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 at biannual 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

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 playbook that focuses on the connections between the role of the CIO and 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 SDGs). The workstream will produce a three-part blog series on the importance of more adequately factoring corruption risks into investment decision-making processes.
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 2021-2022, 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 that 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 is 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 increasing the number of framework endorsements, raising awareness about the framework across governments and exploring further activities for its implementation through sectoral initiatives.

Ethical leadership dialogue series

The 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. CEOs from PACI signatory companies will gather during 2022 to share their vision with the wider community while leading the broader PACI strategy to achieve more meaningful dialogue and impact. The 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.
Timeline September – December 2021

3 September
PACI Vanguard Board delegates’ meeting (virtual)

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

7-8 October
PACI at the B20 Final Summit (Rome, Italy)

9 November
Global Future Council on Transparency & Anti-Corruption meeting (virtual)

16 November
PACI at the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE) ESG and Compliance Conference (virtual)

29 November
Annual PACI Community Meeting (virtual)

3 December
PACI Vanguard Board delegates’ meeting (virtual)

6 December
Tech for Integrity dialogue series: session 2 (virtual)

9 December
International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

9-10 December
President Biden’s Virtual “Summit for Democracy” (virtual)

13-17 December
PACI at the 9th session of the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt)