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# **NGO's accountability in a global context: changing challenges**

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## The Comité de la Charte over 25 years : towards independence and extended coverage

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### I.- Created by the charities and still close to their values

- Common initiative taken by a number of large NGO's willing to protect their shared asset of public confidence
- To carry out the mission of maintaining the collective ethics around the solicitation of private money for donations
- CC is itself an "association" i.e. a non profit organization largely supported by part-time contribution of volunteers (100 people) and working in the sole interest of the public
- Remaining the common tool of the non-profit sector dedicated to promote public trust
  - NGO's benefiting from the seal of approval are the members of the association
  - Financing mainly provided by contributions paid by the members (80/90%)
  - Board of Directors elected by the General Assembly and reporting to it
- Recognition by the Government with a symbolic money allocation, but fully independent from the State



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### II.- Towards institutional independence in order to enhance credibility

- Delivery of seal of approval entrusted to a special committee made of independent experts with a mandate limited to 2 x 3 years
- Since 2008 the majority of Directors of the Board shall be made of “qualified individuals” i.e. people without any link with the controlled organizations; Chairman and ViceChair to be elected among the qualified individuals
- The Board of Directors is in charge of formally approving the rules included in the book of ethics without endorsement by the General Assembly
- Financing model under review with the aim of reducing the relative share of members contribution to 50% by raising money from the corporate
- Enhancement of the controlling scheme from isolated individuals loosely managed to an integrated architecture under responsibility of a big boss with a group of deputies each of them monitoring 8 to 10 auditors. Full separation between the controlling organization in charge of checking the compliance with the ethic rules and the expert committee entrusted to deliver or renew the seal of approval every 3 years.



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### III.- Extend the scope in order to reach public expectation

- Eliminating the sectoral barriers to welcome beyond the traditional charity business any kind of activity seeking money from the public to fill targets of public interest ( for example environment, culture, heritage...)
- Opening access to every legal status allowed to seek money from the public, to every level of anteriority (including newly created organizations), to every source of private funding (including corporate money), the main criteria of admittance being the general interest of the business and the effective open appeal to donations
- Partnership to be built with the French organization of auditors in order to offer a welcome desk to the medium sized organizations willing to join the collective discipline (private money collection between 150 and 500 k€)
- Proactive work developed to convince people to adhere, and it works : around 60 members in 2009 we are now 75, seeking a target of 150 in the coming years.

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### IV.- Work under way

- Many changes under consideration fostered the need to refresh the mission statement of CC ( as well as the logo) : first priority for the year to come with the desire to have as many people participating to the debate as possible
- Enriching the Book of rules :
  - Governance
  - Internal control (done)
  - Evaluation of efficiency
  - Integration of group structures
- Focus on international developments : more and more French organizations involved in international operations ( financing channels, local partnerships, multinational federations...); there is a growing need of cooperation between monitoring bodies in order to promote a standardized flow of information allowing to give back to the donors of a given country the feed-back of the use of their contribution on a worldwide basis  
A big assignment for ICFO...

