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 approximately 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 World Economic 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

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:

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 SDG 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 SDG 16, and related activities of the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption (see below).

Connecting the Human Rights, Business and Anti-Corruption Agendas

The Human Rights Council has recognized that corruption significantly undermines the enjoyment of human rights, and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights in its most recent report has mapped out the linkages on how corruption involving the private sector impacts rights holders. As part of its efforts to promote a holistic approach to anti-corruption beyond compliance, PACI seeks to support these efforts by surfacing emerging best practices, including how better to align anti-corruption and human rights risk-management approaches.

The group has developed a concept note to pilot a peer-learning forum involving PACI delegates and their peers from human rights/sustainability departments to share good practices and overcome silos envisaged for the first quarter of 2021.
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.

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 will host a T4I dialogue series to highlight innovations, foster knowledge transfer and build capacity among PACI members.

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 a new 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 is about to develop a Unifying Framework, a set of practices designed to mobilize the three core principles of integrity, transparency and accountability within and across gatekeeping industries. It is envisaged that the framework will be endorsed and implemented by key gatekeepers from different sectors. A launch event is planned for early June in the framework of the UN General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption (2021).

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.
Learn more

For more information, please contact PACI@weforum.org
For Forum members, check out PACI's TopLink page

Timeline January – June 2021

21-22 January
B20 Italy kick-off meeting (virtual)

25 January
Gatekeepers Taskforce meeting (virtual)

24 February
B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce meeting (virtual)

26 February
PACI Vanguard Board delegates’ quarterly call

15 March
Gatekeepers Taskforce meeting (virtual)

24 March
B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce meeting (virtual)

TBC April
Tech for Integrity dialogue series: Session 1 (virtual)

13 April
Gatekeepers Taskforce meeting (virtual)

28 April
B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce meeting (virtual)

TBC May
Responsible Mining Dialogue (virtual)

13 May
Gatekeepers Taskforce meeting (virtual)

TBC May
PACI CEO dialogue series: Session 1 (virtual)

2-4 June
UN General Assembly Special Session 2021 on Anti-Corruption – launch of the Unifying Framework for Gatekeepers (virtual)

3 June
B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce meeting (virtual)

17 June
PACI Community Update session (virtual)