

10th Regional Conference on

**PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION
IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN ASIA-
PACIFIC**

DISCUSSION PAPER

5 December 2019

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific

DISCUSSION PAPER

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME (2018-2020) AND STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE FOR ASIA-PACIFIC STEERING GROUP MEETING – 5 DECEMBER 2019

1. Status of implementation of the 2018-2020 Work Programme

The below table summarises objectives and achievements under the current Work Programme, as well as possible objectives for 2020.

	Objectives defined in the Work Programme	Achievements as of December 2019	Possible objectives for 2020
Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three meetings (2018, 2019 and 2020) • One high level meeting (2020) • One regional report (if funding available, 2020) • One evaluation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Steering Group meeting (Viet Nam, 2019) • 1 evaluation report (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Steering Group meeting • 1 High Level meeting • 1 regional stocktaking report (if funding available)
PIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 thematic studies or other knowledge products • 3-6 meetings/seminars • Country projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 training on preventing corruption in public procurement (Kazakhstan, 2018) • 1 PIN meeting on preventing corruption in public procurement (Kazakhstan, 2018) • 1 PIN meeting on corruption prevention in infrastructure (Viet Nam, 2019) • 1 seminar/training on conflict of interest and public ethics (Thailand, 2019) • 1 country project (Integrity Review of Thailand, phase 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 PIN meeting • 2 seminars/trainings Integrity Review of Thailand, phase 2; case study on corruption prevention in infrastructure, Malaysia • 2 country projects (Integrity Review of Thailand, phase 2; case study on corruption prevention in infrastructure, Malaysia)
LEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 thematic studies or other knowledge products • 3-6 Meetings • Country projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional session of the GLEN (Paris, December 2019), with a discussion on planning future LEN work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 meeting (if funding available) • 1 thematic study or other knowledge product (if funding available – topic tbd)
BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 stocktaking report • 1-2 Seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 note mapping business integrity initiatives in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 seminar, 3 in-country workshops

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on further work in the Steering Group 	<p>region (Viet Nam, December 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 BI meeting on corruption prevention in infrastructure (Viet Nam, 2019) • Discussion on further BI work in the Steering Group (Viet Nam, 2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 stocktaking report on business integrity
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Questions for the Steering Group and the Advisory Group

Does the Steering Group agree with the proposed plans for 2020?

Are countries willing to host the Steering Group meeting/High Level meeting in 2020?

2. Preparing for the next Programme and updating the Strategic Principles for the Initiative

The current Work Programme (2018-2020) defines the process for the development of a new Programme. Upon the completion of the current Work Programme, a High Level Meeting bringing together countries' anti-corruption decision-makers from government, private sector and civil society partners is to take stock of achievements and challenges, and identify strategic priorities for future work. This discussion will be informed by the External Evaluation of the Initiative conducted in 2018. The current Work Programme also provides that, to support this discussion, and depending on the available resources, the Secretariat could prepare a regional report taking stock of achievements and challenges to guide the Initiative's future work. This report could be based on a questionnaire asking members about their anti-corruption measures, risks and challenges.

The Initiative's successive Work Programmes aim to operationalise the Initiative's document on [Strategic Principles and Operational Activities](#). This document serves as the "terms of reference" for the Initiative, by defining its general objective, strategic principles and governance arrangements. Adopted in 2009, the document no longer fully corresponds to the reality of the Initiative's functioning, activities and priority goals. The Secretariat thus proposes that a new Strategic Principles document is prepared in parallel with the new Work Programme, to take into account more recent developments, as well as views from members on the longer term objectives of the Initiative.

Currently, there is an overlap between the scope of the *Strategic Principles and Operational Activities* document and the Work Programmes – in particular, the former provides details on activities, while the latter includes provisions on strategy and governance. The Secretariat therefore also proposes that the relation between the two types of documents is clarified, with a short Strategic Principles document defining long term objectives, governance arrangements and types of activities; and Work Programmes defining shorter term goals, priority activities and topics.

