Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group (ACTWG)

Strategic Plan 2027—2029

BACKGROUND

1. Since 2002, APEC Leaders have acknowledged the serious threats posed by corruption to the Asia-Pacific region and have consistently held that APEC economies should nurture and sustain good governance, economic growth, and prosperity by working together to prevent and fight corruption and ensure transparency. The establishment of the ACT Task Force was approved by APEC leaders in 2005. In 2010, the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group (ACTWG) was established by Senior Officials with the mandate to develop a long-term strategy for its work programme. In 2013, the ACTWG established a network for APEC Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET). The first plenary meeting of the ACT-NET was held in 2014.
2. The ACTWG is chaired on a rotational basis by the APEC host economy. Drawing the Working Group's Chair from the host economy provides a mechanism for 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.
3. The ACTWG is open to representatives from APEC member economies' governmental organisations and/or agencies dealing with anti-corruption, 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). Other interested organisations or parties may attend ACTWG meetings with the prior approval of ACTWG members.

STRATEGIC VISION

4. ACTWG members envisage an Asia-Pacific region where each economy is committed to non-tolerance of corruption, including through prevention measures and, in this regard, takes demonstrable action to:

- promote integrity, transparency and accountability, to help reduce the detrimental impact of corruption to the greatest extent;
- criminalise, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate acts of corruption and related offences;
- strengthen cooperation to foster economic growth and prosperity in the APEC region through effective anti-corruption laws and systems.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

5. The ACTWG's strategic direction is to:

- Coordinate and implement APEC's anti-corruption and transparency commitments including the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, the APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency, the APEC Transparency Standards, the APEC Conduct Principles for Public Officials, the APEC Code of Conduct for Business, the APEC Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, and the relevant anti-corruption commitments in the Lima Roadmap to Promote the Transition to the Formal and Global Economies, to help advance APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.
- Promote the implementation of the measures contained in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) by member economies.
- Deny safe haven to corruption offenders and illicit assets through collaborative efforts, adequate resources and efficient and responsive actions.
- Promote public sector integrity, including, for example, through the implementation of effective ethics and codes of conduct, whistleblower protection, reporting channels, risk assessments, audit and oversight systems, and integrity strategies within institutions, amongst other elements of a corruption prevention system.
- Address the role corruption plays in facilitating other crimes, including organised crime and economic crime.
- Promote and provide due guidance for integrity building of market participants, including state and non-state participants, including through preventing and combating both domestic and foreign business bribery.
- Exchange information and encourage mutual-learning on the implementation of anti-corruption commitments, and promotion of successful practices in fighting corruption and enhancing transparency of public and private sectors.

- Promote cooperation between APEC members in addressing cross-border corruption.
- Collaborate with individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention and fight against corruption in line with APEC NMP procedures[1].

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

6. Guided by the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, and in line with the ACTWG Terms of Reference (2026-2029), elements vital for the strategy to be successful include:

- Implement APEC commitments to fight corruption and promote integrity, including those that advance implementation of the UNCAC, as appropriate.
- Enhance cooperation between member economies in such areas as denial of safe haven, including denial of entry measures,in accordance with domestic law, asset recovery, mutual legal assistance, and joint or parallel investigations and prosecutions, including by leveraging international cooperation mechanisms and mutual legal assistance treaties.
- Promote member-economy led training, professional skills development, results-oriented technical assistance, and experience sharing programmes to build the capacity to fight corruption.
- Address new and emerging anti-corruption issues such as those related to technology, crises, and emergencies.
- Leverage innovation and digitalisation in fighting corruption, through, for example, the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) for detecting fraud, blockchain for enhancing transparency in public procurement and contracting, and secure digital platforms for cross-border information sharing.
- Take a comprehensive, holistic, and multidisciplinary approach to address root causes, vulnerabilities and risk factors that facilitate corruption that takes into account the ways in which corruption affects women and men and girls and boys differently.

