



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM2/SCE/015

Agenda Item: -

Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group Work Plan for 2021

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: ACTWG Chair



**Second SOM Steering Committee on
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Meeting
28 May 2021**

ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP

WORK PLAN FOR 2021

Introduction

New Zealand will be the host economy of APEC 2021 and, as such, will be implementing a programme of activities for the ACTWG following the APEC theme for 2021, which is **“Join, Work, Grow. Together. Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē.”** and the three policy priorities: *Economic and Trade Policies that Strengthen Recovery; Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery; and Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery*

A key focus of ACTWG 2021 will be the continued support of the strategic direction and implementation of critical success factors and key objectives as outlined in the ACTWG Multi-year Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

The critical success factors include:

- Taking ownership and cooperating with one another, as well as other APEC sub-fora
- Cooperating to remove the profit from corruption and associated transnational crime, denying safe haven to corrupt officials and freezing, seizing and recovering the proceeds of corruption
- APEC members, the private sector, and civil society organizations partner together effectively to advance and implement APEC commitments to prevent and combat corruption and promote transparency

The objectives include:

- Promote the effective implementation of existing APEC commitments
- Support the APEC growth strategy: combat corruption related to money laundering, illicit trade and dismantle illicit networks, promote sustainable growth & enhance human security.
- Giving full play to the role of ACTNET, including bringing forward ACTNET to SOM1 to enable an ACT-NET workplan to be developed for the year, as a part of the ACTWG workplan, and implemented in a timely manner.
- Enhance public private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement.
- Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan.
- To support the implementation of “La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth.”

Under its Strategic Plan, the ACTWG will continue its efforts to expand cooperation with all relevant APEC fora, related international organisations and the private sector generally. This will be achieved through the sharing of information, material, resources, etc., along with the strengthening of capacity building across the various institutions of each APEC economy.

The work of the ACTWG this year will be closely interlinked with the Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies Network (ACT - NET). On the other hand, the role of the Friends of the

Chair (FOTC) mechanism will be enhanced during this year in order to provide effective guidance and support at a technical/working level to the ACTWG and ACT-NET.

ACT-NET

The focus for ACT-NET for 2021 will be upon the following themes:

- Corruption Prevention in Crises
- Corruption and Fraud (Embezzlement) Prevention
- International Cooperation in Asset Recovery and Denial of Safe Haven

Following an internal agreement, in addition to the ACT-NET Terms of Reference a continuing goal for ACT-NET in 2021 and beyond will be to continue the ACT-NET's role as a forum in which anti-corruption and law enforcement practitioners can:

- share experiences, case studies, investigative techniques and tools, and effective practices
- enhance informal cross-border cooperation on investigations and prosecutions of corruption, bribery, money laundering, and illicit trade and the identification and return of the proceeds of these crimes
- share practical ideas to resolve issues faced by members

To ensure the success of ACT-NET it will be important that all members contribute to ACT-NET, including:

- proposing projects or initiatives
- ensuring that the most appropriate people from member economies attend

1. ACTWG fora governance in 2021

- 1.1 Develop a new Terms of Reference to be endorsed by SCE3 2021
- 1.2 Draft the Annual Fora Report for endorsement by ACTWG and SCE by November 2021
- 1.3 Continue implementing the ACTWG Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- 1.4 Enhance the role of the FOTC mechanism to support the ACTWG Chair

2. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2021

SOM1

- 2.1 Hold the 8th ACT-NET meeting on 18 February 2021.
- 2.2 Hold the 32nd ACTWG Plenary meeting on 19 February 2021.

First half of 2021

- 2.3 Hold a three-day Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming in April 2021 (Date TBD) as part of the ACT 01 2020 Project. The project will deliver a gender mainstreaming training package for anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies, strengthening the role of women in those agencies.

SOM3

- 2.4 Hold a joint APEC/OECD 'Preventing corruption in Crises' webinar in August 2021. This will strengthen APEC economies' preventive response to the threat of corruption during large scale crises, such as pandemics and natural disasters.

2.5 Hold the 33rd ACTWG Plenary meeting in August 2021.

2.6 Hold the 9th ACT-NET meeting in August 2021.

2.7 To produce a “Compilation of APEC members’ Anti-Corruption Prevention and Transparency Measures Related to the Covid-19 Outbreaks: Policy, Good Practices and Measures”

3. Itemized Workplans for 2021

The detailed workplans for ACTWG and ACT-NET are set out below in separate tables to show activity under ACTWG and ACTNET.

