**Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts’ Working Group (ACT)**

**Multi-Year Strategic Planning 2013-2020**

**(Revised 22 Aug 2017)**

**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 including trafficking in drugs, arms, people, and counterfeit and pirated goods, illegally-harvested wildlife, timber, and other environmentally-sensitive goods 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 ACT 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 ACT 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 ACT. 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 ACT’s strategic direction and priorities was made in Lima. Key themes from the Lima Statement and other recent declarations encourage the ACT to cooperate within APEC to:

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| * Implement APEC anti-corruption commitments, including related to the UN Convention against Corruption * Strengthen anti-corruption bodies and promote regional cooperation * Build public-private partnerships, and empower communities to prevent and fight corruption * Increase public sector transparency, integrity and good governance * Rigorously enforce anti-bribery laws and encourage the involvement of both public and private sectors in this regard. * ~~implementation of the APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-Bribery Laws~~ * ~~Promote the APEC General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs~~ * Vigorously fight the harmful effects of the illegal economy and promote cultures of integrity across borders, markets, and supply chains * Deny safe haven to criminal fugitives and their illicit wealth and promote effective return of stolen assets * Support the work of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET); * Promote more innovative pathfinding 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 ACT 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 ACT members envisage an APEC community where:

1. All economies cooperate to develop robust anti-corruption laws and systems
2. Anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies are strong and independent
3. Public sectors are governed with integrity and transparency
4. Communities and businesses demand, and abide by, high ethical standards, and are empowered to prevent and fight corruption and bribery
5. Corruption’s detrimental impact on poverty, disease and environmental destruction is eradicated as much as possible
6. All economies cooperate to deny safe haven 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
7. Profit from corruption, illicit trade and associated transnational crime is eradicated and proceeds of corruption are recovered.

**3. Mission Statement**

The ACT 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 ACT 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 ACT members take ownership and cooperate well with one another, as well as with other APEC sub-fora;
* APEC members 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 periodically review the implementation of the ACT Working Group’s commitments and actions.

**5. Objectives 2013-2020**

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| ***OBJECTIVES*** | ***KPI*** |
| *1. Promote the effective implementation of existing APEC commitments* | The ACT will promote implementation and keep economies accountable by requiring standardized, periodic reporting on progress in implementation of previous APEC commitments & key international standards.  **Specific processes and activities:**  1. Using an agreed upon template, member economies will report on progress towards meeting the key elements of Leaders’ anti-corruption commitments, based on the:   * Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, 2004 * APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency, 2004 * APEC Anti-corruption Code of Conduct for Business, September 2007 * Conduct Principles for Public Officials, 2007 * Complementary Anti-Corruption Principles for the Public and Private Sectors, 2007 * Fighting Corruption through Improved International Legal Cooperation, 2007 * Singapore Declaration on Combating Corruption, Strengthening Governance and Enhancing institutional Integrity, 2009 * APEC Guidelines on Enhancing Governance and Anti-Corruption, 2009 * APEC Principle for Financial Asset Disclosure by Public official, 2011 * Vladivostok Declaration, 2012 * Beijing Declaration, 2014 * APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-Bribery Laws and the General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs 2014. * Cebu Manifesto and Manila Declaration 2015. * Lima Statement 2016.   2. Completed reports from economies using the 2011 agreed-upon template will be made accessible within the group. The reporting template exercise has now been completed by all APEC member economies.  3. The ACTWG will consider new approaches for focused timely thematic reporting that strengthens understanding of measures addressing APEC commitments. New APEC reporting projects should not duplicate initiatives being undertaken by other international bodies which most APEC member economies participate. Based upon a new agreed-upon template, a report will be provided to APEC Leaders in 2020. |
| *2. Support the APEC growth strategy:*   * *Combat corruption related to money laundering, illicit trade, and dismantle illicit networks.* * *Promote sustainable Growth & enhance human security.* | The ACT will:   * Promote the effective implementation of FATF anti-money laundering & UNCAC anti-corruption standards; * Promote capacity-building and cooperation to combat illicit trade and dismantle illicit networks; * Promote ACT 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 human (people) 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. * Develop/promote a code of conduct to address corruption and labor recruitment practices that contribute to trafficking in persons. * Enhance efforts to promote sustainable and legitimate use of natural resources. |
| *3. Giving full play to the role of ACT-NET* | * 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. |
| *4. Enhance public private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement* | * 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 ACT; * Encourage relevant international organisations to participate and contribute to APEC ACT meetings; * Encourage civil society and private sector participation in APEC ACT meetings. * Promote the General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs; * ~~Encourage the development and implementation of APEC guiding principles on ensuring the effective and social engagement of the citizen and businesses in combatting and preventing corruption.~~ * Encourage the sharing and compilation of member economies’ good practices in promoting social engagement in anti-corruption |
| *5. Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders* | * 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 ACT members. |
| *6. Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan 2013-2020* | * Provide information on the implementation of the Strategic Work Plan 2013-2020’s objectives; * Encourage host economies to identify host economy priorities and possible activities for their year as ACT 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 2021-2025. |