[1] About APEC guidelines on managing cooperation with Non-Members, please visit https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/aboutus/about-apec/2024/bmc-approved-revisions-2023---guidelines-on-non-member-participation.pdf?sfvrsn=2a1db1b1_1

- Engage in APEC cross-fora collaboration, and increase the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, and cooperate with other multi-lateral and regional inter-governmental institutions and international organisations, in the work of the ACTWG and the ACT-NET, as appropriate, and in line with APEC's NMP[2] procedures]
- Promote practitioner collaboration and exchange of good practices, including through the ACT-NET.
- Make use of the voluntary and informal Friends of the Chair group to provide an advisory role to the Chair (as determined by the Chair) in delivering year to year consistency of ACTWG and ACT-NET activities.

7. The key activities to support the objectives are set out in the Appendix.

[2] About APEC guidelines on managing coopertation with Non-Members, please visit https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/aboutus/about-apec/2024/bmc-approved-revisions-2023---guidelines-on-non-member-participation.pdf?sfvrsn=2a1db1b1_1

APPENDIX[3]

The key activities to support the ACTWG's objectives for 2027 –2029 comprise of the following.

Objective	Key Activity
1. Implement APEC commitments to fight corruption, including those that advance implementation of the UNCAC, as appropriate.	(1.1) Regularly and voluntarily report and exchange best practices on the implementation of the ACTWG's commitments and actions during the ACTWG plenary meetings, including the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, and APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-Bribery Laws. (1.2) Voluntarily report on progress in implementing international anti-corruption obligations, included in the UNCAC and on other relevant international anti-corruption commitments, by relevant economies. (1.3) Promote collaboration at the domestic level with the private sector and civil society organisations to advance and implement APEC commitments to prevent and combat corruption and promote transparency. (1.4) Encourage representatives from relevant multilateral and regional inter- governmental institutions, and international organisations, to present on new development progress

[3] The listing of Objectives and Key Activities in this section are not in any particular order, nor does the ordering imply any prioritisation between the various Objectives or Key Activities.

	updates, and to share ideas for collaboration, at ACTWG and/or ACT-NET meetings.
2. Enhance cooperation between member economies in such areas as denial of safe haven, including through denial of entry measures in accordance with domestic law, asset recovery, mutual legal assistance, and joint or parallel investigations and prosecutions,and by leveraging international cooperation mechanisms and mutual legal assistance treaties.	(2.1) Deny safe haven to corruption offenders and their assets, including by encouraging effective and timely cooperation among APEC economies through mutual legal assistance and informal channels between competent authorities and, where appropriate, denial of entry . (2.2) Utilise the available tools for asset recovery and return, in accordance with domestic law, and continue to develop innovative ways to clarify and improve the use of mutual legal assistance processes, —in particular by encouraging economies to strengthen central and competent authorities, as appropriate-- in order to advance asset recovery proceedings and render them more successful and efficient. (2.3) Consistent with and subject to domestic legal frameworks, encourage the sharing of knowledge, good practices and experiences between members, in particular regarding the latest legislative, law enforcement and administrative measures, mechanisms for more efficiently detecting, preventing, and prosecuting the cross-border activities of corrupt individuals, officials, and entities, and cross- border movement of their illicitly acquired assets.

	(2.4) Empower member economies' participation in anti-corruption and law enforcement networks such as the INTERPOL and GLOBE Network, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network and regional ARIN networks for informal cross-border cooperation against corruption, subject to each economy's respective laws, and existing protocols and mechanisms. (2.5) Explore good practices in asset return and asset sharing agreements, to help ensure it is done in a transparent and accountable manner including by making use of the options provided by the UNCAC, and where possible implement such measures in practice.
3. Promote member-economy led training, professional skills development, results-oriented technical assistance, and experience sharing programmes to build the capacity to fight corruption and related money laundering.	(3.1) Build expertise and professional skills through workshops/seminars/symposiums organised and endorsed by APEC member economies under the auspices of the ACTWG. (3.2) Engage proactively and inter-sessionally to support each other with technical assistance, as appropriate. (3.3) Take stock of best practices from technical assistance activities and highlight effective assistance that produce concrete and measurable results.
Objective	Key Activity

