



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



Consensus Frameworks in the APEC Region

Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative
November 2022



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FOREWORD by the Basel Institute on Governance

Collective action initiatives are critical to achieving sustainable and equitable economic development around the world. We have witnessed major progress in collective action initiatives to prevent and combat corruption while strengthening governance. Collective action initiatives involve the building of trust and a willingness to collaborate constructively with diverse stakeholders. At the Basel Institute, we support collective action across a range of sectors and modalities – there is truly no one size fits all model.

As such, we are pleased to partner with the *Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative* to highlight and support a unique form of collective action – consensus frameworks for ethical collaboration. As outlined in the report, each consensus framework tells a story. Consensus frameworks are unique to advancing ethical business conduct to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within health systems. They bring together patient organizations, healthcare professionals, industry associations representing SMEs as well as global biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies, governments, academic institutions, among others. On one hand, they are led by distinct economies with unique health systems and challenges and opportunities. On the other hand, many share similar principles of ethical collaboration. Though the governance and structure of each consensus framework is unique, each one represents APEC economies' dedication to strengthening ethical business practices in health systems.

As we have begun to learn from each consensus framework, we are inspired by the dedicated individuals and organizations on these pages. While there has been tremendous progress, this is only the beginning, and we look forward to building upon these platforms to provide resources and a shared network for APEC economies to collectively engage and learn from one another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Aiolfi'.

Gemma Aiolfi
Head of Compliance, Corporate Governance and Collective Action, Basel Institute
on Governance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Hans'.

Vanessa Hans
Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance



INTRODUCTION TO Consensus Frameworks and 2022 Summary Insights

Health-related sectors represent a significant portion of each APEC economy's overall activity and labor force. For example, the health economy is estimated at 8.9% gross value added (GVA) in Chile, 7.0% in Korea, 5.3% in Mexico, 7.2% in Chinese Taipei, and 11.4% in the United States.¹ For the tens of thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region in health-related sectors, the application of ethical business practices drives significant economic benefits, including revenue growth, access to finance, retention of employees, and global expansion.²

To support SMEs operating in the medical technology and biopharmaceutical sectors to realize these benefits, a novel approach has been introduced within several APEC economies: consensus frameworks. Consensus frameworks are a unique form of “collective action” or voluntary collaboration of diverse entities tasked with identifying and achieving common goals, particularly in the context of strengthening ethical conduct and collaboration. Since its inception, the *Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative* has recognized the value of such collaboration in driving high-standards of ethical conduct across the region's health systems. Action by enterprises alone would be insufficient to realizing such a goal. However, by convening patient organizations, healthcare professionals, industry associations representing SMEs and large companies, governments, civil society, and others, consensus frameworks in APEC economies are realizing improved ethical standards for SMEs and the stakeholders with whom they interact.

The consensus framework concept was conceived with the creation of the International Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration, which was adopted in 2014 by several leading global organizations. Since that time, eleven APEC economies, and one non-APEC economy (Brazil) have launched consensus frameworks. Collectively, consensus frameworks in the APEC region have formally convened 214 public and private organizations representing or serving thousands of enterprises, millions of healthcare professionals, and over a billion patients.

As outlined in the [APEC Guide to Facilitate Multi-Stakeholder Ethical Collaborations in the Medical Device and Biopharmaceutical Sectors \(2018\)](#), specific actions of consensus frameworks can include: facilitating the communication and identification of best practices, undertaking cross-organizational capacity building and training efforts, and monitoring and evaluation local ethical changes.

This report provides an overview of each consensus framework in the APEC region, including the parties involved, governance structures, the frequency of consensus framework meetings, progress updates since the 2020 report³, and key goals and challenges for consensus frameworks for 2022.

Examples of Consensus Framework Stakeholders

- **Healthcare Professionals:** Representing physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other health professional societies
- **Industry Bodies:** Representing small, medium, and large medical technology and biopharmaceutical companies and the third-party enterprises that support their research, development, manufacturing, and distribution activities
- **Patient Organizations:** Representing collective views of and activities by patients, their families, and caregivers
- **Civil Society:** Representing diverse and valuable voices in society, including academic and research institutions
- **Healthcare Providers:** Representing those who provide the physical or virtual platforms for care of patients, such as hospitals and clinics
- **Government:** Representing SME, health, trade, procurement, economic, anti-corruption, and other authorities

