, publications, or other promotional actions intended to ensure the visibility of the contributions distinguished and to strengthen their symbolic reach.

The conferral of a distinction does not constitute solely an act of individual or institutional recognition. It contributes to the dissemination of positive references, the promotion of exemplary commitments, and the advancement of the values that underpin the WAD's action.

9.7. PRESERVATION OF ARCHIVES AND TRACEABILITY OF DECISIONS

The full set of attribution procedures is subject to appropriate documentation and preservation. The dossiers, evaluation reports, decisions, and supporting elements are archived according to modalities guaranteeing their integrity, traceability, and availability for institutional purposes.

This requirement contributes to strengthening the transparency of the arrangement, preserving the memory of the distinctions attributed, and guaranteeing the coherence of decisions over time.



X — ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE DISTINCTIONS

10.1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES

The WAD's distinctions are intended to recognise individuals, institutions, organisations, communities, or initiatives that have made a significant contribution to peace, the development of peoples, human dignity, or the promotion of the common good. Eligibility rests on the demonstration of a real commitment, documented and consistent with the principles and values upheld by the Association.

The appraisal of candidacies rests neither on renown, nor on institutional status, nor on the candidates' capacity for influence. It favours the quality of contributions, their effective reach, and their capacity to produce lasting positive effects within societies.

10.2. CRITERION OF CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMON GOOD

The evaluation takes into consideration the nature and importance of the contribution made to dynamics of development, peace, solidarity, social justice, the protection of human dignity, or the strengthening of collective capacities.

Particular attention is given to the relevance of the actions carried out in light of the needs of the populations concerned, as well as to their capacity to respond to significant challenges for communities, institutions, or societies.

10.3. CRITERION OF IMPACT AND OBSERVABLE RESULTS

The distinctions favour contributions that have produced tangible, lasting, or clearly observable results. The evaluation focuses on the real effects generated by the actions undertaken, independently of the level of media visibility or prior recognition they may enjoy.

Impact is appraised by taking into account the intervention context, the scale of the transformations observed, their sustainability, and their capacity to improve living conditions, strengthen institutions, or foster positive dynamics of change.

10.4. CRITERION OF COHERENCE AND CONTINUITY OF COMMITMENT

The recognition granted by the WAD rests on an overall appraisal of trajectories. The distinctions favour commitments characterised by their coherence, their constancy, and their fidelity to the principles of responsibility, peace, justice, and human dignity.

This approach aims to guarantee that recognition does not rest solely on one-off achievements, but on paths whose contribution is part of a lasting and significant dynamic.



10.5. CRITERION OF INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

The granting of a distinction presupposes that the actions and behaviours associated with the candidacy are compatible with the WAD's ethical requirements. The evaluation takes into account the integrity of the approaches undertaken, respect for fundamental rights, responsibility in action, and the coherence between the objectives pursued and the means mobilised.

Candidacies liable to present manifest incompatibilities with the WAD's values may be set aside, regardless of the importance of the achievements claimed.

10.6. CRITERION OF INSPIRING REACH AND REFERENCE VALUE

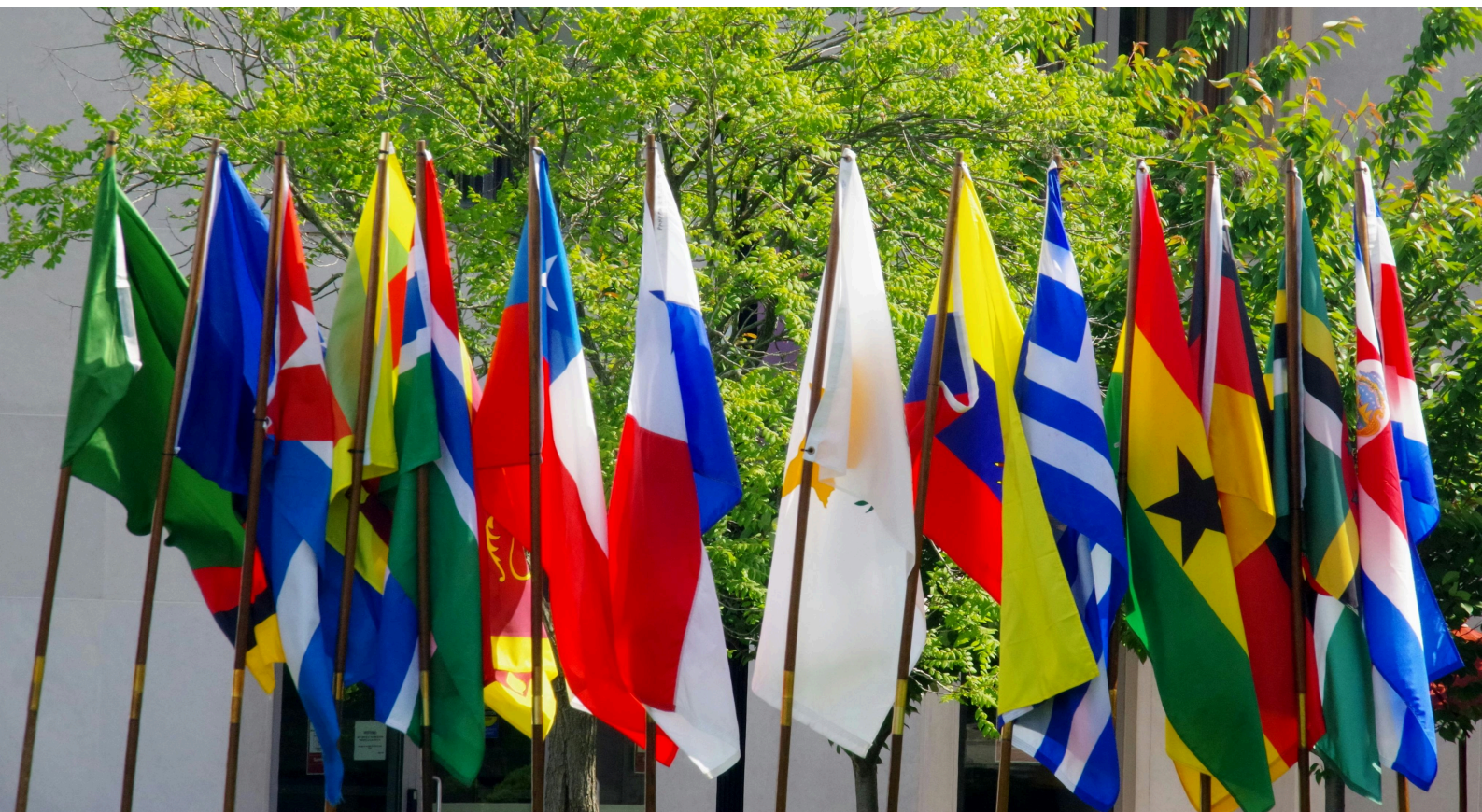
The Bodies of Distinction also take into consideration the capacity of the trajectories examined to constitute positive references for current and future generations. This appraisal bears on the ability of the recognised commitments to inspire other initiatives, to encourage collective mobilisation, and to contribute to the dissemination of exemplary practices.

This dimension makes it possible to strengthen the pedagogical and mobilising function of the distinctions, in coherence with the WAD's vocation to promote models of commitment that carry lasting transformation.

10.7. OVERALL APPRAISAL OF CANDIDACIES

No single criterion constitutes in itself a sufficient condition for attribution. Decisions rest on an overall appraisal taking into account the full range of available elements, the singularity of contexts, and the general coherence of the trajectories examined.

This approach makes it possible to preserve the quality of the distinctions, to ensure a balanced evaluation of contributions, and to guarantee that the recognitions granted remain consistent with the WAD's mission, principles, and credibility requirements.



GENERAL CONCLUSION

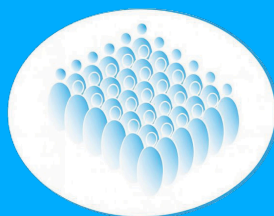
The establishment of the Bodies of Distinction reflects a structured orientation of the WAD aimed at integrating the recognition of merit into a holistic approach to development. This approach rests on the idea that lasting transformations cannot be dissociated from the trajectories that embody them, and that their promotion constitutes a lever complementary to operational action.

Through this arrangement, the WAD intends to structure a framework of recognition grounded in criteria of impact, coherence, and contribution to the development of peoples. This recognition aims to strengthen the legibility of commitments, to consolidate collective reference points, and to support the dissemination of practices aligned with the principles of peace, human dignity, and responsibility.

The Bodies of Distinction also contribute to the constitution of a memory of development, by identifying and valuing significant contributions. This dimension makes it possible to anchor the recognised trajectories within a continuity, by facilitating their transmission and appropriation in varied contexts.

From this perspective, the Bodies of Distinction are the subject of continuous attention as to their effects. Without being reduced to quantitative indicators, this attention aims to appraise their capacity to strengthen the visibility of commitments, to foster the dissemination of inspiring practices, and to contribute to the structuring of lasting reference points within societies.

By structuring recognition as a full-fledged instrument, the WAD contributes to strengthening the conditions for a development grounded at once in action, in values, and in the capacity of societies to identify and value the commitments that effectively participate in their transformation.



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Sustainable development of peoples
A global vision — A mission of the WAD
(World Association for Development)