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Code of Ethics for Somalia Science Journalists

The Somali Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (SOMESHA) is deeply grateful to prepare this code of conduct for the first time in the history of Somalia science journalism era and is one of the principal that aims of SOMESHA, according to its constitution, is to “foster the dissemination of accurate information regarding science and technology in keeping with the highest standards of journalism. This code of ethics is planned to guide SOMESHA members and Somalia science writers and communicators in the pursuit of those standards.

In Somalia various journalistic codes have been adopted by the press associations, unions and media houses, but SOMESHA members have been suggested specifically for science reporting code of conduct as this should be combined with better practice.

The SOMESHA members and the Science journalists in Somalia entirely should apply and adopt the below 10 articles for science journalism code of conduct in a professional manner;

1. Somalia Federal Government institutions, regional member states and the civil society should know that science journalists agreed the importance for science reporters to improve their general journalistic skills than have a code of ethics.
2. Somalia science journalists should strive to be accurate and unbiased in their professional work including verifying the accuracy of their information, checking sources' credentials and any potential conflicts of interest.

3. Somalia science journalists should be trained first by SOMESHA, WFSJ and UNESCO professionally just to avoid science news neglecting without adequate knowledge and agreed to create data resources required to cover health care news, technology innovations and other science topics reporting including environment and climate change in depth, otherwise they'd be better off covering political news, sports or fashion and leaving science news to others.
4. Somalia science journalists should withdraw from discrimination based on race, religion, age, gender, ethnicity, disability, ethnicity, political party or sexual orientation.
5. Somalia science journalists should attempt to avoid any potential conflict of interest with an assignment, financial or otherwise. Conflicts that are unavoidable should be disclosed.
6. According to the code, Somalia science journalists should accurately and honestly present scientific evidence, declare conflicts of interest, and prevent professional misconduct.
7. Somalia science journalists work should be their own. Copy is not acceptable under any circumstances including hiring standards.
8. Somalia science journalists should be open minded when doing scientific features and be conscious of multiple roles, follow informed permission rules exists where they are operating from, respect confidentiality and privacy.
9. Somalia science journalists should support the healthy exchange of views and opinions in science topics reporting, and also realize when scientific principles are no longer questioned by the majority of reputable groups and scientists involved.
10. Somalia science journalists should immediately admit publicly disseminated mistakes and make every effort to correct them and immediately consult with their affiliate association or federation due to their earlier security.

This code of conduct is under consultations with WFSJ, AFSJ and UNESCO.