4. Address new and emerging anti-corruption issues such as technology, crises and emergencies.	(4.1) Discuss emerging anti-corruption issues, and consider incorporating them in agendas and developing projects to address them. (4.2) Share expertise and experiences addressing emerging and evolving anti-corruption issues.
5.Leverage innovation and digitalisation in fighting corruption, including through the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) for detecting fraud, blockchain for enhancing transparency in public procurement, and secure digital platforms for cross-border information sharing.	(5.1) Discuss and share experiences in the use of innovation and digitalisation, including open-source information, AI, and big data in fighting corruption and related money laundering. (5.2) Share best practices on the use of digitalisation to facilitate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of international anti-corruption cooperation.
6.Address corruption's role in facilitating other crimes such as organised crime and economic crime.	(6.1) Facilitate additional research into the linkages between corruption and organised crime and economic crime. (6.2) Encourage experience sharing and cooperation among member economies to counter corruption related to organised crime and economic crime. (6.3) Share expertise and experiences and promote high-level dialogues, where appropriate, addressing corruption's role in facilitating other crimes, in particular organised crime and economic crime, including related money-laundering.

	(6.4) Promote implementation of relevant anti-corruption measures outlined in the UNCAC and UNTOC.
7. Engage in APEC cross-fora collaboration, and increase the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, and cooperate with other multi-lateral and regional inter-governmental institutions and international organisations, in the work of the ACTWG and the ACT-NET, as appropriate, and in line with APEC's NMP procedures, so as to facilitate improvements in anti-corruption and transparency activities.	(7.1) Improve awareness among APEC economies of the detrimental impact and risks of corruption across the Asia-Pacific region, including through engagement with stakeholders outside the public sector. (7.2) Equip member economies with information to develop and enhance collaborations with other stakeholders, and encourage member economies to organise projects/workshops/seminars at the domestic level to provide platforms to share expertise and explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration. (7.3) Invite multilateral and regional inter-governmental institutions and international organisations to participate in and contribute to ACTWG or ACT-NET activities, as appropriate, following relevant APEC and NMP processes. (7.4) Encourage members to engage with other APEC fora in the ACTWG and ACT-NET activities by developing projects that provide opportunities for cross fora involvement and cooperation.
8. Promote practitioner collaboration and exchange of good practices, including through the ACT-NET.	(8.1) Promote informal engagement and interaction between practitioners to build contacts and expertise by providing an opportunity, including through the ACT-NET, for anti-

	corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies to meet regularly, where appropriate, to meet its objectives. (8.2) Improve informal cross-border cooperation between agencies responsible for investigations and prosecutions of corruption, domestic and foreign bribery, money laundering, asset recovery, and related offences. (8.3) Enhance technical assistance of anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies, including holding seminars and workshops under the auspices, and with the endorsement, of the ACTWG at appropriate times.
9. Make use of the voluntary and informal Friends of the Chair group to provide an advisory role to the Chair (as determined by the Chair) in delivering year to year consistency of ACTWG and ACT-NET activities.	(9.1) Encourage the use of the FotC group to assist the ACTWG in delivering year-to-year consistency of ACTWG and ACT-NET activities. (9.2) Actively collaborate as member participants in providing advice to the Chair, as appropriate.
10.APEC members collaborate to review the implementation of the ACTWG's commitments and actions.	(10.1) Provide information on the implementation of the Strategic Work Plan objectives. (10.2) Encourage the host economy to work with all economies to ensure the effective implementation of the respective priorities. (10.3) Identify and communicate host year priorities and activities as early as possible, and

	incorporate the sharing of implementation of the APEC anti-corruption activities in the annual work plan.

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