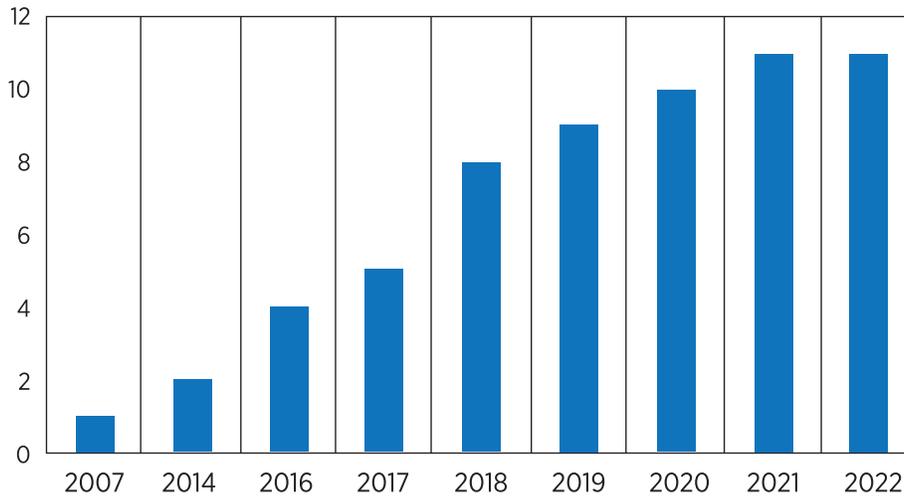
¹ Source: WifOR Institute Data – 2014 - 2018

² The Value of Business Ethics for APEC SMEs https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/the-value-of-business-ethics-for-apec-smes/221_sme_the-value-of-business-ethics-for-apec-smes.pdf?sfvrsn=631e9867_2

³ Status Report on Consensus Frameworks in the APEC Region, <https://www.apec.org/publications/2020/12/status-report-on-consensus-frameworks-in-the-apec-region>

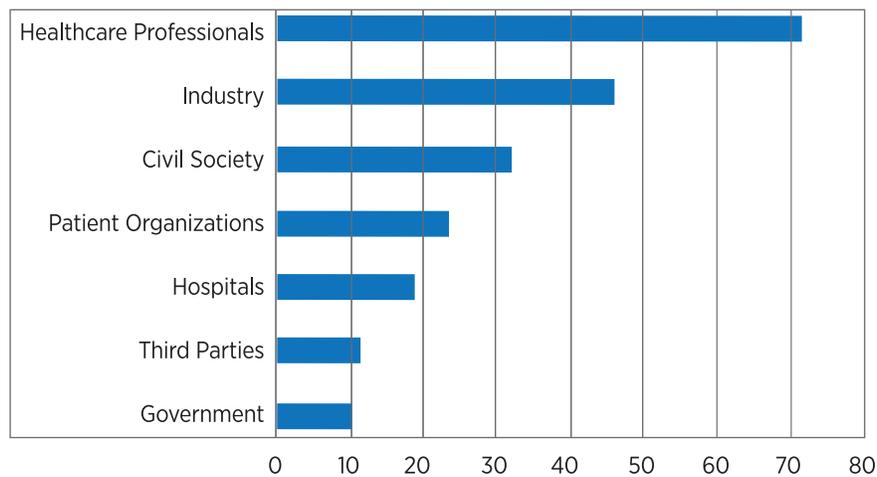


Number of Consensus Frameworks (2007-2022)



There are currently eleven consensus frameworks within the APEC region, and one outside of the APEC region (Brazil). In 2022, the APEC economy of Thailand intends to sign a consensus framework agreement. Outside of the APEC region, stakeholders in Kenya are planning to sign a consensus framework.

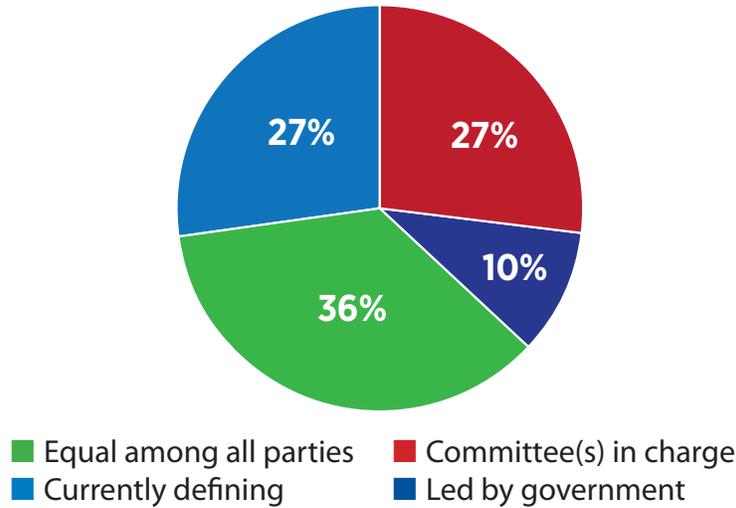
Consensus Framework Parties (2022)



Healthcare professionals and their associations make up the plurality of signing parties across the eleven consensus frameworks, followed by industry associations. Governments have the least representation in consensus frameworks across the APEC region.



