The World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI), launched in 2004, serves as the principal chief executive officer-led platform in the global anti-corruption arena. PACI has approximately 90 signatories from different sectors worldwide. 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 chief executive officers, 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 in the anti-corruption space.

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 section “Topics addressed” below):

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 from 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 anti-corruption and transparency, PACI leverages the expertise of its community to actively shape the B20 policy agenda. It convenes thematic dialogues in the B20 framework to aggregate positions, build bridges between consecutive B20 presidencies and arrive at a consolidated business voice on anti-corruption towards the Group of 20 (G20). Many PACI activities – for example, on beneficial ownership transparency – 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 with the UN Global Compact Action Platform on Goal 16, as well as the 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 human rights. The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights in its most recent report mapped out the linkages between how corruption involving the private sector affects rights holders. As part of its efforts to promote a holistic approach to anti-corruption beyond compliance, PACI seeks to support these efforts by highlighting emerging best practices, including on how to better align anti-corruption and human rights risk management approaches.

Interconnected strategies on anti-corruption, human rights and sustainability can optimize the use of resources as well as the integration and involvement of internal and external stakeholders.
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

Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption

The World Economic Forum’s Global Future Councils offer an 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, helping it go beyond compliance to build a future-proof culture of ethics and integrity in business. It has developed a framework called the Agenda for Business Integrity, which is the backbone of PACI’s strategy.

Tech for Integrity (T4I)

The T4I platform seeks to accelerate anti-corruption efforts and reduce the amount of time needed to make a 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.

Beneficial ownership transparency (BOT) advisory group

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 multi-stakeholder advisory group to promote the implementation of short-term pilots to verify beneficial ownership information. These pilots will serve as examples to prove the feasibility and benefits of verifying beneficial ownership data.

Enlisting gatekeepers in the fight against corruption

PACI, in collaboration with the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption and the World Bank StAR Initiative, has launched a new multi-stakeholder/sector initiative, which seeks to solicit professional gatekeepers from different sectors to act as guardians of a corruption-free world through a value-based approach. The taskforce, comprised of representatives of different gatekeeper professions and other stakeholders, will work towards the following two objectives:

1. To develop and seek commitment to a road map based on integrity and transparency that resonates and applies in all gatekeeping sectors.
2. To implement the road map through tangible sector-specific actions, which take account of the gaps, loopholes and needs of each sector. This could range from the development of guidance for some sectors to policy-level interventions in others.

Compliance in times of crisis series dialogue

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and with it, the developments and major transformations unfolding for businesses globally, the PACI community gathered to discuss how good governance, transparency and integrity are essential to overcoming such challenges. The first session addressed important compliance risks and challenges while highlighting successful mitigation strategies, followed by an in-depth examination on emergency procurement.
Timeline for 2020

7 April
Compliance in times of crisis series dialogue: session 1 (virtual)

14 May
Beneficial ownership transparency advisory group meeting: Mapping strategies (virtual)

28 May
Compliance in times of crisis series dialogue: session 2 (virtual)

17-19 June
PACI biannual community meeting (virtual)

27 July
Gatekeepers taskforce kick-off meeting (virtual)

20 August
PACI-led session at the Transparency International School (virtual)

24 August
PACI at the B20 Integrity and Compliance Taskforce event (virtual)

14 September
Gatekeepers taskforce meeting: Roadmap development (virtual)

21-24 September
PACI session at the Sustainable Development Impact Summit (virtual)

26-28 October
PACI at the B20 summit (virtual)

November (date TBC)
PACI biannual community meeting (virtual)

1-5 December
PACI at the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) – Seoul, South Korea

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