



**Asia-Pacific
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**Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working
Group Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2022 -
Endorsed**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: ACTWG Chair



**Second SOM Steering Committee on Economic
and Technical Cooperation Meeting
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Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group (ACTWG)

Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2022

1. Introduction

The harm caused by corruption is far reaching and deeply damaging. Corruption is a major obstacle to social and economic development. It increases the cost of doing business and inhibits legitimate trade, investment, and enterprise. Corruption and bribery facilitate and provide an enabling environment for fueling illicit trade as well as for funding criminal and terrorist activities. Corruption also diverts precious resources away from the fight against hunger, disease and poverty; contributes to environmental destruction; and undermines public trust in government.

APEC Leaders acknowledge the serious threats posed by corruption to the Asia-Pacific community and have agreed that APEC economies should nurture and sustain good governance, economic development, and prosperity by working together to prevent and fight corruption and ensure transparency. The ACT Task Force was established in 2005 following Leaders' endorsement of the "Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency" and the APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency. In recognition of the need for ongoing action to combat corruption and promote transparency, as well as the ACT's good work, the ACT was upgraded in status to a working group in March 2011. The ACTWG is open to anti-corruption experts and law enforcement officials from all interested APEC member economies, APEC Observers (namely ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council), and representatives from the APEC Secretariat and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

With the approval of the SCE, the ACTWG is chaired on a rotational basis by the APEC host economy. Although this arrangement is unusual within the broader APEC structure, drawing the working group's Chair from the host economy provides a mechanism for anti-corruption specialists from each host economy to take active leadership within the ACTWG. Rotating leadership also provides an opportunity to frame strong, practical anti-corruption outcomes for APEC and the host economy.

Strategic Direction

The most recent statement of the APEC ACTWG's strategic direction and priorities was made in Lima. Key themes from the Lima Statement and other recent declarations encourage the ACTWG to cooperate within APEC to:

- Implement APEC anti-corruption commitments, including related to the UN Convention against Corruption;
- Strengthen anti-corruption bodies and promote regional cooperation;
- Promote the use of prevention mechanisms to combat corruption;
- Build public-private partnerships, partnerships with civil society, and empower communities to prevent and fight corruption;

- Increase public sector transparency, integrity and good governance;
- Rigorously enforce anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws and encourage the involvement of both public and private sectors in this regard;
- Vigorously fight illegal trade and the trafficking of people and illegal goods and promote cultures of integrity across borders, markets, and supply chains;
- Deny safe haven to those engaged in corruption, including through extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the recovery and return of proceeds of corruption;
- Support the work of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET);
- Promote more innovative approaches and public-private partnerships to combat corruption and illicit trade;
- Protect anti-corruption officials at the domestic and international fronts.

APEC's vision:

“APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific Economic forum. Our primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. We are united in our drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment. Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.”

2. Vision Statement

The ACTWG will support the realization of the collective vision of an economically integrated, robust and secure APEC community in the 21st century and to ensure the implementation of the Santiago Commitment, the APEC Course of Action, and the APEC Transparency Standards within APEC fora.

In practice, APEC ACTWG members envisage an APEC community where:

- (i) All economies cooperate to develop robust anti-corruption laws and systems;
- (ii) Anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies are strong and independent;
- (iii) Public sectors are governed with integrity and transparency;
- (iv) Communities and businesses demand, and abide by, high ethical standards, and are empowered to prevent and fight corruption and bribery;

- (v) Corruption's detrimental impact on investment, trade, poverty, disease, environmental destruction, and its facilitation of transnational crime is eradicated as much as possible;
- (vi) All economies cooperate to deny safe havens to those engaged in corruption including through extradition, mutual legal assistance and the recovery of proceeds of corruption in accordance with domestic legislation and international obligations, and
- (vii) Profit from corruption, illicit trade and associated transnational crime is eradicated and proceeds of corruption are recovered.