Governance Structure for Consensus Frameworks in the APEC Region



The governance structure of a consensus framework is highly significant, as this impacts how ethical business conduct is advanced in each economy. Most economies have a determined governance structure, while 27% are currently defining, showing an opportunity for the initiative to provide support on governance structures.

2022 CHALLENGES	2022 GOALS
<p>GOVERNANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing leadership within government and stakeholder organization • Generating consensus for a common ethical standard across all stakeholders • Recognition of consensus framework by government authorities in economies in which the government does not participate as a stakeholder <p>COMMUNICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and maintaining enthusiasm and momentum • Effective communication strategies to articulate the work of consensus frameworks both internally and externally 	<p>COLLABORATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract new signatories to existing consensus frameworks • Convene consensus framework parties more regularly • Foster a collaborative environment for patient organizations and organizations <p>COMMUNICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote better dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders • Enhance public awareness of the work of consensus frameworks

In addition to the above challenges and goals, the COVID-19 pandemic was cited by consensus frameworks as a significant challenge to making progress.



Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector (ACF) led by the Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA)

The Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector is led by the Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA). AEHA includes 78 member organizations, representing 1 million Australian health professionals, employees and trainees; and 25 million consumers / patients. In 2022, the AEHA devised the AEHA Priority Plan, which seeks to guide the long-term goals of the framework and identifies its key challenges and priorities.

Year Proposed: 2017

Date Launched: July 2018

Number of Parties: 78

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Educators
- Government authorities
- Healthcare professionals
- Hospitals/healthcare centers
- Medical device industry
- Patient communities
- Third parties/distributors
- Industry associations

Parties

- Arthroplasty Society of Australia
- Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia
- Audiology Australia
- Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery
- Australasian College of Dermatologists
- Australasian College of Health Service Management
- Australasian College of Paramedicine
- Australasian College of Phlebology
- Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians
- Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group
- Australasian Sleep Association
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy
- Australian and New Zealand Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
- Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine

- Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons
- Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group Ltd
- Australian College of Nursing
- Australian Dental Association
- Australian Hand Surgery Society
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
- Australian Knee Society
- Australian Medical Association
- Australian Orthopaedic Association
- Australian Orthopaedic Association Medico Legal Society
- Australian Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society
- Australian Orthopaedic Trauma Society
- Australian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society
- Australian Patients Association
- Australian Private Hospitals Association
- Australian Society of Anaesthetists
- Australian Society of Ophthalmologists
- Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
- Australian Traditional Medicine Society
- Breast Cancer Trials
- Bupa
- Complementary Medicines Australia
- Consumer Healthcare Products Australia
- Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- Cosmetic Physicians College of Australasia
- Day Hospitals Australia
- Gastroenterological Society of Australia
- General Surgeons Australia
- Macular Disease Foundation of Australia
- Medical Technology Association of Australia

- Medicines Australia
- Medihost Solutions
- Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Limited
- Musculoskeletal Australia
- National Prescribing Service (NPS) Medicinewise
- National Rural Health Alliance
- Neurosurgical Society of Australasia
- Nile Health
- Painaustralia
- PANDIS
- Praxis Australia
- Private Healthcare Australia
- Rare Voices Australia
- Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
- Shoulder and Elbow Society of Australia
- Skin Cancer College
- Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
- Spine Society of Australia
- St Vincent's Health Australia
- The Australian Pain Society
- The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Universities Australia
- Urological Society of Australia & New Zealand

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Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA) continued

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

The ACF received government endorsement from the Federal Minister for Health and all state health ministers. This endorsement was key to the early adoption of the Framework for many of AEHA's initial signatories.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

Since the formation of the ACF, an informal alliance – the Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA) – was formed (April 2019) as the leading body to guide the implementation of the ACF. Membership consists of those member organisations who are signatories to the ACF. AEHA believes that this governance structure allows AEHA to best progress the goals of the alliance. Through the Alliance, AEHA seeks to facilitate ethical behaviour at the organisational level, provide general guidance to organisations, and encourage and monitor the evaluation of activities related to the principles outlined in the ACF.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

An AEHA Steering Committee was formed in July 2019, where 14 members (expanded from the original 10 in the ACF leadership team) were appointed, representing all healthcare sectors. The Committee is governed by a Terms of Reference. The Steering Committee is required to convene at least twice a year, but have consistently met quarterly to progress the goals of the Alliance.

