



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Corruption and Organized Crime in the Asia-Pacific

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: Chile



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Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Corruption and Organized Crime in the Asia-Pacific

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1. Context

- For years, work has been focused on corruption through the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group **ACTWG** and the Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities Network, **ACT Net**.
- Global circumstances require us to scale up to a more holistic approach, considering actions to be developed concerning other criminal phenomena such as organised crime.
- Corruption is the Gateway for organised crime to infiltrate institutions, especially those governing trade and investment.
- The ability of organised crime to also infiltrate the legal economy through complex financial schemes, money laundering, and the use of formal business structures makes it a devastating threat. APEC economies, being trade and financial hubs, are particularly vulnerable to these illicit flows.



2. Main elements for the High Level Discussion



A. Strengthening international cooperation

- Success requires international cooperation, information exchange, and coordination beyond formal agreements.
- Focus on traceability of financial flows and asset seizure to weaken criminal organisations.
- Internal controls and compliance in public sector and law enforcement are essential.
- review our institutional framework and make the necessary changes and adaptations.

B. Engaging the private sector

Cooperation with the private sector (banks, insurance, logistics, social media) is critical for early detection and prevention.



C. Use of technology

Adoption of AI tools is essential to enhance prevention, investigation, and prosecution. APEC economies are at the forefront in this area.

3. The road ahead

- APEC's own pillar of technical and economic cooperation, allows the possibility of presenting projects that strengthen the capacities of the members. Our economies should join in more initiatives to be submitted towards this goal.
- It is also of utmost importance to obtain the endorsement of the leaders of our economies through future declarations, providing guidelines which will provide focus and a closer coordination of the various existing instances within APEC in favour of the common objective.
- We believe that there is the necessity to institutionalise a specific space at the level of senior justice, security and economy officials, in order to design coordinated operational responses in line with multilateral international cooperation.



4. To conclude



1. If we agree that organised crime expansion is facilitated by corruption, it is necessary to take concrete actions to curb it.
2. APEC brings together the most relevant economies in the world, so what is decided here will have a great influence on global priorities and on the way in which the criminal phenomenon will be tackled.
3. It is therefore essential that our economies coordinate, support, and learn from each other to confront the global threat of organised crime. Without such joint efforts, our institutions and societies are at serious risk.