Transparency International Sweden (TI Sweden)

Framework for Business Integrity Forum (BIF)

What is TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum?

The Business Integrity Forum (BIF) is a network consisting of a group of companies, convened by TI Sweden, dedicated to combat corruption in their operations and to promote high anti-corruption standards in the business sector. BIF allows companies to have a well-informed knowledge exchange with other companies and experts, as well as access to TI Sweden's expertise, events and networks.

Why should your company join TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum?

An active participation in TI Sweden's BIF will clearly demonstrate – for all stakeholders as well as all employees - top level commitment to anti-corruption and business integrity. By joining BIF, you will engage in a collective action to address corruption challenges and raise standards of integrity and fair competition in business.

- **Corruption risks are increasing in many companies**
  Sweden is home to many multinational companies, with substantial revenue flows and operations in complex markets where corruption levels are high. Extended and geographically expanded supply chains, with more suppliers in high-risk markets, increase challenges for monitoring corruption risks.

  TI Sweden works with different counterparts to help BIF members navigate the area of risk assessment and risk analysis. Tools and guidance documents are made available, and specific events and seminars are organised to discuss critical aspects of anti-corruption.

- **Regulatory and external scrutiny has 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 potential 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.

- **Strengthen your risk-based compliance programme**
  All compliance programmes can be made more effective. Many initiatives in this area fall into the trap of becoming check the box exercises and not genuinely and effectively contributing to a culture with high integrity at all levels of a company's operations. Some companies also see compliance only as a risk mitigator to avoid problems, rather than an important part of doing what is right – from both a legal and ethical perspective. Many programmes fail to give employees and suppliers needed tools to counter demands for

bribery or other corrupt behaviour. Working with compliance can be a lonely role. In TI Sweden BIF you will become part of a network where you can discuss ideas and ask questions to peers.

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.

What does a membership in TI Sweden's Business Integrity Forum include?

- **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 business integrity issues, and receive updates on legal and regulatory matters.
- **Get access and introduction to the worldwide Transparency International network and the BIF network** - TI Sweden can facilitate introductions to the international network. By becoming a member in the BIF network, you will get contacts to professional compliance officers in a number of reputable companies with global operations.
- **Receive anti-corruption information updates** from Transparency International including information on tools such as TI UK's benchmark and 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.
- **Permission to use TI Sweden's logotype** in your external and internal corporate communication.
- Whilst joining BIF will entail **becoming part of a network** with access to peers in other companies – it may not be used for marketing purposes of products and/or for selling services.

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

Members in BIF are typically companies with the Head Office in Sweden or with a major Regional Head Office in Sweden and with an international permanent presence.

- 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 need to be clarified.
- The "principles for exclusion of members" mentioned below shall be applied in the application process.
- 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 current annual membership fee is SEK 60.000 (excl. VAT).
- Membership in 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 reputable brand of TI Sweden, 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.

1. TI Sweden keeps up to date with news in relation to BIF member companies. TI Sweden also expects that any BIF member company will inform TI Sweden if the member is subject to investigation of corruption or other irregularities.
2. The company is expected to investigate the case and to take corrective actions. The company is also expected to co-operate fully with the investigating authorities.
3. TI Sweden will, based on information about suspected or detected corruption, contact the company for a direct dialogue on its current and planned actions. The company is expected to as soon as possible report to TI Sweden on the incident and how it is handled, considering possible obligations of confidentiality.
4. A decision on temporary or permanent 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.

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The anti-corruption role played by Transparency International

Transparency International is the world's foremost anti-corruption organisation, perhaps best known by its annual Corruption Perceptions 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.

"Corruption" refers to Transparency International's definition: "*Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for private gain".*