Decisions made by the Steering Committee are by consensus. Where the Steering Committee is unable to reach agreement on any matter, or the issue at hand is considered to be fundamental to the direction or operation of AEHA, the matter is referred to all member organisations for a final decision.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

The Australian Ethical Health Alliance has a vision to achieve an equitable, sustainable and ethical health system that advances the health, wellbeing and interests of patients, communities and the healthcare sector.

The purpose of the Alliance is to promote collaboration and interaction among healthcare sector organisations and those who work within them that fosters equity and that benefits patients, consumers, students, educators, communities, populations, healthcare systems and the healthcare sector. AEHA also aims to enhance the integrity and trustworthiness of organisations in the healthcare sector, and promote public confidence and trust in healthcare sector organisations by demonstrating a shared commitment to integrity and ethics.

More broadly, AEHA aims to encourage dialogue about ethics and equity in healthcare with a global reach.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

Since the 2020 APEC Report, an AEHA Priority Plan 2022–2024 was developed that clearly articulates AEHA's vision, purpose and key areas of focus. Through the curation of this plan, AEHA was able to identify the challenges and priorities that AEHA's member organisations saw needed advancing, and outlined actionable priorities with clearly-defined deliverables and measures. Many of the priorities articulated in the 2020 APEC Report are long-term goals and, while progress has been made in many areas, these goals continue to be reflected within the AEHA Priority Plan.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

One of the largest challenges has been navigating continued engagement with members through changing leadership. To advance ethical practice, leaders and their organisations must be willing to adopt organisational frameworks and structures that are consistent with the ACF's ethical values and virtues. Continued education and communication with member stakeholders is vital to the ongoing success of AEHA and the implementation of the ACF. For this reason, 'Advocacy and awareness' is a key pillar in the AEHA Priority Plan and a large focus of the Alliance for the immediate future.



Canadian Consensus Framework

The Canadian Consensus Framework includes 8 signing parties. Though the government is not currently a signing member to the Canadian Consensus Framework, it has specifically engaged on issues such as patient organization participation. It is currently defining the best governance model for the framework; however, its decisions are made based on equal voting power from all parties. In 2022, the Canadian Consensus Framework will prioritize modernizing its governance structure, align its agreement document with the APEC Kuala Lumpur & APEC Mexico City Principles, as well as develop a sound communication strategy to elevate its work externally.

Year Proposed: 2015

Date Launched: June 2016

Number of Parties: 8

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Patient organizations
- Healthcare professional groups (physicians, nurses and pharmacists)
- Industry associations (biopharmaceutical, medical technology, consumer health products and food products)

Parties

- Best Medicines Coalition
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Nurses Associations
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Food, Health and Consumer Products Canada
- Health Charities Coalition of Canada
- Innovative Medicines Canada
- MedTech Canada

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

The government within various departments have been engaged in the framework over the years and were especially supportive of patient participation in the 2019 APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum. The government is not a signing member to the framework but participates on an ad-hoc basis.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Canadian Consensus Framework is currently working on defining a governance model. At the core, the membership is looking to develop a governance structure that is: principle based, employs a shared leadership model, is anchored with an

effective communications strategy, has a clear decision-making process and has a sustainability plan.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

The core decisions of the consensus framework are arrived at by consensus. All members of the consensus framework meet 3-4 times a year, however various working groups meet in between meetings to advance the workplan for the consensus framework.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Enhance credibility and encourage better dialogue, trust and respect between patient organizations, health care professionals and the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.
- Increase public confidence in health care professionals, institutions, the healthcare system and the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.
- Create an environment for patient organizations, health care professionals and industry to have authentic discussions about improving health care and patient outcomes.
- Identify and develop the business case for adopting/joining the consensus framework.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

The Canadian Consensus Framework's primary goal was to modernize its governance structure to foster collaboration and strengthen stakeholder trust. Aligned with its governance modernization was the opportunity to conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify additional

signatories and/or endorsers of the framework. To help advance these goals, The Framework applied to the Basel Institute on Governance for their Mentoring Program and was accepted into the program in 2022.

As part of the Vision 2025 Action plan, the Framework's members are keen to update the framework document to see a marriage of language of the APEC Mexico City and Kuala Lumpur Principles throughout the document as the Framework membership spans both the biopharmaceutical and medical devices sectors. This work is in progress.

Education is important to the Framework's members and as such, many members collaborated with government to deliver the first ever LEIP (Leaders in Ethics and Integrity Program) in Canada in May 2021.

A key goal for the Framework is to convene stakeholders to draw linkages between the role that ethics has in shaping public policy, economic policy and health outcomes. Scheduling regular meetings and member participation at these meetings will help to advance this goal.

