

# Module 5

## International Anti-Corruption Framework

---

## Chapter 2

### G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group

---

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

G20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The countries consist of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

The way G20 works is that a country or countries hold the presidency, and that presidency hosts the summit and steers the agenda. There are two workstreams: Finance Track (Led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors) and Sherpa Track (Led by eminent personalities, termed as “Sherpas”). In addition to these tracks, there are different engagement groups that seek to bring to the table civil society representatives.

As part of the G20 decision-making process, Working Groups, comprising of experts and officials from relevant ministries, lead in-depth analysis and discussions on a range of internationally relevant issues in respective areas of focus.

In 2010, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) was formed and has become one of the most important mechanisms through which the G20 countries come together to deliberate and build a consensus on different measures that can be taken up in the fight against corruption. The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) is a part of the sherpa track.

The twenty G20 nations, the European Union, Singapore, Spain, and Switzerland are all members of the ACWG, along with any other guests that the individual presidency may invite. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation, and Development (OECD)

and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) participate as observers in ACWG.

The Anti-Corruption Working Group reports on anti-corruption issues to the G20 Leaders and aims to establish minimum common standards among the G20 legal systems to combat corruption. Thematically speaking, it focuses on the integrity and transparency of the public and private sectors, bribery, international cooperation, asset recovery, beneficial ownership, transparency, vulnerable sectors, and capacity-building.

The 2010 Seoul summit document endorse the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan. It laid emphasis on the duty of the member nations to re-affirm their commitment in building a consensus on the approach to be taken in the global fight against corruption. One of the key features of this summit is that the G20 pledged to make itself accountable for its commitments. One of the means for achieving this end was through the submission of annual reports on implementation of the commitments to future summits.

The St. Petersburg Strategic Framework and multi-year action plan developed during the Russian summit in 2013, serve as the group's guidelines for activity. Within the constraints of the action plans, the co-chairs choose the work's focus. The group develops deliverables every year, typically in the form of high-level guidelines, collections of best practices, and country-specific recommendations. The group also submit an annual progress report and publish monitoring or accountability reports on a regular basis.

The 2014 Brisbane Summit endorsed an action plan that would support growth and resilience. It committed to improving transparency of both the public and private sectors. This summit adopted the implementation of **High Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency**.

The 2015 Antalya Summit expressed continued commitment to the implementation of the **G20 High Level Principles** on Integrity and Transparency in the Private Sector. During the summit, the members endorsed the G20 Anti-Corruption Open Data Principles and the G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement.

The 2016 Hangzhou Summit committed to reinforcing the G20's efforts to promote international cooperation against corruption while keeping in mind international laws, human rights and respecting the sovereignty of the member parties. The summit endorsed the G20 **High Level Principles** on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery. It also sought the Anti-Corruption Working Group to develop an implementation plan before the end of 2016 as a flexible framework for implementing this effort.

The 2017 Hamburg Summit endorsed four sets of **High Level Principles** - On the Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption, On Organizing against Corruption, On Countering Corruption in Customs and On Combatting Corruption related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products. These High Level Principles aimed at fostering integrity in the public and private sector.

The 2018 Buenos Aires Summit called for effective implementation by the G20 countries of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the criminalization of bribery by foreign public officials.

The 2019 Osaka Summit noted the good work done in preparation of the Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development. It also endorsed the **High Level Principles** for Effective Protection of Whistle-blowers.

The 2020 Riyadh Summit brought about the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. It also introduced the Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation. The Riyadh Summit endorsed the G20 Action on International Cooperation on Corruption and Economic Crimes and the Recovery of Stolen Assets. It endorsed the G20 **High-Level Principles** for the development and implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategies; promoting Public Sector Integrity through the use of information and communications technologies; and promoting integrity in privatization and Public Private Partnerships.

The 2021 Rome Summit adopted the 2022-2024 Anti-Corruption Action Plan and aimed to increase engagement with other stakeholders such as academia, civil society, media and the private sector. It endorsed the G20 **High Level Principles** on Corruption related to Organized Crime, on Tackling

Corruption in Sport, and on Preventing and Combating Corruption in Emergencies, and adopt the G20 Anti-corruption Accountability Report.

The 2022 Bali Summit sought the increased commitment of the member countries in anti- corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments. It underscored the important role of auditing as well as public participation and anti-corruption education in preventing and tackling any form of corruption and endorsed the **High Level Principles** on Enhancing the Role of Auditing in Tackling Corruption.

The G20 Presidency and a co-chair serve as the ACWG's chairs. Australia and Indonesia were the co-chair of the group in 2022.

In 2023, India has assumed Presidency of the G20 secretariat<sup>1</sup> with co-chair Italy with the theme of “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*” or “One Earth-One Family-One Future”. Through the Sherpa Track, 13 Working Groups and 2 Initiatives will meet under India’s Presidency to discuss priorities and provide recommendations.

The **High Level Principles** being considered for this summit are on improving Information sharing to strengthen fight against corruption and related economic crimes, strengthening asset recovery mechanisms related to corruption and economic crimes, law enforcement cooperation for combating corruption and related economic crimes, and promoting integrity among public bodies and authorities involved in preventing and combating corruption.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.g20.org/en/>