

OECD Working Group on Bribery

Public Summary Record

Plenary Meeting
14-17 June 2022



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

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

The Working Group on Bribery (WGB):

- Considered Argentina's additional written report on its implementation of Phase 3bis Recommendations 5(c)–(f) and 6(e) and enforcement actions, and on information required from Argentina on pending legislation. Invited Argentina to report to the Working Group in June 2023. Invited Argentina to report at the Tour de Table in December 2022 on pending legislation, legislative reforms affecting the Judicial Council and any other developments relevant to Argentina's implementation of the Convention.
- Considered Hungary's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on steps taken to implement recommendations 1(a)(c–e), 2(a), 4(a–c), 6(b)(c) and 9(b) and enforce the foreign bribery offence, and on developments related to follow-up issues 11.a.–11.g. and 11.i.–11.l. Invited Hungary to report back in writing in December 2022.
- Considered Finland's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on steps taken to implement recommendations 1(b), 3(a) and 3(b) and enforce the foreign bribery offence. Concluded that Finland has made progress on implementing Phase 4 recommendations, though certain recommendations remain to be addressed, and agreed to invite Finland to report in writing in December 2022.
- Considered Japan's Phase 4 expedited written report. Concluded that Japan had taken steps to develop legislative reforms to address four priority recommendations, but that it should provide further procedural and substantive details in its expedited report for October 2022. Decided that the technical mission to Japan will take place in November 2022.
- Heard Korea report on amendments to its Prosecution Service Act and Criminal Procedure Act, and on the impact of this legislation on (i) the scope of the Public Prosecution Office's (PPO) direct investigation powers; (ii) PPO's power to initiate an investigation on additional 'related crimes'; (iii) PPO's investigative powers over cases transferred by the police; and (iv) controls over the termination of corruption investigations by the police. Agreed to publish a [public statement](#) expressing the Working Group's concerns over these reforms. Agreed that Korea will report at each meeting of the Working Group on the implementation of these reforms, and on the adoption of further measures by Korea. Agreed to discuss Korea's Phase 4 additional follow-up report in October 2022 due to its late submission to the Working Group.
- Considered Mexico's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on steps taken to implement recommendations 1(a), 1(c), 1(d), 2(b), 3(a), 3(f) and 4(a), as well as enforcement. Concluded that recommendation 1(a) is fully implemented, and acknowledged progress made by Mexico on recommendations 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d). Invited Mexico to report back in writing in June 2023. Agreed to issue a [public statement](#) conveying the Working Group's concerns.
- Considered Slovenia's Phase 4 one-year follow-up report, and heard Slovenia provide an update on progress in the implementation of recommendations 7(a)-(b) and 8(e)-(f). Concluded that despite positive developments, a number of issues remain to be addressed in anticipation of the Phase 4 two-year written report.

- Considered Switzerland's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on steps taken to implement key recommendations 1(a), 1(b), 2(a), 9(a), 9(b) and 12(a) as well as on the efforts to enforce the foreign bribery offence and the management of investigations within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and its internal organisation and structural operation. Concluded that there was a lack of progress in relation to all key Phase 4 recommendations and agreed to invite Switzerland to report back in writing, in June 2023, on all of them and also on the internal organisation and management of investigations by the OAG. Agreed to issue a [public statement](#) conveying its concerns.
- Considered the written follow-up report to Türkiye's 2021 high-level mission. Agreed to invite Türkiye to report on progress made to address key recommendations at the October 2022 meeting and to invite the Ambassador of Türkiye to the OECD to attend this meeting, after which a public statement would be issued.
- Considered Israel's Phase 3 additional written follow-up report. Concluded that the draft legislation contained in the report, which – if adopted – would appear to implement Phase 3 recommendations 2(a) and 4. Decided to invite Israel to report back in March 2023 after hearing that Israel may have new elections soon, which could affect Israel's ability to advance the legislation.
- Considered Peru's one-year oral report on its implementation of Phase 2 recommendations 1(b), 9(a), 9(b), 10(a), 10(b), and 15(b). Invited Peru to report back on all Phase 2 recommendations in June 2023.

Ongoing and future WGB projects and events

The WGB:

- Adopted the 2021 WGB Enforcement Data.
- Continued discussions on the impact of data protection regulations on the WGB's work.
- Agreed to adopt the 2021 Working Group on Bribery annual report through a written procedure.
- Heard an oral report from the Chair of the informal meetings of the Law Enforcement Officials on the meeting held on 13 June 2022.
- Heard an oral report by the Secretariat on the 4th biennial meeting of the Global Law Enforcement Network, held on 14 June 2022.

Global relations activities

- Heard a presentation by Saudi Arabia under the roadmap for its participation in the Working Group. Saudi Arabia outlined the legislative reforms that had been adopted as a result of its participation, as well as institutional developments.
- Heard an update from the Secretariat on the implementation of the Global Relations Strategy, including information on global, regional and country level activities implementing the Strategy, notably on business integrity, law enforcement responses to corruption in crises, and activities in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Middle East and North Africa regions.
- Heard Romania report that it has been working with the OECD on a technical project to assess its foreign bribery framework against OECD standards, and that the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) sent the first foreign bribery case to trial in 2020 and that the DNA stands ready to support Working Group members with international legal assistance; and
- Heard Ukraine announce that it will seek to become a Member of the OECD and the Working Group on Bribery and explain that in this context it would welcome the Working Group's help to develop a roadmap for enhanced engagement, possibly through Participant status.

Reports from other OECD bodies, invitee countries and international organisations

The WGB:

- Heard a presentation from the GlobE Network on progress made since its official launch in June 2021.
- Heard Transparency International provide a presentation on the draft 'Exporting Corruption' report.
- Heard the Secretariat from the OECD Global Relations Committee (GRC) report on the latest developments concerning the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG).
- Heard the World Bank's Vice-President of Integrity present on potential synergies between the Working Group and the World Bank in the field of enforcement and prevention.

Tour de table

- Heard updates provided by Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Korea, Spain and the United States, 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. Heard additional updates from Austria, the United Kingdom and the co-Chairs of the Latin American and the Caribbean Law Enforcement Network.