In 2021 the Framework wrapped up a listening exercise that included interviews with all members and outlined a path forward.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

Building and sustaining momentum is always a concern. There has been a turnover in leadership in some of the founding partners. With so many priorities emerging in health it can be a challenge to secure space on the calendar.

A communications strategy - both external and internal are needed to elevate the work of the Framework and articulate common approaches to ethical concerns.



Chilean Consensus Framework

**results taken from the 2020 Status Report*

The Chilean Consensus Framework is unique in that it is led by a government body. It is led by the Under-Secretariat for International Economic Affairs, in addition to an ad-hoc group of members responsible for advancing specific goals and tasks. It currently has 17 signing parties. The Chilean Consensus Framework seeks to meet on a bi-monthly basis, attract new signing organizations, and enhance public awareness for its work. It also hopes to align all of the Framework parties' Codes of Ethics.

Year Proposed: 2018

Date Launched: September 2019

Number of Parties: 17

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Medical device industry
- Third parties
- Distributors
- Patient organizations
- Healthcare professionals
- Government authorities
- Fundación Politopedia

Parties

- Alianza Chilena de Agrupaciones de Pacientes (ACHAP)
- Instituto de Salud Pública (ISP)
- Cámara Nacional de Laboratorios (CANALAB)
- Asociación Industrial de Laboratorios Farmacéuticos (ASILFA)
- Sociedad Científica de Dispositivos Médicos (SCDM)
- Cámara de Innovación Farmacéutica (CIF)
- Asociación Gremial de Dispositivos Médicos de Chile (ADIMECH)

- Asociación de Productores Locales de Medicamentos (PROLMED)
- Asociación de Proveedores de la Industria de la Salud (APIS)
- Fundación Politopedia Dueños de Farmacias de Chile (UNFACH)
- Asociación Gremial de Farmacias Independientes (AFFI)
- Federación de Enfermedades Poco Frecuente (FENPOF)
- Colegio de Enfermeras de Chile
- Asociación Chilena de Agrupaciones Oncológicas (ACHAGO)
- Asociación de Sociedades Científicas
- Médicas de Chile (ASOCIMED)
- Federación Chilena de Enfermedades Raras (FECHER)

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

Government authorities are involved in the Chilean Consensus Framework.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Chair is led by the Under-Secretariat for international economic affairs (SUBREI) and ad-hoc groups of members to advance certain tasks.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Schedule additional Framework meetings. Dates and Type (virtual or in-person): Every 2-3 Weeks.
- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Align the Framework's parties' codes of ethics.
- Enhance public awareness of the Framework and the parties' commitment to ethical conduct.
- Gather additional signatories or endorsers of the Framework.
- Foster public-private coordination of Framework activities.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

The greatest challenge of the Framework is generating consensus towards a common ethical standard as well as enhancing awareness and considering patient needs during the decision-making process among stakeholders.



Chinese Consensus Framework

The Chinese Consensus Framework, launched in 2018, has an informal structure of members and is primarily led by its signing industry associations. Its members are responsible for advancing different tasks assigned to them. The Chinese Consensus Framework seeks to promote better dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations.

Year Proposed: 2017

Date Launched: July 2018

Number of Parties: 25

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Medical device industry
- Third parties / distributors
- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Hospital / healthcare centers

Parties

- China Pharmaceutical Industry Association (CPIA)
- China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products (CCCMHPIE)
- R&D-based Pharmaceutical Association Committee of China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment (RDPAC)
- China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM)
- China Pharmaceutical Innovation and Research Development Association (PhIRDA)
- China Association of Pharmaceutical Commerce (CAPC)
- China Nonprescription Medicines Association (CNMA)
- Chinese Hospital Association (CHA)
- China Pharmaceutical Enterprises Development Promote Association (CPEP)
- China Association for Medical Devices Industry (CAMDI)
- China Medicinal Biotech Association (CMBA)
- China National Pharmaceutical Packaging Association (CNPPA)
- China Pharmaceutical Association of Plant Engineering (CPAPE)
- China Biochemical Pharmaceutical Industry Association (CBPIA)
- Chinese Non-government Medical Institutions Association (CNMIA)
- PSM Foundation
- Beijing Pharmaceutical Profession Association (BPPA)
- Shanghai Pharmaceutical Profession Association (SPPA)
- Hebei Pharmaceutical Profession Association (HBPPA)
- Shandong Pharmaceutical Profession Association (SDPPA)
- Jiangsu Pharmaceutical Profession Association (JSPPA)
- Shaanxi Pharmaceutical Profession Association (SPPA)
- Liaoning Pharmaceutical Profession Association (LNPPA)
- Fujian Pharmaceutical Profession Association (FJPPA)
- Zhejiang Pharmaceutical Industry Association (ZJPIA)

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

Government authorities are not involved in the Chinese consensus framework.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Chinese Consensus Framework has an informal structure with CPIA, CCCMHPIE, PhIRDA, and RDPAC serving a leadership role in consensus framework meeting organization as well as related activities, such as the annual China Consensus Framework survey and report.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Align the Framework's parties' codes of ethics.
- Promote public confidence and trust in the health system.
- Enhance public awareness of the Framework and the parties' commitment to ethical conduct.
- Foster public-private coordination of Framework activities.



