



Government Funding Review Process

The Council enjoys a diversified donor base helping to ensure our credibility and integrity. Among our supporters are governments that are interested in supporting the Council and our programming. To protect our independence and reputation, we have established a process to obtain authorization to negotiate financing with a government or state-controlled entity. The Governance Committee of the board of directors formally approved this process.

Attached is a template that sets out the process Council programs must complete to ensure a thorough review and formal approval of proposed government funding prior to the Council entering formal negotiations for such a gift or contract. Programs should coordinate in advance with the CEO, Executive Vice President, and Vice President of External Relations on any potential exploratory talks with official government partners; however, we need to seek formal board authorization once we have an expectation of credible interest on our part and our government partner for a potential project. In such cases, program directors should submit to the Executive Vice President and the Associate Director for Board Relations this completed form for approval and board review.

The Atlantic Council considers it of great value to build upon our half-century policy of forging close relationships with government partners. Our projects have real impact with decision-makers who count. At the same time, however, we understand that such relationships must be approached with sufficient transparency and care to ensure that our work always serves larger public interest and the mission of the Atlantic Council. That is why the Council requires that all such donors are vetted by the Nominating and Governance Committee, abide by our policy on intellectual independence, and agree to our disclosure policies.

Government Funding Review Process: [NAME OF COUNTRY]

Purpose: To obtain approval of potential funding from the government [and/or state-controlled entities] of [COUNTRY].

Context: Provide context of Council programming related to this country, region, or set of issues to be funded. Explain how this work would fit into the Council's mission and the program or center's established work. Specify how this funding would further the Council's profile on a set of issues for which the Council is known, or whether this funding would help the Council stake out new areas of work.

Description of Proposed Project

Provide a description of the proposed project including substantive focus, desired impact, events, timeframe, locations, audience, outputs, and related publications.

Unique Factors

If applicable, describe unique factors about the country, its transatlantic relationship, and any strategic context that merit consideration when deciding on whether to accept funding.

Rationale

- Provide succinct bullets summarizing the rationale for accepting these funds and implementing this project.

Ethics

- **Disclosure:** The Council maintains a consistent disclosure policy and will acknowledge that funding is from the government [and/or state owned entities] of [COUNTRY].
- **Intellectual Ownership:** The Council requires all sponsors to agree to the Council maintaining intellectual ownership of any products resulting from the project.
- **Multiple Funding Sources:** When possible, the Council works to ensure that any one project is not dependent on one government funder. [In this case, the Council will seek additional funding from other sponsors such as...].
- **Topics:** Describe how the topic(s) of the project expand the Council's focus beyond any potential specific agenda of the donor.
- **Diversity:** Describe how the project may take into account a range of views and participants.

Funding: Specify the range of funding sought and the specific government entities that might provide the funding.

Recommendation: That Council management be authorized to negotiate with [COUNTRY] authorities on the financing of [this/these proposed project/s].