



G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025



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G20 ACWG 2025

G20 South Africa 2025 Anti-Corruption Working Group Chair's Statement

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ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP
CHAIR'S STATEMENT



1. As the first-ever G20 Presidency on the African soil, South Africa has seized the opportunity to underscore the vital linkages between the G20 anti-corruption agenda, and the priorities outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. In shaping the priorities for the Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) in 2025, the South African G20 Presidency was guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. This approach is underpinned by the recognition that corruption undermines each of the pillars of the 2025 G20 theme **Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability** and is anchored in the G20 ACWG Action Plan 2025-2027, endorsed at the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting held in Natal, Brazil in October 2024.

2. The South African Presidency's priorities for the ACWG in 2025 were:
 - Strengthening the public sector by promoting transparency, integrity, and accountability;
 - Increasing the efficiency of asset recovery measures, in particular the management of seized assets;
 - Enhancing and mobilising the inclusive participation of the public sector, private sector, civil society, and academia to prevent and combat corruption; and
 - Enhancing whistle-blower protection mechanisms.

3. The discussions on these priority areas were substantive and inclusive, involving a vast variety of stakeholders. Although we were unable to find consensus on the Ministerial Declaration, the Presidency has chosen to release the listed documents below, which underscore the extensive and collaborative work undertaken by the ACWG throughout 2025:

- Compendium of Good Practices in Promoting a Transparent, Ethical and Accountable Civil Service;
- Report on Impact of Technical Assistance, Capacity-Building and Knowledge Sharing Initiatives for Asset Recovery;
- High Level Principles on the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets;
- Compendium of Good Practices on the Role of Multi-Stakeholders in Preventing and Combating Corruption;
- 2025 Accountability Report on Effective Protection of Whistleblowers.

4. The following summary of the discussions which reflects agreement of the majority of G20 members and invited countries is, therefore, released under the Chair's responsibility and issued without prejudice to the national positions of G20 members and invited countries.

Summary

5. The G20 members and invited countries' ministers and authorities with responsibilities for preventing and combating corruption, convened in Mpumalanga, on 30 October 2025, under the South African Presidency. Representatives reaffirmed their shared commitments and dedication to leading by example in the effort to fight corruption. Guided by South Africa's G20 Presidency theme of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability, representatives acknowledged that effective anti-corruption measures are crucial for creating a more equitable, cooperative, and sustainable world by enhancing fairness and justice, building trust, and ensuring the effective use of resources.

6. As we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the G20 ACWG, representatives expressed gratitude to past Presidencies for their leadership and committed to building on this solid legacy. Representatives acknowledged and reaffirmed the previous G20 Anti-Corruption commitments including those adopted at ministerial meetings and underscored their determination to continue following up on these commitments while accounting for both individual and collective progress. Representatives also invited the ACWG to explore ways to improve its performance and impact.

7. Representatives acknowledged that the UNCAC, a legally binding instrument, provides a comprehensive framework for their anti-corruption efforts. They reaffirmed their commitment to the effective implementation of the UNCAC's obligations, including enhancing international cooperation and asset recovery efforts, as well as having the necessary legislation to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials and to effectively enforce this legislation. They also recognised the efforts and achievements of the ACWG and its significant contribution to strengthening public and private sector transparency, integrity and accountability. Representatives will continue to cooperate with each other and with relevant international and regional organisations to stay informed on the latest methods to combat corruption.
8. Representatives reaffirmed their commitment to implement the existing international obligations including under UNCAC and United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), as well as to comply with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards, including the revised FATF Recommendations on Asset Recovery and Beneficial Ownership. In this regard, the representatives recalled the past G20 deliverables, such as the High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency and the High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combatting Corruption.
9. Representatives noted that asset recovery, one of the priority areas highlighted by the South African Presidency, requires ongoing attention by the ACWG. As challenges in asset recovery persist, they reaffirmed their strong resolve and political will to enhance the effectiveness of asset recovery and return in full respect of the existing international obligations consistent with the UNCAC. Representatives committed to deny safe haven to corrupt offenders and assets obtained through corruption. In this regard, representatives welcomed the G20 High Level Principles on the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets Linked to Corruption to support asset recovery and the Report on the Impact of Technical Assistance, Capacity-Building and Knowledge-Sharing Initiatives for Asset Recovery.
10. Representatives underscored the need for effective, efficient, and responsive international cooperation in asset recovery and return, through measures for direct

recovery of property, and mutual legal assistance, in line with the UNCAC within a reasonable time and without undue political influence. Representatives supported the networking among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities in order to strengthen asset recovery by, for example, participating in and making the best use of relevant practitioners' networks such as, where applicable, the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), the Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) and regional ARINS, as well as leveraging the capabilities developed by the INTERPOL and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Representatives also took note and welcomed the regional initiatives presented under the South African Presidency, namely the African Beneficial Ownership Information Network and the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum established under the Common African Position on Asset Recovery and further recognised the importance of engaging proactively with such regional networks, to accelerate the tracing, recovery and return of assets.