The Secretariat has developed the following possible timeline for the development of a new Work Programme and *Strategic Principles* document.

5 December 2019, Steering Group meeting	<p>Steering Group meeting to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on process and timeline for developing and adopting a new Work Programme and Strategic Principles document; • Discuss strategic orientations for the future of the Initiative, to be reflected in both documents.
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March 2020	Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to members to provide inputs on their anti-corruption efforts; and views on main corruption risks, best practices and priority areas for future capacity development and other work
July 2020	Secretariat to circulate draft stocktaking report (based on the results from the questionnaire); draft Work Programme; and draft Strategic Principles document to members for feedback
Late October – early November 2020	High Level Meeting to discuss and adopt new Work Programme and Strategic Principles document

Question for the Steering Group and the Advisory Group

Does the Steering Group agree with the proposal to:

- adopt a *Strategic Principles* document that would replace the current *Strategic Principles and Operational Activities* document; and
- clarify the relation between the *Strategic Principles* document and the Work Programmes, with the former providing a general strategic framework and the latter defining shorter term goals and activities?

Does the Steering Group agree with the proposed process and timeline for the development of a new *Strategic Principles* document and a new Work Programme?

3. Strategic orientations for future work under the Initiative

Taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the current Work Programme, the findings of the External Evaluation, corruption trends and new developments in anti-corruption and public integrity, member countries and Advisory Group members should express their views on a series of strategic questions for the future of the Initiative. On the basis of this discussion, the Secretariat will prepare a draft Work Programme and *Strategic Principles* document, which members will be able to comment on before their final adoption (subject to the approval of the process and timeline under Section 2 of this paper).

Questions for the Steering Group and the Advisory Group

a. Duration of the Work Programme – Does the Steering Group want to retain the three-year timeframe for programming its work (i.e. to develop a Work Programme 2021-2023)?

b. Main areas of work – Does the Steering Group agree to include a fully-fledged workstream on business integrity? (NB: this issue can be discussed by the Steering Group in the context of the report on the inaugural Business Integrity Meeting)

c. Partnerships and synergies –

(i) Does the Steering Group want to engage with new partners, such as civil society organisations, or regional organisations (e.g. AIB, ASEAN, APG and the APEC Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network (ACINET)...)?

- (ii) If yes, what form could these partnerships take (joint events, expansion of the membership of the Advisory Group, observer status, participation of the Initiative in partners' events...)?
- (iii) How can the members of the Initiative benefit from activities and trainings organised in other members of the Initiative, to foster synergies (for example by asking countries to inform more systematically about relevant activities to other members through the Secretariat, and invite Initiative members to participate in these activities, whenever possible)?
- (iv) In general, should the Initiative be more proactive in keeping track of relevant activities conducted by member countries and partners in the region (for example by centralising those on its website in a regional calendar of anti-corruption events), to enhance communication around these events and facilitate synergies?
- d. Nature of activities** – What type of activities does the Steering Group want to prioritise under the new Work Programme (capacity-building and training, networking, thematic studies...)? Should self-reporting be resumed as suggested in the evaluation and, if so, in what form?
- e. Topics** – What topics should be prioritised by the PIN, the LEN and the business integrity workstream? Should regional conferences continue to have an overarching theme?
- f. Governance** – Should the Steering Group keep a strategic role? Should the role of the Advisory Group be clarified or updated, and its membership revised?
- g. Membership** – Does the process for inviting and considering new members and observers need to be clarified? Does the Steering Group want to open membership for countries/economies in Asia-Pacific who express interest?
- h. Planning events** – Should the Initiative be more flexible in planning for the respective Steering Group, PIN, LEN and business integrity and other meetings or should it continue to aim for clustered meetings around Steering Group meetings as has been the practice to date?
- i. Funding model of the Initiative:** How can we move from ad-hoc funding to a more sustainable funding model? How can members contribute to the funding model of the initiative?
- j. Communication:** How can the communication of the Initiative be improved? How can members contribute to better information sharing?