3.1 Itemized ACTWG Work Plan for 2021

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p>To host the 32nd ACTWG Virtual Plenary Meeting on the 19th February (SOM1)</p>	<p>The main topics that will be discussed in the first plenary meeting of the year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the ACTWG work plan for 2021 • Report on Anti-Corruption progress and development on implementing key international frameworks, particularly the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as promoting APEC-commitments such as the Beijing Declaration and the Santiago Commitment, and other initiatives or instruments related to anti-corruption and transparency • Provide an update on ongoing and proposed ACTWG projects and initiatives • The role of gender mainstreaming in fighting corruption • Corruption prevention mechanisms with a focus on COVID-19 • Large scale crises and the impacts of corruption. This will include exploring cross-fora collaboration with EPWG, enhancing partnerships with private sector and focussing on vulnerable groups. • Malaysia’s initiative to compile COVID-19 anti-corruption best practices 	<p>This meeting is aligned with APEC’s multi-year strategic plan 2019-2022 [under subheading 5. Objectives 2019-2022], particularly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote effective implementation of the existing APEC commitments b. Support the APEC growth strategy c. Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement d. Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders e. Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan 	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	<p><u>Within APEC Collaboration:</u> APEC Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG). APEC Policy Partnership on women and the Economy (PPWE) and APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG).</p> <p>Collaboration with relevant international organisations, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD • UNODC
<p>To host three virtual Friends of the Chair informal virtual meetings</p>	<p>The ACTWG Chair 2021 (New Zealand) will hold informal Friends of the Chair meetings for FotC members (Australia, Canada, China, Chile, New Zealand, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the United States and</p>	<p>ACTWG Terms of Reference, [under the subheading 3. Structure] 2. This meeting is aligned with the ACTWG Multi-Year Strategic Plan</p>	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of</p>	

	<p>Thailand) which are programmed for January, May/June and Oct/Nov 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the meetings is to support the Chair and host economy by providing better strategic direction and year-to-year continuity for ACTWG/ACT-NET activities and initiatives during 2021 and out years.</p> <p>Members will discuss ideas to ensure the FOTC, ACTWG and ACT-NET meetings are effective and productive for attendees.</p>	<p>2019-2022 [under the subheading 4. Critical success factors]</p>	<p>globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery 	
<p>To host a Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming in April 2021 (Date TBD) as part of the ACT 01 2020 Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, New Zealand will continue the focus on ensuring greater integration and empowerment of women in the fight against corruption. This will support the implementation of The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030). • A jointly funded project by APEC and New Zealand will produce a training guide for gender mainstreaming in anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies. This guide will be disseminated as an APEC publication, pending ACTWG endorsement. • A virtual symposium on gender mainstreaming will be held to present the findings of a gender mainstreaming survey and overview of the training guide. • A summary report will be developed after that event. 	<p>This project aligns with the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030), including empowering women through access to markets, strengthening women’s labour force participation, advancing women’s economic empowerment, supporting women’s education and skills development and increasing women’s access to work.</p> <p>This project is in alignment with the strategic direction of ACTWG Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2022, which mentions that ACTWG is to cooperate with APEC economies to increase its transparency, integrity and good governance. The project aims to provide the impetus for ACTWG to ensure that women can</p>	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	<p><u>Within APEC</u> APEC Policy Partnership on women and the Economy (PPWE)</p> <p>International organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) • UN Women Transparency International (TI) • WATCH (part of IACCC)

		be empowered to participate in design, implementation, oversight and evaluation of initiatives, policies and programmes that can reduce the incidence of corruption and its negative impacts in the distribution of resources and accesses to services. 2. APEC Guidelines to Promote Cross Fora Collaboration (2017) 3. Improvement of Cross Fora Collaboration SCE 2016 [2016/SOM3/SCE/002]		
To host the 33rd ACTWG Virtual Plenary Meeting in August (SOM3)	<p>During the second meeting of the year, the main topics to be discussed by member economies at the meeting would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the work done during the year by the group • Report on implementation of the strategic plan • Report on anti-corruption progress and development on implementing key international frameworks, particularly the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as promoting APEC-commitments such as the Beijing Declaration and Santiago Commitment, and other initiatives or instruments related to anti-corruption and transparency • Report on ACT-NET meeting and activities • Member economies to provide updates on their anti-corruption activities, initiatives and achievements. • As the incoming chair for 2022, Thailand will be invited to deliver a presentation on its plans for hosting ACTWG and ACT-NET. 	<p>This meeting is aligned with multi-year strategic plan 2019- 2022 [under subheading 5. Objectives 2019-2022], particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote effective implementation of the existing APEC commitments ○ Support the APEC growth strategy ○ Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement ○ Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders ○ Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan 	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	<p><u>Within APEC</u> APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), Health Working Group (HWG), Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG), and the Policy Partnership on Women and Economy (PPWE).</p> <p>Collaboration with relevant international organisations, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD • UNODC
Compilation of APEC members’ Anti-	As agreed at the 31 st ACTWG meeting, Malaysia will produce a compilation on APEC members’ Anti-Corruption Prevention and Transparency Measures	This compilation is aligned with multi-year strategic plan 2019- 2022	<u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social	Collaboration with OECD

