

Statement on the 15 Years of the ACTWG Santiago, 2019

1. In 2004, APEC Leaders acknowledged the serious threats posed by corruption to the Asia-Pacific community and 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 “Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency” and the APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency, enabled the creation of the ACT Task Force in 2005, which was upgraded in status to a working group in March 2011. Back in Santiago, in 2019, APEC Leaders commemorate 15 years of the ACTWG, by acknowledging its work and reaffirming their commitment in preventing and fighting corruption.
2. Through these years, the ACTWG has been open to anticorruption experts and law enforcement officials from all interested APEC member economies and representatives from the APEC Secretariat, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and has consistently worked with relevant international organizations and civil society.
3. The working group has encouraged APEC economies to effectively implement anticorruption commitments, including those related to the UN Convention against Corruption where appropriate. It has also encouraged APEC economies to enforce anticorruption and anti-bribery laws together with compliance measures, in accordance with each economy’s legal system, in an effort to create favorable investment and business climate.
4. Efforts have been made to strengthen anticorruption bodies, promote regional cooperation and the use of prevention mechanisms to combat corruption together with increasing public sector transparency. Advocating for integrity and good governance, building public-private partnerships and engaging civil society has helped empower communities to prevent and fight corruption.
5. Through Pathfinder Dialogues –a multi-year initiative- the ACTWG brought international attention to address the role of corruption in facilitating illicit trade, including wildlife trafficking and trafficking in persons, allowing interaction with other APEC fora, civil society and private sector experts.
6. All these efforts have been made together with other actions, directed to deny safe haven to those engaged in corruption including through extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the recovery and return of proceeds of corruption, consistent with the 2014 Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, subject to domestic laws and policies and protecting anticorruption officials at the domestic and international fronts.
7. The creation of the APEC Network of Anticorruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-Net) in 2013-2014, has helped to strengthen these initiatives, improving international cooperation and sharing good practices in the investigation and prosecution of corrupt acts, money laundering and illicit trade, as well as enhancing informal and pragmatic cross-border cooperation in bribery and corruption cases by bringing together law enforcement practitioners and policy makers across the region and promoting relevant capacity building to law enforcement officers.
8. Since the *2004 Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency*, APEC has made additional commitments and developed useful tools and resources for anticorruption policy makers and experts in public and private sectors, civil society, among others. These outputs can be found in the “15 Years ACTWG Compilation” [insert hyperlink] assembled to acknowledge this milestone.

Endorsed by 29th ACTWG Plenary
Puerto Varas-Chile 2019