



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



G20 Series #64

India's G20 Presidency

2nd Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting

(Rishikesh, Uttarakhand– May 25-27, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

June 14, 2023

“For a developed India, trust and credibility are critical. People’s trust in the government enhances people’s self-confidence.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The 2nd G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG) was inaugurated on May 25, 2023, by the Union Minister of State for Defence & Tourism; Shri Ajay Bhatt in Rishikesh. He lauded G20India’s efforts to promote international cooperation against corruption and called for enhancing transparency and accountability in the public sector.



The meeting had wide participation from 90 delegates of 20 member countries, 10 Invitee countries, and 9 International Organisations including UNODC, OECD, Egmont Group, INTERPOL, and IMF.

Indian Presidency has focused on five broad themes in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group namely,

- ❖ International cooperation for strengthening fight against corruption,
- ❖ Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption,
- ❖ Role of audit institutions in anti-corruption,
- ❖ Leveraging Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for combating corruption in the public sector, and
- ❖ Gender and corruption.

Day 1: May 25, 2023

On the first day of the ACWG meeting, a unique **Side Event** was held on '**Gender and Corruption**'. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, delivered the keynote address. During this event, national and international experts and practitioners deliberated on the gendered aspects of corruption, the ways in which women's empowerment is intrinsically linked with anti-corruption initiatives, and the need for gender-sensitive governance and policymaking.



Further, three sessions were held on the following:

Safeguarding Anti-Corruption Institutions: Delegates worked towards laying out an action plan for enhancing the integrity, transparency, and accountability of anti-corruption institutions and public bodies.



Strengthening Asset Recovery Frameworks: Delegates discussed the development of a robust and effective framework for the recovery and return of stolen assets, a core constituent of the international anti-corruption enforcement architecture.

In this pivotal session, deliberations happened on enhancing law enforcement cooperation to combat corruption. Delegates discussed the Accountability Report on the implementation of mutual legal assistance mechanisms by G20 members to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of corruption offenses. Moreover, India is preparing an Accountability Report for 2023 with a



unique focus on the analysis of the efficiency of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) procedures for corruption and other criminal offenses. It will help in understanding the practical and cross-cutting issues which arise while preparing and answering MLA requests.

Day 2: May 26, 2023

The second day of the meeting focussed on a comprehensive action plan. G20 India delegates initiated a session focused on drawing a 6-point plan for strengthening information-sharing mechanisms for targeted action against corruption & exchanging best practices in audits for combating corruption.



Day 3: May 27, 2023

The ACWG Meeting drew to a successful close in Rishikesh with discussions on concrete outcomes on strengthening law enforcement cooperation, prioritising asset recovery, ensuring the independence of anti-corruption bodies & more.

Over the past three days, there were intensive and productive deliberations on several key focal areas pertaining to Asset recovery, Fugitive economic offenders, formal and informal



channels of cooperation for information sharing, institutional frameworks for combating corruption, and mutual legal assistance, among others. The delegates agreed upon the three High-Level Principles ‘Promoting Integrity and effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption’; ‘Strengthening Law

Enforcement related International Cooperation and Information Sharing for Combating Corruption' and 'Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms related to Corruption'.

Experiencing a Unique Culture



The delegates got a flavour of India's rich culture, heritage, and cuisine during their stay at Rishikesh.



The delegates got an opportunity to practice Yoga in the Yoga capital of the world.

Post-sessions, the delegates got an opportunity to learn about the rich culture of Uttarakhand as part of an excursion. The delegates learned about sustainability, digitization, and more in the Ouni village. The delegates experienced the spiritual heritage of Rishikesh.



References:

[Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, the 2nd G20 ACWG Meeting in Rishikesh will reiterate India's resolve against economic offenders](#)
[Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh \(Tehri\), Uttarakhand](#)

Twitter Link:

[Nestled in the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is a sight to behold with its flourishing valleys, sweeping landscapes and unique charm.](#)

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