

Anti-Corruption and Transparency

Working Group (ACT)

Multi Year Strategic Planning 2013-2017

(Updated August 2016)

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 moving and exchanging the illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, people, and stolen or pirated goods, as well as for funding criminal and extremist 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).

Strategic Direction

The most recent statement of the APEC ACT's strategic direction and priorities was made in Beijing and Manila in 2014-2015. Key themes from these two recent declarations are to cooperate within APEC to:

- Implement APEC anti-corruption commitments, including 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
- Enforce rigorously anti-bribery laws
- 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 recovered assets
- Support the work of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies;
- 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:

- (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 high ethical standards, and are empowered to prevent and fight corruption and bribery
- (v) Corruption's detrimental impact on poverty, disease and environmental destruction is minimized,
- (vi) 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
- (vii) Profit from corruption, illicit trade and associated transnational crime is minimized 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 dialogue; 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 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 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.

5. Objectives 2013-2017

OBJECTIVES	KPI
<p>1. <i>Promote the effective implementation of existing APEC commitments</i></p>	<p>The ACT will promote implementation and keep economies accountable by requiring reporting on progress in implementation of previous APEC commitments & key international standards.</p> <p>Specific processes and activities:</p> <p>1. Using a simple reporting template (that was agreed upon in 2011), member economies will report on progress towards meeting the key elements of Leaders' anti-corruption commitments, based on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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. <p>2. Based on the concise template for interim reports, a full and final report will be provided to APEC Leaders in 2016.</p> <p>3. Member economies should submit the agreed-upon reports in a timely fashion.</p>
<p>2. <i>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 ACT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Guidelines on 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;

OBJECTIVES	KPI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange events and workshops to identify and better understand challenges and establish cooperative mechanisms to tackle these challenges; • Expand cooperation with all relevant APEC fora, related 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.
<p><i>3. Giving full play to the role of ACT-NET</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving information sharing and pragmatic cooperation on corruption, bribery, money laundering and 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 the cooperation between the ACT-NET 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 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 engagement with civil society and private sector to complement the efforts of the APEC ACT; • Encourage international organisations to contribute to APEC ACT and to participate in APEC ACT meetings • Encourage civil society and the private sector participation in APEC ACT meetings. • Promote the General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs.
<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 prevent and combat corruption in APEC ACT members

6. Implementation Schedule

KPI	Activities/Actions	Timeframe	Lead(s)
<p>Making reports on implementation status by each economy of the previous APEC commitments & other international standards</p> <p>Specific processes and activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member economies will report on progress towards meeting Leaders' anti-corruption commitments 2. Submit a full report to APEC Leaders in 2016, based on template agreed upon in 2011. 3. Member economies should submit the agreed-upon annual reports in a timely fashion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Report: implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments • Interim Report II: Implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments • Full Report to APEC Leaders: Implementation of APEC anti-corruption commitments by individual ACT members (Phase IV) 	<p>ACT 2 - 2013</p> <p>ACT 2 - 2014</p> <p>2016</p>	
<p>ACT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Expand cooperation with all relevant APEC fora, related international organizations, and the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ACT Guidelines on Financial 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 	<p>2013-2014</p> <p>2013-2014</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2015, SOM 3</p> <p>2013-2014</p>	

KPI	Activities/Actions	Timeframe	Lead(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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. 	<p>2014-2016</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2015 - 2017</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013-2014</p> <p>2016-2017</p>	
<p>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 illicit trade and enhance transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize workshop/seminars to provide platforms for experts, including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<p>2014-2017</p> <p>2015</p>	

KPI	Activities/Actions	Timeframe	Lead(s)
<p>representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations, to share their expertise and explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 meetings; • Encourage international organisations participation in APEC ACT meetings. 			
<p>Improve awareness of and support for anti-corruption and transparency efforts across the APEC region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize funded campaigns incorporating joint projects with civil society groups and interested parties in disseminating anti-corruption messages 	2015-2016	