3. Mission Statement

The ACTWG shall support the establishment of legal, enforcement, and regulatory frameworks to prevent and combat corruption; cultivate a culture of open governance, transparency, and anti-corruption across all sectors; implement measures, processes, and standards that promote transparency and accountability; safeguard the environment from harm by corruption; enhance public-private sector cooperation and dialogues; promote international cooperation to deny safe haven to those engaged in corruption and leverage collective action to combat illicit trade and dismantle transnational illicit networks across the Asia-Pacific region. (Summarized from the APEC website)

4. Critical Success Factors

Elements vital for the strategy to be successful include:

- APEC members implement Leaders' commitments to fight corruption and promote transparency;
- APEC members ratify and implement key international frameworks, particularly the United Convention against Corruption (UNCAC);
- APEC ACTWG provides an opportunity for the host economy to provide leadership to APEC's Anti-Corruption agenda and to draw attention to its Anti-Corruption priorities within APEC bodies;
- APEC ACTWG members take ownership and cooperate well with one another, as well as with other APEC sub-fora;
- APEC members, the private sector, and civil society organizations partner together effectively to advance and implement APEC commitments to prevent and combat corruption and promote transparency;
- APEC members share an understanding of how corruption facilitates and enables transnational crime, and cooperate to detect illicit trade and disrupt corrupt actors and illicit networks.

- APEC members cooperate to remove the profit from corruption and associated transnational crime, denying safe haven to corrupt officials and freezing, seizing, and recovering the proceeds of corruption.
- APEC members collaborate to review periodically the implementation of the ACT Working Group's commitments and actions.

5. Objectives 2019-2022

OBJECTIVES	Key Policy Indicators (KPI)
<p><i>1. Promote the effective implementation of existing APEC commitments</i></p>	<p>The ACTWG will promote implementation and keep economies accountable through periodic reporting on progress in implementation APEC commitments & key international standards.</p>
<p><i>2. Support the APEC growth strategy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Combat corruption related to money laundering, illicit trade and dismantle illicit networks.</i> • <i>Promote sustainable Growth & enhance human security.</i> 	<p>The ACTWG will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the effective implementation of UNCAC, FATF anti-money laundering & and other relevant anti-corruption standards; • Promote capacity-building and cooperation to combat illicit trade and dismantle illicit networks; • Promote the Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption; • Promote ACTWG Codes of Conduct on Asset Financial Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest; • Promote APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-Bribery Laws; • Promote sustainable and inclusive green growth by tackling corruption-driven loss of biodiversity; • Enhance human security by fighting crimes enabled by corruption, such as smuggling and trafficking in persons; • Organize events and workshops to identify and better understand challenges and establish cooperative mechanisms to tackle these challenges; • Expand cooperation with all relevant APEC fora, relevant international organizations, civil society and the private sector; • Enhance efforts to promote sustainable and legitimate use of natural resources;

<p><i>3. Giving full play to the role of ACT-NET</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving informal cross-border cooperation between agencies responsible for investigations and prosecutions of corruption, bribery, money laundering and asset recovery with a view to facilitate cooperation among anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies; • Enhancing capacity building of anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies, holding seminars and workshops at appropriate times; • Promoting cross-border cooperation between ACT-NET economies, and other multi-lateral and regional anti-corruption and law enforcement platforms.
<p><i>4. Enhance public private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip member economies with information to develop and enhance public private partnerships; as well as to encourage civil society engagement in efforts to prevent and combat corruption and illicit trade; • Organize workshop/seminars to provide platforms for experts, including representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations, to share their expertise and explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration; • Encourage reporting by member economies on outreach to and partnerships and collaboration with the private sector and/or civil society; • Encourage engagement with civil society and private sector which are complementary to the efforts of the APEC ACTWG; • Encourage relevant international organizations to participate and contribute to APEC ACTWG meetings; • Encourage civil society and private sector participation in APEC ACTWG meetings; • Promote the General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs; ▪ Encourage the sharing and compilation of member economies' good practices in promoting social engagement in anti-corruption.
<p><i>5. Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness of and support for anti-corruption and transparency efforts across the APEC region; • Enhance effective use of modern digital and social media to gain widespread support for preventing and combating corruption in APEC ACTWG members;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the integration of the ACTWG's work with other APEC fora, in order to reach the Bogor Goals.
<i>6. Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group's Strategic Work Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information on the implementation of the Strategic Work Plan objectives;• Encourage host economies to identify host economy priorities and possible activities for their year as ACTWG Chair year as early as possible and to communicate those priorities to member economies in a timely manner;• Encourage the host economy to work with previous and future host economies to ensure the effective implementation of the respective priorities;• Take stock of capacity building activities against the critical success factors, and identify ways to respond to capacity building needs;• Develop the multi-year strategic work plan 2023-2026.