

# Module 5

## International Anti-Corruption Framework

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## Chapter 3

### BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG)

#### Group and its Objective

The BRICS is a group of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. All these five countries have been held back by corruption, in varying ways.

In June 2015, at the Ufa Summit, the BRICS members reaffirmed their commitment against corruption. This commitment was based on their acknowledgement that corruption including illicit money and financial flows, and ill-gotten wealth stashed in foreign jurisdictions is a global challenge which may impact negatively on economic growth and sustainable development. The BRICS member countries also cited the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the basis on which to act. As such, at the 2015 Ufa BRICS Summit, the Anti-Corruption Working Group was created to combat corruption that will work for the inclusion of crime prevention and criminal justice issues among the long-term priorities of the UN agenda and to enhance cooperation among member states in preventing and combating corruption.

The Working Group's main objective is to share best practices and experiences in preventing and combating corruption, promoting transparency and accountability, and strengthening legal frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of national anti-corruption efforts.

The group works towards achieving this goal by:

- a) Exchanging information and experiences on measures to prevent and combat corruption.
- b) Promoting the exchange of best practices, including the sharing of information on legal frameworks, institutional structures, and enforcement mechanisms.
- c) Enhancing cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

- d) Developing joint initiatives and programs to prevent and combat corruption.
- e) Strengthening technical assistance and capacity-building activities to prevent and combat corruption.

## Initiatives taken by ACWG

Since its inception, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group has tackled issues of great relevance, such as law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery, as well as awareness-raising and education.

The BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group has held several meetings and conferences to discuss and exchange information on various aspects of anti-corruption. The group has also signed several agreements and Memorandums of Understanding to enhance cooperation and collaboration among the member countries. The countries encourage their anti-corruption, law enforcement, prosecutorial and financial intelligence departments to participate in international cooperation.

Some of the initiatives undertaken by the Working Group include the establishment of a BRICS Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the development of a Common Platform for Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies and the creation of a BRICS Anti-Corruption Research and Studies Centre.

The BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt aimed to strengthen anti-corruption capacity building through education and training programs and enhance anti-corruption exchanges and cooperation within multilateral frameworks.

## Transparency International (TI) Corruption Perceptions Index

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an index which ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. The CPI generally defines corruption as an "abuse of entrusted power for

private gain". The index is published annually by the non-governmental organisation Transparency International since 1995. A country or territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

## India's Chair ship at BRICS 2021

Under India's chair ship of BRICS 2021, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India hosted the first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption on 26th March 2021. The discussions were held on 'Corruption and Gender' and on issues under the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

With an aim at combating corruption in BRICS countries and help accelerate economic growth, the Chair proposed to hold an Anti-Corruption Training Programme and a series of lectures for BRICS countries Anti-Corruption Officials.

## Conclusion

Overall, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group plays an important role in promoting international cooperation and strengthening the fight against corruption. The BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group is committed to promote a culture of integrity and accountability among member countries, and to build effective institutions and systems for preventing and combating corruption.

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