The World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI), launched in 2004, serves as the principal CEO-led platform in the global anti-corruption arena. PACI has more than 90 signatories from different sectors across the globe. It is one of the Forum’s strongest cross-industry collaborative efforts, creating a highly visible, agenda-setting platform by working with business leaders, international organizations, civil society and governments to address corruption, transparency and accountability.

Under the leadership of PACI co-chairs and Vanguard CEOs, the community is expanding rapidly and focuses on implementing a global anti-corruption agenda. The community gathers twice a year to discuss business integrity while looking at progress in terms of implementation of collective action on anti-corruption.

PACI’s strategy is based on the Agenda for Business Integrity, a four-pillar framework formulated by the Forum’s Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption (see more in “Topics addressed” section):

1. Commit to ethics and integrity beyond compliance
2. Strengthen corporate culture and incentives to drive continuous learning and improvement
3. Leverage technologies to reduce the scope of corruption
4. Support collective action to increase scale and impact

Why engage?

– Lead, drive collective action, and shape the agenda on transparency and anti-corruption at regional and global levels
– Gain insights and learn about the latest trends to drive effective change
– Learn and share with peers your journey towards greater accountability
– Be part of a unique global ecosystem of experts from different backgrounds

B20 engagement

As a long-term Network Partner of the Business 20 (B20) Taskforce on integrity and compliance, PACI leverages the expertise of its community to actively shape the B20 policy agenda. This year, PACI is co-chairing the taskforce under the Italian presidency, representing the business voice on anti-corruption towards the G20. Many PACI activities – for example, on beneficial ownership transparency (see below) – directly contribute to implementing B20 policy recommendations.

Partnering on SDG 16

Whether the aim is to combat climate change or to ensure access to health services, implementing the Sustainable Development Goal 16.5 on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all its forms is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. PACI contributes to this global effort through all its actions but particularly through its active partnership in the UN Global Compact Action Platform on SDG16 and related activities of the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption (see below).

Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption

The World Economic Forum’s Global Future Councils are the world’s foremost interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking to shape a sustainable and inclusive future for all. The Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption is working to support the private sector to go beyond compliance to build a future-proof corporate culture of ethics and integrity. It has developed a framework called the Agenda for Business Integrity, the backbone of PACI strategy.

Initiatives led by the Council on Transparency & Anti-Corruption:

– The rise of the chief integrity officer
This workstream examines the components of the role of the chief integrity officer (CIO) and how it has evolved, where the CIO should sit in a company and what the main responsibilities should be – both in public and private organizations. The workstream aims to connect the role of the CIO with the governance element in environmental, social and governance (ESG) framework.

– Investor ecosystem
This workstream focuses on the role of investors in tackling corruption, making the case that corruption undermines or poses a risk to achieving the “E”, “S” and “G” in ESG from an investor perspective (and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals). The workstream aims to draft a three-part series on the importance of more adequately factoring corruption risks into investment decision-making processes.

Topics addressed

Shaping the Global Agenda on Anti-Corruption

PACI not only seeks to shape the global agenda but also to work towards integrating and complementing global workstreams on anti-corruption, including:
Tech for Integrity (T4I)

The T4I platform seeks to accelerate anti-corruption efforts and reduce the amount of time needed to make tangible impact by using technology solutions, such as blockchain or artificial intelligence. This platform provides three intersecting spaces to drive thought leadership, connect with innovators and pilot emerging technologies.

During 2021, the PACI team hosts a T4I dialogue series to highlight innovations, foster knowledge transfer and build capacity among PACI members.

PACI's Anti-Corruption & Human Rights Peer Learning

Building on the report of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights – “Connecting the business and human rights and the anticorruption agendas” (A/HRC/44/43) – PACI and the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption are convening peer-learning sessions which focus on the intersection of and the synergies between anti-corruption and human rights compliance. The goals of the sessions include the following:

- Collect innovative examples of how companies are aligning their anti-corruption and human rights practices, processes and information streams
- Understand the barriers preventing greater alignment between the anti-corruption and human rights agendas
- Map ways to break down silos and increase alignment between corporate anti-corruption and human rights practices, processes and information streams.

Beneficial ownership transparency advisory group

Beneficial ownership transparency (BOT) has become one of the leading topics in the international agenda for financial reform and is seen as a critical tool to fight illicit financial flows related to corruption, money laundering and tax evasion.

The PACI team alongside other partners from civil society, including the Tax Justice Network and Transparency International, has set up a multistakeholder advisory group to promote the implementation of short-term pilots to verify beneficial ownership information. The group will be working with several governments to identify and address verification needs in countries leveraging the group’s expertise.

Enlisting gatekeepers in the fight against corruption

PACI, in collaboration with the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption, has launched an initiative that seeks to solicit professional gatekeepers from different sectors to act as guardians of a corruption-free world. The Taskforce comprises representatives of various gatekeeper professions and other stakeholders’ work. It developed a Unifying Framework designed by and for gatekeepers. The framework consists of five core practices and is intended to realize three fundamental principles (integrity, transparency, accountability) within and across gatekeeping industries worldwide.

The Unifying Framework was launched at a side event of the UN General Assembly special session against corruption (2021). Moving forward, the Taskforce will work on the dissemination of the framework and its implementation through sectoral initiatives.

Ethical leadership dialogue series

The current global health crisis has exposed many of the challenges our social, political and economic systems face. In a context of compound disruption that tests the resilience of social contracts globally, the world calls for responsible and ethical leadership that champions integrity and transparency. Chief executives from PACI signatory companies will gather during 2021 to share their vision with the wider community while leading the broader PACI strategy to achieve more meaningful dialogue and impact. PACI CEOs will share latest trends and explore solutions to rebuild trust and integrity through public-private cooperation.

Compliance in times of crisis dialogue series

During 2020, the PACI community gathered twice for the “Compliance in times of crisis dialogue series” to discuss how good governance, transparency and integrity are essential to overcoming the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first session addressed important compliance risks and challenges while highlighting successful mitigation strategies, followed by an in-depth examination on emergency procurement.

An Agenda for Business Integrity

Four key pillars of leadership action by companies

1. Commit to ethics and integrity beyond compliance
2. Strengthen corporate culture and incentives to drive continuous learning and improvement
3. Leverage technologies
4. Support collective action to increase scale and impact

1 2 3 4

#INTEGRITY2030 #PACI #WEF20
Learn more

For more information, please contact PACI@weforum.org

For Forum members, check out PACI’s TopLink page

Timeline June – December 2021

2 June
UN General Assembly special session (2021) against corruption – launch of the Unifying Framework for Gatekeepers (virtual)

3 June
B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce meeting (virtual)

17 June
PACI Community Update session (virtual)

23 June
PACI at the Responsible Mining Dialogue (virtual)

8 July
Tech for Integrity dialogue series: session 1 (virtual)

3 September
PACI Vanguard Board delegates’ meeting (virtual)

20-23 September
PACI session at the World Economic Forum’s Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021 (virtual)

TBC October
PACI’s Anti-Corruption & Human Rights peer learning: session 2 (virtual)

8 October
B20 Final Summit (virtual)

TBC October
Tech for Integrity dialogue series: session 2 (virtual)

18-19 November
PACI at the symposium on Supranational Responses to Corruption (Vienna, Austria)

24-25 November
Annual PACI Community Meeting (virtual)

3 December
PACI Vanguard Board delegates’ meeting (virtual)