**6. Implementation Schedule**

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| **KPI** | **Activities/Actions** | **Timeframe** | **Lead(s)** |
| Making reports on implementation status by each economy of the previous APEC commitments & other international standards  **Specific processes and activities:**  1. Member economies will report on progress towards meeting Leaders’ anti-corruption commitments  2. ~~Make public a completed report based on template agreed upon in 2011 in 2015 and in 2020, based on template agreed upon in 2011.~~  Make public a completed report in 2020 based on information obtained from a new reporting template  3. Member economies should submit the agreed-upon reports in a timely fashion. | * Interim Report: implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments * Interim Report II: Implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments * Final Implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments by individual ACT members (Phase IV) * Agreement on template and new reporting format for 2020 report to Leaders. * Submit reports from Economies using new template. * Finalize Report to Leaders | ACT 2 - 2013  ACT 2 - 2014  2017-2018  2019-2020  2020 |  |
| ACT will:   * Promote the effective implementation of anti-money laundering & anti-corruption standards * Arrange additional events and workshops to identify and better understand challenges and establish cooperative mechanisms to tackle these challenges * Promote capacity building and cooperation to combat illicit trade and dismantle illicit networks. * Promote effective return of recovered assets and deny safe haven to those engaged in corruption, including through extradition and mutual legal assistance. * Encourage the ACT-NET to play a more pragmatic and active role in asset recovery and fighting corruption, bribery and money laundering. * Expand cooperation with all relevant APEC fora, related international organizations, and the private sector. | * Promote ACT Guidelines on Codes of Conduct Financial Asset Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest * Develop ACT Corruption-Money Laundering Initiative * Sponsor ACT Workshops on preventing, investigating, and prosecuting corruption and money laundering * Establish a regional network of anti-corruption authorities * Sponsor ACT Roundtable on Corruption and Illicit Trade * Partner with ASEAN and other relevant fora to host APEC-ASEAN Corruption and Illicit Trade Workshop * Work with the World Bank to host the ACT Workshop on International Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption * Partner with the OECD to host the High-Level APEC Anti-Corruption Workshop on Combating Business Bribery * Sponsor ACT Roundtable on Corruption and Illicit Trade (Illegal Fishing) * Follow-up on APEC-ASEAN Corruption and Illicit Trade Workshop * Cooperate with ABAC in promoting the General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs * Promulgate rules to deny entry and save haven, when appropriate, to officials and individuals guilty of public corruption * Develop actions to fight all forms of bribery and enhance enforcement of anti-bribery laws, taking into account the APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-Bribery Laws; OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business; and the United Nations Convention against Corruption * Ensure that all APEC ACT members have ratified and taken steps to implement UNCAC to the extent possible * Invite the UNODC to brief ACT on the UNCAC Peer Review Process; support the UNCAC review process and continued implementation of UNCAC * Develop an action plan on ways to implement specific recommendations of the Singapore Declaration on Strengthening Governance, Enhancing Institutional Integrity and Combating Corruption * Workshop on whistleblower * Develop/promote a code of conduct to address corruption in labor recruitment practices that contribute to trafficking in persons. * Sponsor ACT Roundtable on Corruption and Illicit Trade III and IV. * Organize a workshop on promoting collaboration among law enforcement agencies and improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies for effective asset recovery * Organize a training workshop on Asset Recovery under ACT-NET in Bali (China/Indonesia). * Explore capacity building to reduce corruption and promote transparency in trade at points of entry (customs, ports, immigration). * Facilitate dialogue to promote transparency and fight corruption in identified corruption prone areas ~~natural resource sector, with a focus on extractives.~~ * Placeholder for priorities identified by future host economies (TBD) | 2013-2014  2013-2014  2013  2013  2013  2014  2014  2014  2015, SOM 3  2013-2015  2014-2016  2014  2015 - 2017  2015  2013  2013  2013-2014  2016-2017  2017  2017    2018  2018 |  |
| Equip member economies with the information to develop and enhance public private partnerships as well as to encourage civil society engagement in efforts to prevent and combat corruption and enhance transparency:   * 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 civil society and private sector participation in APEC ACT related workshops; * Encourage international organisations participation in APEC ACT meetings. | * Partner with ABAC to develop APEC illicit trade principles and new public-private partnership projects, including a Corruption and Illicit Trade Code (ACIT Code). * Partner with the OECD to develop principles to prevent and combat TIP*-*related corruption (that is, links between corruption and trafficking-in-persons). * Partner with the UNODC to organize a workshop on promoting social engagement in fighting corruption. * Organize events to build capacity and share best practices and experience in corruption prevention. * Placeholder for priorities identified by future host economies (TBD). * Compilation of APEC member economies’ good practices in promoting social engagement in anti-corruption | 2014-2017  2015  2017  2018  2017-2020 |  |
| Improve awareness of and support for anti-corruption and transparency efforts across the APEC region. | * Utilize funded campaigns incorporating joint projects with civil society groups and interested parties in disseminating anti-corruption messages | 2015-2016 |  |
| Conduct the overall review on the implementation of the Multi-year Strategic Work Plan 2013-2020 and propose plan for the next period | * Member economies provide information on the implementation of the Multi-year Strategic Work Plan 2013-2020’s objectives * Take stock of capacity building initiatives against critical success factors. * Develop the Multi-year Strategic Work Plan 2021-2025 | 2018-2020  2018  2019-2020 |  |