

OECD Working Group on Bribery

Public Summary Record

Plenary Meeting
8-11 December 2020



Made up of representatives from the Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention, the OECD Working Group on Bribery meets four times per year at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France.

OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) Annual Consultation with External Stakeholders (see separate [Agenda](#))

The WGB:

- Held its [annual consultation](#) with business, trade unions and civil society. This provided an opportunity for the Working Group to receive inputs from all the stakeholders that have an interest in its work programme. Participants at the consultation discussed a broad range of topics, including transnational bribery and human rights; foreign bribery enforcement: status and challenges; and other topics raised by external stakeholders. The consultation also included a brief update on the review of the 2009 Anti-Bribery Recommendation.

Country reports on implementation of the Anti-Bribery Convention and 2009 Anti-Bribery Recommendation

The WGB:

- Adopted the [Phase 4 report of Iceland](#) and it was published on the OECD website on 17th December. The report welcomes legislative changes to the foreign bribery offence and the increase in sanctions. The report urges Iceland to significantly improve detection of foreign bribery considering the country only recently commenced its first foreign bribery investigation. Iceland will submit a written report to the WGB in two years (i.e. December 2022) on its implementation of all recommendations and its enforcement efforts, which will also be publicly available.
- Adopted a report on the virtual high-level mission to Poland, which took place on 9-10 November 2020. Agreed that Poland would present an Action Plan and report on progress made in addressing the issues discussed during the high-level mission at its plenary meeting in June 2021.
- Agreed to exceptionally postpone the discussion on Mexico's report to the March 2021 plenary meeting, in order to allow sufficient time for the evaluation team to review the material submitted by Mexico a few days before the December plenary.
- Considered Colombia's one-year Phase 3 oral report on recommendation 9 on whistleblower protection. Invited Colombia to present an additional oral follow-up in June 2021 addressing potential issues related to the provisions on whistleblower protection contained in a new bill.
- Considered South Africa's additional Phase 3 written report on the status of its enforcement efforts, updates to its new anti-corruption strategy and request to the WGB for technical assistance concerning non-trial resolutions. Noted that South Africa has yet to prosecute a foreign bribery case and agreed to organise a technical mission focused on investigating and prosecuting foreign bribery matters once it can be conducted in-person in light of the Covid-19 situation, perhaps in late 2021.
- Heard Brazil report on the issues raised in the High-Level Mission (HLM) report approved by the Group in December 2019, and on the issues raised by the WGB after the HLM. Decided to establish a monitoring sub-group to continue monitoring the issues raised during and after the HLM to Brazil as well as other issues or developments that may arise.

Future and ongoing WGB projects and events

The WGB:

- Heard the Secretariat inform about the plans for the 2021 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum, which will take place virtually on 24 March 2021. Side-events will also be organised during the same week. The 2021 Forum will explore the risks, challenges and opportunities that have arisen in the COVID 19 context, as well as the innovative solutions required to govern and do business with integrity, including with respect to responsible business conduct (RBC) standards, and tackle corruption in times of crisis.
- Provisionally adopted the Working Group's 2019 enforcement data for online publication, subject to further adjustments by the Secretariat to reflect any additional supporting documentation received and verified in bilateral consultation with delegations within one week of the plenary.

Reports from other OECD Bodies, Invitee Countries, and International Organisations

The WGB:

- Heard the Secretariat from the OECD Sherpa Office report on latest developments concerning the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG). Heard Italy present its plans for its G20 Presidency in 2021, which will focus on measurement of corruption, corruption and sports, and corruption and organised crime, as well as adoption of the new, three-year Anti-Corruption Action Plan.
- Heard Saudi Arabia elaborate on its request to become a Participant in the WGB. Saudi Arabia highlighted that the initiative was welcomed by the G20 in its November 2020 Leaders' Declaration. Saudi Arabia is preparing an anti-bribery law aiming to criminalise foreign bribery and establish corporate liability for the offence. Approved Saudi Arabia's request to become a Participant.
- Heard a presentation by the Secretariat of the DAC Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) regarding the DAC efforts to monitor the 2016 Recommendation for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption.

Tour de Table

The WGB:

- Heard Greece, Italy and Argentina report on their steps taken to implement and enforce the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, namely in regards to cases under investigation, as well as exchange of information on the presented cases.