Japanese Consensus Framework (Tokyo Consensus Framework)

The Japanese Consensus Framework is governed by an independent Secretariat and an equal partner structure. It has significant support from the Japanese government, including the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare as a signing member, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as a supporter. In 2022, it seeks to enhance its communication strategy and develop capacity building activities for increased patient engagement.

Year Proposed: 2018

Date Launched: July 2018

Number of Parties: 8

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Patient organizations
- Healthcare professionals
- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Medical device industry
- Government authorities

Parties

- Japan Patients Association
- Japan Federation of Cancer Patient Groups
- Japanese Nursing Association
- The Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations of Japan
- The Japan Federation of Medical Devices Associations
- Japan Pharmaceutical Association
- Japan Medical Association
- Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

- Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare: Member
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Update status report

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Japanese Consensus Framework has an independent secretariat in which all members are of equal status.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

The consensus structure of the Japanese Consensus Framework has an equal structure of members. Meetings take place twice a year.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

The 2022 goals of the Japanese Consensus Framework are to fully implement the four principles stipulated in the Japanese Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration and sustain “patient-first” society.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

The Japanese Consensus Framework has achieved mainly three items. First, all members shared their own ethical principles with other members. Second, all members contributed to review the amendments to the APEC Kuala Lumpur Principles and the APEC Mexico City Principles. Finally, the Consensus Framework shared its activities with other APEC economies as part of the sessions at the APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum in July 2021.



Mexico Agreement for Transparency

**results taken from the 2020 Status Report*

The Mexico Agreement for Transparency, launched in 2007, is composed of 13 signing parties. The Mexico Agreement for Transparency is led by the General Council of Health, responsible for a committee of one representative per signing party. It seeks to enhance awareness of the work of the Agreement and align ethical priorities between stakeholders.

Year Proposed: 2007

Date Launched: October 2007

Number of Parties: 13

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Medical device industry
- Hospitals/healthcare centers
- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Healthcare professionals
- Government authorities
- National Commission of Bioethics
- Universities / medicine schools

Parties

- Academia Nacional de Medicina de México
- Cámara Nacional de la Industria Farmacéutica en México
- Comisión Nacional de Bioética
- Consejo de Ética y Transparencia de la Industria Farmacéutica
- Academia Mexicana de Cirugía
- Academia Mexicana de Pediatría
- Colegio Médico de México

- Asociación Nacional de Hospitales Privados
- Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Escuela Superior de Medicina, Instituto Politécnico Nacional
- Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social
- Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado
- Secretaría de Salud

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

Secretaría de Salud

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Head of the agreement is the General Council of Health. This entity has a follow-up committee that consists of one representative from each signatory who is in charge of promoting compliance, identifying deviations, and suggesting appropriate measures to correct them.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Enhance the integrity and credibility of organizations in the healthcare sector.
- Promote public confidence and trust in the health system.
- Enhance public awareness of the Framework and the parties' commitment to ethical conduct.
- Gather additional signatories or endorsers of the Framework.
- Foster public-private coordination of Framework activities.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

Follow-up for the parties has slowed because there are new public officials in government, therefore it will require more time to resume this mechanism.



New Zealand Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Health Sector

Launched in 2021, the New Zealand Consensus Framework is the newest consensus framework in the APEC region. It has implemented a biopharmaceutical industry and healthcare practitioners public transparency reporting mechanism, focused on engaging and improving patient health outcomes. It has also created supply chain integrity workstreams in partnership with the New Zealand government, as well as workstreams related to COVID-19 treatments and diagnostics. In 2022, it looks forward to expanding its membership and engagement with the New Zealand government following the economy's health system reforms.

