

Transparency International (TI) Sweden Framework for Business Integrity Forum (BIF)

Join TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum

- Participate in four roundtables each year with specially invited key experts and practitioners
- Get access and introductions to the global Transparency International network
- Receive anti-corruption information updates from TI Sweden.
- Demonstrate your public support for the mission and values of TI Sweden
- Permission to use TI Sweden's logotype in your external and internal corporate communication

Keep up to date with anti-corruption

An active participation in TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum will clearly demonstrate – for all stakeholders as well as all employees - top level commitment to anti-corruption and business integrity. Collaboration and collective action are key words. Many companies have found it most useful to collaborate with highly reputable knowledge-leaders in regard to the environment, human rights issues, as well as corruption in order to support and strengthen their own internal functions and gain access to tools and independent expertise.

- **Most anti-corruption programmes have weaknesses**

All anti-corruption programmes can be made more effective. Many anti-corruption initiatives are compliance-led, off-the-shelf procedures that do not genuinely and effectively contribute to an anti-bribery 'culture' at all levels of a company's operations. We also see that many programs fail to give employees and suppliers needed tools to counter demands for bribery or other corrupt behaviour.

Transparency International carries out continuous research on anti-corruption and has established exchanges and co-operation with other organisations around the world. We are impartial, objective and can guide members in the domain of relevant anti-corruption systems and tools.

- **Regulatory and external scrutiny have intensified**

Penalties and other costs for companies breaching regulations on bribery and corruption are increasing. In addition to the Swedish legislation, there are international laws that have a remit extending beyond their "home countries", including the UK Bribery Act and the US Foreign & Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). There are greater and well-founded expectations of 'clean businesses' placed on companies from external stakeholders, as well as greater scrutiny and information flow from civil society when a company engages in unethical conduct.

Transparency International closely follows the development of existing and new regulatory regimes and guidelines, a critical part of the overall discourse and impact of anti-corruption.

- **Corruption risk is increasing in many companies**

Sweden is home to many multinational companies, with revenue flows and deals that are

as large in BRICS and other emerging market countries – where corruption levels are high -. Extended and geographically expanded supply chains, with more suppliers in high-risk markets, increase corruption related risks.

TI Sweden works with different counterparts to help BIF members navigate the area of risk assessment and risk analysis. There are tools and guidance documents available, as well as specific events and seminars catering to this often critical aspect of anti-corruption within many organisations.

TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum

The Business Integrity Forum (BIF) is a group of large companies, convened by TI Sweden, that are dedicated to achieving corruption free operations and business, and to promote high anti-corruption standards in the business sector. The BIF allows companies to have a well-informed exchange of know-how with other companies and experts in an informal setting, as well as access to TI Sweden's expertise, events and networks.

- **Participate in four roundtables each year**, and other events, with specially invited key experts and practitioners to share good practice, stay up to date with the latest issues, and receive updates on legal and regulatory matters.
- **Get access and introduction to the worldwide Transparency International network** - TI Sweden can facilitate introductions to the international network.
- **Receive anti-corruption information updates** from Transparency International including information on tools such as the Business Principle for Countering Bribery.
- **Demonstrate your public support for the mission and values of TI Sweden** – joining a network of major international companies openly committed to anti-corruption and business integrity. Through the BIF, companies also have the opportunity to comment on Transparency International's own policy documents and strategic positions – and thereby contribute to the international debate and legislation on corruption.
- **Permission to use TI Sweden's logotype** in your external and internal corporate communication

How to become a member of TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum

Membership to BIF is reserved for large, primarily listed, companies with the Head Office in Sweden or with a major Regional Head Office in Sweden and with an international permanent presence outside Europe.

- The company applies by completing TI Sweden's ABC checklist.
- A senior level discussion between the company and TI Sweden will establish whether there is a genuine alignment of interests and if there are some critical aspects of the ABC checklist that needs to be clarified
- The "principles for exclusion of members" mentioned below shall be applied in the application process if there are reasons to suspect corruption or other illegal or unethical behaviour in the company.
- TI Sweden's Board of Directors takes a decision to accept or deny the company as a member of the Business Integrity Forum
- A letter is issued to the company by the Chair of TI Sweden inviting the company to join BIF and outlining the BIF Membership Principles
- The minimum annual membership fee is SEK 50.000.
- Membership in the BIF does not include formal membership in the organisation TI Sweden.

Principles for exclusion of members in TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum

In order to ensure the credibility, impartiality and brand of TI Sweden, companies - members of the Business Integrity Forum (BIF) - can be excluded if corruption or other illegal or unethical behaviour is identified or suspected in the company in question.

"Corruption" refers to Transparency International's definition: "Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for private gain". A decision of exclusion is based on a case-by-case assessment of the extent and specific circumstances.

- 1) TI Sweden keeps up-to-date with news in relation to BIF member companies. We also expect that any BIF member company will inform TI Sweden if the member is subject to suspicion of corruption in any form.
- 2) TI Sweden will, based on the information about suspected or detected corruption provided by the company, via media, whistleblowers or in the course of an investigation, contact the company for a direct dialogue on its current and planned actions.
- 3) If there is a reason for action by the company, TI Sweden expects the company to report, within an agreed timeframe, on an action plan signed by the management.
- 4) TI Sweden will follow up on the action plan in dialogue with the company in connection to annual renewal of membership.
- 5) A decision on exclusion is taken by TI Sweden's Board of Directors if it assesses that the company has acted and/or will act in such a way that a continued membership will have a serious impact on TI Sweden and its brand or adversely affect its work. In such an assessment, the company's actions to investigate the issue, the corrective actions taken and the transparency showed throughout the process shall be taken into account. A decision of exclusion shall be communicated in writing to the company's CEO.
- 6) Exclusion of companies is also communicated to the public via TI Sweden's web and other communication channels.

September, 2022

The anti-corruption role played by Transparency International

Transparency International is the world's foremost anti-corruption organisation, perhaps best known to its annual Corruption Perception Index. Transparency International is credited with stimulating many major anti-corruption initiatives, including the UN Convention Against Corruption, the addition of the anti-corruption Principle to the UN Global Compact and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Founded in 1993, with an international secretariat in Berlin and over hundred chapters worldwide, Transparency International has played an important role in keeping corruption on the agenda of governments and companies. Global reach, local knowledge.

We work closely with all sectors of society, including companies, to help understand corruption and to promote transparency, integrity and accountability.