Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI)

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 at bi/annual meetings 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

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. During 2020-2021, PACI co-chaired the Taskforce under the Italian presidency, representing the business voice on anti-corruption towards the G20. PACI continues to act as a networking partner of the B20 for the 2021-2022 term under the Indonesian presidency. 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 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 produced an innovative white paper that focuses on the connections between the role of the CIO and the governance element in the 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 SDGs). The workstream produced a community paper focusing on the importance of more adequately factoring corruption risks into investment decision-making processes.
Defining the “G” in ESG
This workstream produced a two-pager showcasing a list of factors and indicators that should be included within the “G” in ESG to help ensure that the “G” is adequately represented in rating and reporting frameworks while simultaneously increasing the likelihood that companies are delivering on their environmental and social commitments as well. The two-pager will be used as PACI’s/GFC’s main input into the stakeholder consultation process of the International Sustainability Standards Board.

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, PACI hosted a T4I dialogue series to highlight innovations, foster knowledge transfer and build capacity among PACI members. Moving forward, PACI will launch the next iteration of T4I that will centre around the following core objectives:

- Facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building
- Promote collective action, through public-private cooperation or by uniting individual players (start-ups, SMEs) in a coalition of likeminded organizations
- Promote innovation and scaling up existing best-practices
- Set the agenda for the next phase of technical innovations through exploring gaps and opportunities

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 that focus on the intersection of, and the synergies between, anti-corruption and human rights compliance. The goals of the sessions include:

- 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. Moving forward, the group will apply good practice solutions for improving verification of beneficial ownership information.

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 increasing the number of framework endorsements, raising awareness of the framework across industries and developing guidance to support gatekeepers in the implementation of the framework.