<p>Corruption Prevention and Transparency Measures Related to the Covid-19 Outbreaks: Policy, Good Practices and Measures</p>	<p>Related to the Covid-19 Outbreaks: Policy, Good Practices and Measures. The document can be updated if needed. Malaysia will be working on this document together with the Working Group during February 2021 to August 2021 for: circulating draft template of compilation, finalizing the template, circulating approved template and consolidating compilation. This document should be endorsed in October 2021.</p>	<p>[under subheading 5. Objectives 2019-2022], particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote effective implementation of the existing APEC commitments b. Support the APEC growth strategy c. Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement d. Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders e. Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group's Strategic Work Plan 	<p>dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	
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3.2 Detailed ACT-NET Work Plan for 2021

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p>To host the 8th ACTNET Virtual Plenary Meeting on the 18th February (SOM1)</p>	<p>As per an internal agreement within the ACTWG, the 8th ACTNET Meeting has been moved from SOM3 to SOM1 cluster in order to provide an opportunity for members to have a whole year of work in order to advance the Network’s goal and objectives.</p> <p>This year, the themed discussions will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption Prevention in Crises • Corruption and Fraud (Embezzlement) Prevention • International Cooperation in Asset Recovery and Denial of Safe Haven <p>Member economies and external presenters will be invited to report on developments in relation to the above topics.</p>	<p>This meeting is aligned with multi-year strategic plan 2019-2022 [under subheading 5. Objectives 2019-2022], as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote effective implementation of the existing APEC commitments b. Support the APEC growth strategy c. Giving full play to the role of ACT-NET d. Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement e. Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders f. Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan <p>Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies Network – Terms of Reference [2018/SOM 3/ACT/NET/005], under the subheading 2. Purpose: <i>“share experiences, case studies, investigative techniques, investigative tools, and effective practices in order to help build more efficient cross-border</i></p>	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	<p>Collaboration with relevant international organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Kingdom Cabinet Office (International Public Sector Fraud Forum) • International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) • Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) • Asia Development Bank • United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

		<i>cooperation in and enhance the capacity of economies' fight against corruption, bribery, money laundering, and illicit trade and their identification and return of the proceeds of these crimes."</i>		
To host a Self-Funded Workshop about prevention corruption in crises. - August 2021 (SOM3)	<p>A joint APEC/OECD/Asia Development Bank preventing corruption in crises webinar will be held as part of SOM3. This aligns with the OECD 's Asia Pacific Initiative and a focus on preventing corruption in crises (more widely than COVID-19).</p> <p>Around 100 participants are expected to attend.</p> <p>A project proposal will be circulated for endorsement by ACTWG members. The webinar will be held as part of SOM3.</p>	<p>Aligning with the ACTWG Strategic Plan 2019-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the work of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACTNET) Strengthen anti-corruption bodies and promote regional cooperation Promote the use of prevention mechanisms to combat corruption Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement 	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery</p>	<p><u>Within APEC</u> APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), Health Working Group (HWG), Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) and the Policy Partnership on Women and Economy (PPWE).</p> <p>Collaboration with relevant international organisations, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD UNODC
Proposal to host the 9th ACTNET Virtual Plenary Meeting in August 2021 (SOM3)	<p>Hold a second ACT-NET meeting as part of SOM3. Normally only one ACT-NET meeting is held however the virtual format makes it easier to host a second meeting. The focus of the meeting will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responding to corruption relating to COVID-19 and the economic recovery reporting on the ACT-NET workplan ensuring ongoing improvements to ACT-NET meeting content and participation 	<p>This meeting is aligned with multi-year strategic plan 2019-2022 [under subheading 5. Objectives 2019-2022], as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote effective implementation of the existing APEC commitments Support the APEC growth strategy Giving full play to the role of ACT-NET 	<p><u>ECOTECH Priorities</u> Inclusive growth – addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health and gender Regional economic integration Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p> <p><u>APEC 2021 Priorities</u></p>	<p>Collaboration with relevant international organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD UNODC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance public-private partnerships and encourage civil society engagement • Formulate a public outreach strategy to gain the support of relevant stakeholders • Assess the critical success factors of the Working Group’s Strategic Work Plan <p>Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies Network – Terms of Reference [2018/SOM 3/ACT/NET/005], under the subheading 2. Purpose: <i>“share experiences, case studies, investigative techniques, investigative tools, and effective practices in order to help build more efficient cross-border cooperation in and enhance the capacity of economies’ fight against corruption, bribery, money laundering, and illicit trade and their identification and return of the proceeds of these crimes.”</i></p>	<p>Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Policy foundations for an inclusive and sustainable recovery</p>	
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