Year Proposed: 2020

Date Launched: September 2021

Number of Parties: 8

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Industry associations
- Healthcare professional groups

Parties

- Medical Technology Association of New Zealand (MTANZ)
- Medicines New Zealand (MNZ)
- New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA)
- New Zealand Nurses Organization (NZNO)/ Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki O Aotearoa
- New Zealand Orthopedic Association (NZOA)
- New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association
- Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand
- Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

New Zealand Government authorities (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade) were engaged in support role capacities during the formation and finalization of the Framework.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The governance structure of the New Zealand Consensus Framework is a roundtable of equal status partners with a rotating secretariat function.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

The consensus structure of the New Zealand Consensus Framework requires open and frank dialogue and the achievement of consensus among all members for issues of importance. Sub-groups of stakeholders can also be formed. Agreement of activities required to enact decisions.

Sub-groups of Stakeholders have met on 7 occasions (October 2021 x 2, November 2021 x 2, February 2022, March 2022 x 2) to advance agreed goals and activities relating to Framework objectives.

One full stakeholders meeting (27 September 2021). Stakeholders have not been able to hold a full meeting due to time pressures relating to both COVID-19 pandemic and the Government-initiated reform programme of the entire New Zealand public health system.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the New Zealand healthcare system.
- Promote public confidence, credibility and trust in organizations working with/within the New Zealand healthcare system, by demonstrating a shared commitment to integrity, transparency & ethics.
- Create an environment for patient organizations and the organizations working with/within the healthcare system to have authentic discussions about improving healthcare and supporting equitable patient outcomes.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

Since initiation of the Framework in New Zealand all goals outlined are still live and in progress. However, a number of activities have been successfully initiated/actioned:

- Co-creation and implementation of biopharmaceutical Industry – healthcare practitioners public Transfers of Value (Transparency) reporting mechanism. Goal was and is to show transparency of engagement and the focus of such engagement on improving patient health outcomes.
- Supply chain integrity workstreams during COVID-19 to ensure open dialogue on issues and potential solutions with supply of health interventions (medicines, PPE, devices, diagnostics), which can then be discussed with New Zealand Government. This allowed clear two-way communication channels to be established.
- Workstreams on COVID-19- specific treatments/diagnostics and then global and domestic distribution to ensure open dialogue on issues and potential solutions which were then escalated by stakeholders with the New Zealand. This allowed clear two-way communication channels to be established.

Greatest Challenges of the Consensus Framework

- Development of suitable activities/goals for all signatories.
- Attracting new members to framework.
- Engagement with Government officials slowed due to health system reforms.



Peruvian Consensus Framework

The Peruvian Consensus Framework consists of 22 signing parties. In 2022, the Peruvian Consensus Framework is seeking to reinvigorate momentum for its work, meet more frequently, and gain additional recognition from the Government of Peru.

Year Proposed: 2016

Date Launched: 2016

Number of Parties: 22

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Medical device industry
- Third parties / distributors
- Patient organizations
- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Healthcare professionals
- Government authorities
- Pharmacy associations
- Clinical associations

Parties

- Dirección General de Medicamentos, Insumos y Drogas- DIGEMID
- Superintendencia Nacional de Salud- SUSALUD
- Centro Nacional de Abastecimiento de Recursos Estratégicos en SaludCENARES
- Comisión de Alto Nivel Anticorrupción Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros
- Sociedad de Comercio Exterior del Perú - COMEX Perú
- Asociación de Industrias Farmacéuticas Nacionales- ADIFAN
- Confederación Nacional de Instituciones Empresariales Privadas- CONFIEP

- Comité de Productos para la Salud- COMSALUD –Cámara de Comercio de Lima
- Asociación Nacional de Laboratorios Farmacéuticos- ALAFARPE
- Asociación de Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Latinoamericanos- ALAFAL
- Asociación Nacional de Cadenas de Boticas -ANACAB
- Colegio Médico del Perú
- Colegio Químico Farmacéutico del Perú
- Asociación de Clínicas Particulares del Perú ESPERANTRA
- Asociación PROSA
- Asociación Benéfica PRISMA
- Servicio de Medicinas PROVIDA
- Red Peruana de Pacientes y Usuarios
- Sociedad Peruana de Farmacia Hospitalaria
- Acción Internacional para la Salud- AIS
- MeTA Peru

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The organizational structure is led by DIGEMID with the participation of the other members.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Promote ethics development ecosystems in the health sector
- Promote the participation of other stakeholders involved in the health sector, actively

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

After COVID, the frequency meetings regarding this topic has been diminished.

Greatest Challenges of the Consensus Framework

- Prioritization of the Government on Ethics promotion with the health actors.
- There is a need to increase the number of meetings and involve the Ministry of Health and the Prime Minister.



Philippines Consensus Framework

The Philippines Consensus Framework has 20 signing parties. It seeks to increase government participation, as well as the number of members for the consensus framework. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a challenge in terms of the frequency of meetings, the Philippines Consensus Framework is dedicated to advancing ethical business conduct goals in its economy.

