Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI)

Addressing Corruption by Restoring Trust and Integrity

Corruption is both a symptom and consequence of today’s fractured world. Widely recognized as an obstacle to stability, growth, equity and the competitiveness of economies, corruption is a strategic risk for every business leader and an inescapable concern for governments. With increasing evidence of an inverse correlation between lower trust levels and higher levels of corruption, the imperative for addressing corruption by building trust and integrity has never been greater.

As one of the oldest initiatives of the World Economic Forum, the Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI) has been bringing, and keeping, the topic of corruption on the global agenda of business and government leaders since 2004.

As the principal CEO-led anti-corruption platform, PACI stands on the pillars of public-private cooperation, responsible leadership and technological advances, making recommendations to address corruption as a social issue through behavioural, institutional or technological solutions.

Anti-corruption was high on the agenda at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 in Davos-Klosters. PACI held and contributed to many sessions across industries and regions.

Among participants in these sessions there is a clear recognition that, in our fractured world, the approach of fighting corruption by rebuilding trust and integrity remains a priority for business, government and civil society leaders and will need to be addressed through public-private-collaboration.

To avoid undesirable side-effects on the stability and growth of local and regional economies, concerted approaches need to be designed and implemented, leveraging the reach of multistakeholders as well as the potential of innovative technologies.

PACI Highlights at the Forum’s Annual Meeting 2018

A Meeting of World Anti-Corruption Leaders

This year’s meeting of the PACI Vanguard was an opportunity for global leaders to hold sensitive discussions and express candid concerns about the efficiency of recent anti-corruption strategies. Participants candidly discussed the opportunities and challenges of business and tabled solutions for the short and the long term.

As a testimony to the increased global focus on anti-corruption, several governments shared their approaches to addressing corruption with the PACI community, including Argentina, Saudi Arabia and India.

CEOs representing several industries (including digital communications and mining) recognized the need for deeper engagement at sectoral level and expressed the intent to join the PACI community, and the PACI principles, and to deepen their commitment to a culture of zero tolerance against corruption.
Operating in an Interconnected World

Leading businesses in Africa held their first strategic dialogue and committed to developing public-private cooperation to build trust and integrity in Africa.

The Government of Argentina, represented by its ministers, co-hosted a session discussing the G20 priorities under Argentina’s leadership. The session engaged prominent members of the global multistakeholder community in an open exchange on actionable ideas to lead and implement those priorities, which included tackling corruption. Moderated by PACI signatories, discussions on the topic focused on improving whistleblowing laws, signing and enforcing international tax conventions as well as leveraging technologies to improve implementation of anti-corruption regulations. PACI will continue to support the G20 and B20 processes under the Argentinian presidency through a range of activities.

From Intent to Impact

In collaboration with Partners of the Forum – including Citi, PwC and Clifford Chance – PACI shared a preview of a mini-site supporting a technology platform to be launched at the forthcoming World Economic Forum on Latin America. The platform, Tech for Integrity, aims to scale up impact and drive progress in designing corruption out of systems by building a bridge between tech-solution seekers and providers. With over 90 technology innovators, across seven vulnerability points, the platform aims to support governments, development banks and businesses looking for knowledge, connections and impact initiatives on trust-building technologies.

Looking ahead

Now entering its second year, the PACI project, The Future of Trust and Integrity, is getting ready to present the results of its deep dive on Argentina at the World Economic Forum on Latin America meeting before moving its focus to Africa. One key output of the project will be the launch by of the Tech for Integrity platform, which allows for technological solutions supporting trust and integrity to be adopted by potential users. By furthering Citi’s work through the Tech for Integrity Challenge, this platform will be a key demonstration of the PACI community’s ability to move from intent to action.

As the world moves into a new structural dynamic, the PACI Vanguard is committed to exploring new solutions leveraging multistakeholder approaches. These include: building good practices on information-sharing between actors; protecting economies while tackling corruption; discussing lessons learned by several countries and industry actors; promoting education to build trust and integrity; proactively approaching self-reporting; and supporting increased reliance on e-governance by governments.