



23 January 2024

ADVISORY BOARD

International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)

Subject: ABS-CBN's Request for Waiver of Eligibility Criteria 1.3

Dear **IFCN Advisory Board**:

We trust this letter finds you well.

We are writing to respectfully request a waiver for eligibility criteria 1.3 in the application of ABS-CBN Fact Check for the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN).

As per criteria 1.3, the conditions are “an average of at least one fact check a week over the course of the six months prior to the date of application” and, if the country has at least five verified signatories, “at least a fact check a week over the twelve months of publishing track.”

Upon submitting our application on October 13, 2022, our calculations indicated compliance with the criteria, as shown in [this file](#). Over the six months leading up to the application date (from April to September 2022), we published an average of four fact-checks a week. Although the second condition did not apply to us at the time, our weekly average over our 10-month publishing track, from the fact-checking unit's launch in December 2021 to September 2022, also met the stipulated requirement.

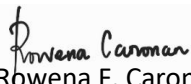
However, as our application underwent review only in November 2023, we understand that the assessor evaluated us based on recent circumstances, using our output from November 2022 to October 2023, now that the second condition applies to us. Unfortunately, during this period, our publishing frequency had decreased to once a month, with a gap in December 2022 and June 2023.


The downsizing of our unit by the end of 2022, prompted by the conclusion of our grant in October 2022, led to a reduction in output. Recognizing the persistent challenges posed by financial and staffing constraints, we remain proactive in our approach and are firmly committed to finding a lasting solution. Recently, we partnered with ABS-CBN's citizen journalism arm, Bayan Mo iPatrol Mo, and encouraged students through internships. The collaborative effort has led to an increase in the frequency of our fact checks over the past two months, and we have thus far been able to publish once a week.

We affirm the pivotal role that our fact-checking unit plays in countering disinformation and misinformation using the local language, Filipino—a distinguishing feature from the current five signatories in the Philippines. Your support is crucial as we strive to continue to contribute to fostering a more informed public discourse in Philippine society, especially during elections.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to a favorable response from you.

Respectfully,


Rowena F. Caronan
Research Head, Investigative & Research Group
ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs


Chi Almario-Gonzalez
Head, News Gathering Department
Head, News Standard and Ethics
ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs

ABS-CBN Corporation
Sgt. E. A. Esguerra Ave., cor. Mother Ignacia St.,
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 924-4101 to 22 / (632) 415-2272
www.abs-cbn.com