



SPEAKER GUIDELINES ON SOLICITATION ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND ON PROHIBITIONS

1. Cryptocurrencies are not legal tender in India. Further, under Indian law, such as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (“**PMLA**”) and Financial Intelligence Unit of India (“**FIU-IND**”) Guidelines, and the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (“**FEMA**”) - cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets (referred to as Virtual Digital Assets (“**VDAs**”)) and VDA service provider activities (including exchange, broker, transfer, custody, and financial services) are strictly regulated. Furthermore, promotional activities relating to VDAs are subject to disclosure requirements.
2. Devcon, being a purely educational conference, has a longstanding prohibition against any form of solicitation, sales, marketing, promotions, and offers to sell, including (but not limited to) announcements of ICOs, crowd sales, or other similar promotional pitches, ‘suitcasing’, and outboarding. See Clause 5 & 8 of the [Devcon Ticket Sale Terms and Conditions](#).
3. These Speaker Guidelines (or “**Guidelines**”) set out the prohibitions in more detail. They apply to all speakers their employees, representatives, and other staff at Devcon. Each speaker must ensure that all relevant people in their organisation are informed about the guidelines described herein. By speaking at Devcon, speakers agree to comply with these guidelines.

GUIDELINES

4. **No Promotion of Regulated Products or Regulated Services.** Speakers must not present or promote, and their Publicity (defined below) must not contain any information related to:
 - a) The offering or selling of financial products such as VDAs (cryptocurrencies, investment tokens, utility tokens, NFTs), securities, derivatives, payment, currency, and any other regulated products (“**Regulated Products**”); and
 - b) The provision of exchange, broker, dealer, advisor, fund manager, or custodian services, or any other regulated services related to Regulated Products (“**Regulated Services**”).

unless such Regulated Products and/or Regulated Services are compliant with Indian law and align with these Speaker guidelines in the manner set out below.

5. **No Marketing of Regulated Products or Services.** Speakers may present their biography or professional experience relating to Regulated Products or Regulated Services. However, any marketing or promotion of Regulated Products or Regulated Services, that are not compliant with Indian law, or in contravention of these Guidelines, within a Session (defined below) or through any presentation or distribution of materials is not allowed.

6. **Limit to Technology Information & Educational Content.** Speakers should present on topics relating to technology information and/or other educational content. If a discussion relates to Regulated Products or Regulated Services, it should be strictly for educational purposes or presented solely as a case study.

7. **Avoid Discussing Trading, Pricing, or Investment of Regulated Products or Services.** Any discussions about trading, pricing, investment strategies, or price predictions regarding Regulated Products or Regulated Services should be avoided, except for general educational purposes, without any attempt at marketing or promotion.

8. **No QR Codes or Links in Presentations.** Speakers must not include QR codes or links in their presentation materials that solicit or enable others to financially invest in, commercially trade, or purchase Regulated Products, or to utilize Regulated Services, that are not compliant with Indian law, or in contravention of these Guidelines. This includes, but not limited to, materials that direct attendees to VDA platforms that are not registered with FIU-IND, or enable cross-border transactions. This clause does not restrict the distribution of purely educational materials relating to the underlying technology of VDAs.

9. **No Live Trading or Commercial Crypto Operations.** Attendees must not conduct or facilitate any live trading, fiat-to-crypto exchanges, commercial token sales, or live crypto payments.

10. **No Prohibited Services.** Attendees must not promote, or enable the usage of anonymity-enhancing tokens, transaction tumblers, or mixers at the event. Such tools are prohibited under Indian law. This clause does not restrict activities that explain the underlying technology of such tools strictly for educational purposes.

11. **ASCI Advertising Compliance & Terminology Limits.** Any presentation materials which are addressed to the public or a section of it, the purpose of which is to promote, directly or indirectly, the sale or use of goods and services to whom it is addressed, referencing VDAs must comply with the below instructions:

- a) **Mandatory Risk Disclaimer:** Any permitted display referencing Regulated Products or Regulated Services must prominently state:

"Crypto products and NFTs are unregulated and can be highly risky. There may be not regulatory recourse for any loss from such transactions."

- b) **Restricted Terminology:** Speakers must avoid using terms like "currency," "securities," "custodian," or "depositories" when describing digital assets.
- c) **No Profit Promises:** Presentations must not guarantee future profits, depict trading as a solution to financial hardship, feature minors, or downplay risks.

All advertising material must follow any additional requirements prescribed in the '[Guidelines for Virtual Digital Assets and Linked Services](#)'.

12. **Avoid Displaying Affiliate Logos and Contact Information.** Speakers should avoid displaying trade names, logos, or contact information of affiliates or partners that offer Regulated Products or provide Regulated Services as part of their usual business operations.

13. **Activities & Communications.** These prohibitions apply to all forms of solo presentations, panel presentations, panel discussions, symposiums, keynotes, workshops, or communication in any form ("**Sessions**"). The guidelines also apply to all forms of publicity, communication, or advertising ("**Publicity**") in relation to the Sessions and the event, including:

- a) Press and news releases;
- b) Speeches, press conferences, presentations, and interviews;
- c) Slides, presentation materials, and brochures;
- d) Conversations and other oral communications; and
- e) Any other information or material, including swag, distributed directly or indirectly to the public or shared widely.

14. **Acknowledge Event Restrictions.** Speakers understand that they undertake obligations to comply fully with these guidelines and that being allowed to participate does not mean the event organisers approve or confirm that their activities are legal and does not mean that the event organisers are involved with them or their projects, products, or services in any way.

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

15. **Civil & Criminal Liability.** Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in civil and criminal liability under the laws of India (including the PMLA, and FEMA). We reserve the right to deny admission or expel any speaker who fails to comply with these guidelines.

16. **Indemnity.** Speakers agree to indemnify and hold the event organisers harmless from any claims, liabilities, penalties, or enforcement actions arising from a breach of these Speaker Guidelines or from any other non-compliant activities conducted during the event.

17. **Monitoring by Regulators.** The event may be subject to monitoring by Indian regulators and law enforcement agencies. Regulators actively enforce actions against unlicensed business operators that promote or solicit Regulated Products or Regulated Services.

QUESTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you have any questions about these Speaker Guidelines, please contact us at support@devcon.org.