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APEC Proposal on Integrity for Economic Prosperity

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Submitted by: ACTWG Chair

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APEC Proposal on Integrity for Economic Prosperity

(as of 31 July 2026)

Concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption to economic growth, undermining the rule of law, eroding public trust, harming trade and fair competition, and diverting resources away from vital areas,

Resolved to serve as a role model in promoting growth and prosperity through effective anti-corruption and integrity measures, as elaborated in international and regional treaties including the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC), and APEC anti-corruption and transparency commitments such as the *Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency*, the *Vladivostok Declaration on Fighting Corruption*, and the *Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption*, which can help advance the *APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040*,

In accordance with each economy's legal system, APEC member economies are committed to the following:

1. Anti-corruption for accountable public institutions. The achievement of economic growth and prosperity relies on effective, impartial, and accountable public institutions. Therefore, APEC member economies should endeavor to advance comprehensive and coordinated anti-corruption policies, promote digital government, simplify administrative procedures where appropriate, and prevent conflicts of interest, in order to enhance transparency, efficiency and integrity in public service delivery, and promote integrity, accountability and the proper management of public affairs and public property.

2. Anti-corruption for responsible market participants. Market participants, including state and non-state participants, are the driving forces behind growth and development. Therefore, APEC member economies should encourage market participants to adopt good practices for responsible corporate governance, including investing in effective compliance programs, implementing effective internal controls, and promptly detecting and reporting corrupt practices. APEC member economies should, where appropriate, provide effective, proportionate, and dissuasive penalties for failure to comply with such measures.

3. Anti-corruption for transparent and accountable resource allocation. Corruption undermines transparent and accountable resource allocation and distribution,

and denies people access to essential public goods and services. Therefore, APEC member economies should safeguard people from corruption and strive to take effective preventive and enforcement actions to address corrupt practices closely related to public welfare, such as in health-care, education, and housing, and promote public trust in the government and boost confidence in the economy.

4.Anti-corruption for efficient and effective fiscal spending. Embezzlement and misappropriation of public resources reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and operations and weaken the capacity of economies to implement critical economic growth agendas. Therefore, APEC member economies should strengthen measures to prevent the misuse of public funds by measures such as ensuring transparent and accountable procedures for the adoption of the domestic budget, timely reporting on revenue and expenditure, and a system of accounting and auditing standards and related oversight, so that fiscal resources are not embezzled or misappropriated.

5. Anti-corruption for fair competition. When investors have confidence in the market, they are more likely to participate and invest. Therefore, APEC member economies should take resolute efforts to proactively and effectively prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corrupt practices that impede fair competition for trade and investment, such as collusive procurement, insider trading, and bribery of domestic and foreign public officials, thus creating a business environment defined by integrity, trust, fairness, and the rule of law.

6. Anti-corruption for an effective financial system. Corruption, particularly that of a transnational nature and involving international money laundering, generates risks to the integrity of the financial system. Therefore, APEC member economies should intensify efforts to fight corrupt activities in high-risk areas, foster integrity in the financial system, including through a risk-based approach against money laundering and adherence to relevant international standards, promote impartial implementation of financial policies, promote beneficial ownership transparency in line with international standards, and enable timely identification and reporting of corrupt and fraudulent activities by financial entities, enhancing the effectiveness of the financial system in supporting economic growth. Economies should further safeguard their financial systems by putting in place and enforcing effective measures to freeze, seize, and confiscate the proceeds of crime, and, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law and international obligations, cooperate on the return of such proceeds.

7. Anti-corruption for an enabling environment. The fight against corruption cannot succeed without the engagement of individuals and groups outside the public sector. Therefore, APEC member economies should endeavor to promote a whole-of-society approach that recognizes corruption affects women and men and girls and boys differently and contributes to a culture of non-tolerance of corruption at all levels of society and a conducive environment that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, innovation and promotes fair and market-oriented competition. Such measures should include, inter alia, confidential and secure reporting systems, programmes for the protection of reporting persons, education and awareness-raising campaigns, and actions that promote the active participation of all stakeholders such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the private sector in the fight against corruption in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law.

8. Anti-corruption for effective economic cooperation. Corruption can undermine economic growth, policy and cooperation. Therefore, APEC member economies are encouraged to reflect anti-corruption and integrity measures in economic policies, maintain comprehensive corruption risk management systems, and apply strong internal controls in order to help ensure that public funds for economic cooperation are efficiently and properly utilized and not diverted from the intended economic services and programs.