11. Representatives reiterated the G20's commitment to promoting and strengthening integrity, accountability, and transparency for the effective and efficient administration of the public sector. In this regard, they committed to, among other things, strengthening, where necessary, their codes of conduct and other ethical standards, including the rules and systems to prevent and manage conflicts of interest. Representatives agreed to actively work to ensure the proper management of public affairs and property, the efficient use of public resources, transparent and data-driven procurement processes, and transparency in decision-making, including effective access to information within public institutions. The compendium of good practices compiled under the South African G20 Presidency, which showcases the practices of the G20 members and invited countries aimed at ensuring a culture of ethical and accountable public service was welcomed.
12. Representatives also welcomed the compendium of good practices on the role of multi-stakeholders in preventing and combating corruption compiled under the South African G20 Presidency. Representatives encouraged countries, in accordance with their domestic legal frameworks, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations, and the media in the fight against corruption.

They highlighted the need for and importance of leveraging good practices and knowledge-sharing amongst themselves.

13. Representatives committed to taking appropriate measures to have in place robust and comprehensive frameworks and policies that allow the reporting of suspected acts of corruption and secure the protection of whistleblowers, including by establishing accessible and diverse reporting channels, and taking into account the 2019 G20 High-Level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistleblowers. Representatives, therefore, welcomed the 2025 G20 Accountability Report, which highlights legislative reforms and other measures implemented by G20 and invited countries in this regard.
14. Representatives committed to promote the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and combat corruption, with due regard for information security, data protection, privacy, and other individual rights, in full compliance with international law. Representatives further agreed to utilise these technologies to promote efficient public service delivery, strengthen asset recovery efforts and facilitate reporting of possible cases of corruption, as well as enhance the protection of whistleblowers, monitor the use of public funds, and facilitate knowledge exchange, collection, and dissemination. The ACWG will also explore ways to leverage digital public infrastructure to enhance transparency, open government, accountability, efficiency in governance, thereby reducing opportunities for corruption.
15. There were discussions around the need to improve understanding of how corruption can affect women and men differently and to continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, including by mainstreaming it in relevant legislation, policy development, research, projects and programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic laws while enhancing the participation of women in anti-corruption efforts and the sharing of good practices in this regard.
16. Representatives agreed to provide, within available resources, anti-corruption capacity-building and training programmes for public officials appropriate to the position they hold. They further highlighted the need to enhance coordination and

cooperation among G20 countries by, including where appropriate, providing technical assistance and capacity-building to requesting countries.

17. Representatives encouraged cooperation with UN bodies, relevant institutions, and experts to continue the work in the area of measuring corruption and assessing the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and measures and support international initiatives in this regard. They looked forward to the outcome of the second session of the global conference entitled “Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement” scheduled for December 2 - 4, 2025, in New York, USA and encouraged participation of relevant stakeholders.
18. Representatives emphasised and renewed their commitment to strengthening the G20 ACWG, focusing on the implementation of their existing international obligations and G20 commitments, as reflected in the common substantive priorities adopted by the G20 ACWG under the 2025-2027 Action Plan: (1) asset recovery in corruption cases and international cooperation and mutual legal assistance; (2) anti-money laundering and beneficial ownership transparency; (3) countering foreign bribery; (4) public sector transparency, integrity and accountability; and (5) private sector transparency and integrity. Representatives reiterated their dedication to sharing through the annual accountability report the status of individual and collective progress against these commitments to promote accountability and continuous improvement. Representatives also recognised the meaningful role of the ACWG in addressing emerging corruption risks and reaffirmed their commitment to lead by example to anticipate and mitigate new corruption challenges effectively.
19. Representatives appreciated international organisations, and G20 engagement groups for their continuous support to the work of the ACWG. They are particularly grateful for the expertise and support in contributing towards the ACWG deliverables provided by the international organisations invited by the South African Presidency to the ACWG, namely, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, INTERPOL, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the FATF, the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the African Development Bank.

20. Finally, representatives expressed gratitude to the South African Presidency and Brazil, the Co-Chair, for their leadership of the ACWG in 2025. Under the theme of solidarity, equality, and sustainability, the ACWG continued to pursue its ambitions as outlined in the 2025-2027 ACWG Action Plan, recognizing that fighting corruption, while respecting human rights due process and fundamental freedoms, contributes to inclusive growth, fairness, and justice, and to the delivery of better public policies and services that promote social inclusion by reducing social and economic inequality.

In conclusion,

21. Corruption is a serious challenge that severely impacts domestic resource mobilisation, limiting the financial means available for development and impedes economic growth. It threatens the integrity of markets and undermines fair competition. It also erodes public trust, deepens inequality, and can contribute to conflict. The evolving complexity of corruption can destabilise coordinated efforts by governments and undermine the global efforts if left unattended. In this context, the G20 ACWG serves as an essential I forum to address how anti-corruption measures can directly support sustainable economic development. Although the G20 was unable to reach consensus on the Anti-Corruption Ministerial Declaration this year, important work remains, and the G20 ACWG is best placed to lead these efforts. South Africa, therefore, calls upon future G20 Presidencies to carry forward this mandate, enabling the G20 to continue setting an example in advancing global anti-corruption initiatives.