The OECD Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Initiative

The OECD Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Initiative (LAC Initiative) was established in 2007, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS), to promote the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in the region and strengthen the Convention's implementation. The Initiative provides a platform for countries from the region to compare experiences, share best practices, and discuss challenges in the fight against foreign bribery. The Initiative also allows the seven Latin American members of the WGB to discuss, prioritise and further expand upon crucial issues of common concern that emerge in the framework of the WGB. In return, the experiences of other Latin American and Caribbean countries enrich the policy debate at the OECD, ensuring that the conditions, realities, and perspectives of the region are reflected in the global agenda.

The LAC Initiative's objectives are achieved through regular meetings, hosted by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which bring together representatives from a wide range of ministries, government agencies, non-government organisations, and the private sector in Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond. The meetings mix broad awareness-raising events which also include workshops and seminars on technical issues and involve experts from the OECD Secretariat and practitioners from WGB countries. Additionally, the LAC Initiative seeks to develop a dialogue and collaboration with private sector entities on the prevention of corruption in international business transactions and the adoption of internal controls and preventive measures.

The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the OECD Working Group on Bribery

The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD Anti-Bribery Convention) creates legally binding standards to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials. The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention establishes an open-ended and peer-driven monitoring mechanism to ensure its implementation and enforcement by Member countries. Such monitoring activity is carried out by the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (WGB) which is leading global efforts to fight bribery of foreign public officials in international trade and investment. The WGB is composed of 44 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, from Latin America. In addition to monitoring, the WGB also engages in an ongoing dialogue with a wide range of non-WGB countries around the world both bilaterally and through regional anti-corruption initiatives.
FIGHTING TRANSNATIONAL CORRUPTION IN LATIN AMERICA

TIMELINE 1997 - 2018

Monitoring the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention
Countries' implementation and enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is monitored by the OECD Working Group on Bribery through a rigorous peer-review monitoring system that takes place in several phases:

Phase 1
- Review of legal framework and implementing legislation
- Peer review by experts from two lead examining countries

Phase 2
- Review of legislative, practical implementation and the efficiency of institutional framework
- Country visit by experts from lead examining countries

Phase 3
- Enforcement and cross-cutting issues
- Country visit by experts from lead examining countries

Phase 4
- Enforcement and cross-cutting issues tailored to specific country needs
- Country visit by experts from lead examining countries

All Phases require a peer review by the OECD Working Group on Bribery, a publication of final report and recommendations.
Looking Ahead: The Future of the LAC Anti-Corruption Initiative

In 2018 and beyond, the LAC Initiative will focus on creating more opportunities for countries from Latin America and the Caribbean to come together to share best practices and experiences. In doing so, the LAC Initiative will place specific emphasis on the enhancement of enforcement efforts and co-ordination for the purposes of combatting corruption in the region. This would include the following activities:

**Establishment of a Regional Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network**

To date, no regular concrete network or mechanism has been created in order to enable anti-corruption law enforcement authorities in the region to meet periodically to build important professional contacts and facilitate informal and practical cooperation in complex international investigations. Such a tool would strengthen implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in the region and serve to raise broader awareness of OECD standards in the area of investigation and prosecution of transnational corruption.

Therefore, the LAC Initiative proposes the launch of a Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network (“LAC LEN”). The LAC LEN should leverage the experience of both members and non-members of the WGB to equip law enforcement practitioners in Latin America and the Caribbean with the tools and knowledge required to effectively investigate and prosecute transnational corruption cases.

**Thematic Studies and Reports**

The LAC Initiative will explore the possibility of producing region-wide manuals and resources such as thematic studies, typologies, and guidelines to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of corruption, particularly in areas of shared interest such as: (i) methods to increase the detection of corruption; (ii) investigating and prosecuting legal persons; and/or (iii) improving cooperation and coordination between prosecution and anti-corruption agencies across the region. The ability of the LAC Initiative to produce such studies and reports will depend on demand and the availability of funding.

**Technical Assistance**

The LAC Initiative may – subject to country demand and the availability of funding – offer anti-corruption technical assistance to countries in the region who wish to receive such assistance. Such technical assistance could include reviews and assessments of countries’ legal and regulatory anti-corruption frameworks, law enforcement capacity-building, and private sector and civil society awareness-raising initiatives.

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