Year Proposed: 2018

Date Launched: 2020

Number of Parties: 20

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Industry associations
- Hospitals/providers
- Patient organizations
- Healthcare professional groups

Parties

- Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations (PAPO)
- Philippine Medical Association (PMA)
- Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA)
- Philippine Nurses Association (PNA)
- Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)
- Association of Nursing Service Administrators of the Philippines (ANSAP)
- Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)
- Philippine Association of Medical Device Regulatory Affairs Professionals (PAMDRAP)
- Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)
- Region 1 Medical Center (R1MC)
- Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center
- Tondo Medical Center
- Navotas City Hospital
- Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC)
- Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC)
- Philippine Hospitals Association (PHA)
- Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research & Medical Center
- Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center
- Healthcare Technology Association of the Philippines (HTAP)
- Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

There is no government involvement in the Philippines Consensus Framework.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The Philippines Consensus Framework's ideal structure is to have the government involvement along with the signatories. Committees can also be created to ensure full promotion of the Consensus Framework internally and externally.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

Consensus is reached by seeking inputs/ comments to be followed by consolidation and consideration for final approval. With the pandemic, there has been no meeting held.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

Since 2018, signatories to the Consensus Framework in the Philippines adopted the Principles of the “**Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration Between Patients’ Organizations, Healthcare Professionals, and the Pharmaceutical Industry**” in support of high-quality patient care. This consensus framework was developed in 2014 by global umbrella organizations namely the International Alliance of Patient Organizations (IAPO), World Medical Association (WMA), International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA), and International Pharmaceutical Federation (IPF).

The Philippine Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration is an initiative being pushed forward by economy counterparts of the abovementioned reputable global healthcare organizations. It is also being advocated by hospital and health services organizations and non-government organizations highly committed to the health

of Filipinos. Its goal is to put patients at the center of all efforts through the advancement of ethical principles. The Framework seeks to establish a culture of trust in the government, healthcare community, business sector, and ultimately, the economy.

It is to be emphasized that the Framework is not a code and has no compliance mechanisms. It does not replace any existing laws or Government guidelines. Instead, it is voluntary and principles-based commitment to support ethical conduct across the organizations from government, to private sector, not-for-profit groups, healthcare professionals and providers, and patient associations.

The Philippines Consensus Framework believes that there is no better time than today to finalize the Philippine Consensus Framework as the healthcare sector is placed at the center of global attention. During this period, patients will also need to trust and be fully served by the healthcare ecosystem. Maintaining dialogue and scientific exchange founded on ethical collaboration will be important to effectively and urgently respond to COVID-19 and other health emergencies.

During this health crisis, everyone is expected to act with integrity. Acting with integrity in this time of the pandemic will help us navigate this uncharted territory. Beyond the pandemic, we believe that all actions will be measured, and even remembered, on how each organization advanced integrity.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

The participation of government in the promotion of the Consensus Framework is still an aspiration. Increasing its membership base is also in progress.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

The pandemic has sidetracked initiatives to promote the consensus framework to government and other stakeholders.



Viet Nam Consensus Framework

The Viet Nam Consensus Framework has an informal structure of equal signing parties. One organization in particular serves as the Secretariat to help advance the consensus framework's activities. In 2022, it looks forward to enhancing its communication strategies with external stakeholders and promote collaboration across the health system.

Year Proposed: 2017

Date Launched: 2017

Number of Parties: 9

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Medical Device Industry
- Patient Organizations
- Biopharmaceutical Industry
- Healthcare Professionals
- Additional Stakeholders Not Listed

Parties

- Viet Nam Medical Association
- Viet Nam Women Union
- Vietnamese Pharmaceutical Association
- Viet Nam Pharmaceutical Companies Association
- Viet Nam Medical Equipment Association
- Healthcare Committee, American Chamber of Commerce in Viet Nam
- Pharma Group, EuroCham
- International Quality Medicines - Generic & Biosimilar (formerly International Quality Generics Sector Committee), EuroCham
- Medical Devices and Diagnostics, EuroCham

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

The Viet Nam government is involved in the Viet Nam Consensus Framework as a supporter.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The governance structure of the Framework consists of an informal structure of equal parties. The Pharma Group serves as de facto secretariat for consensus framework sessions and activities.

Consensus Structure of the Consensus Framework

The consensus framework reaches decisions by the rule of majority of votes. The communication is mostly via email.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

The Framework aims to create a set of ethical standards to guide the collaboration amongst pharmaceutical and medical device enterprises and their respective industry associations,

healthcare professionals, patient organizations and Government authorities. It serves as a tool for these associations, groups and alliances who wish to develop their own policies.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Enhance the integrity and credibility of organizations in the healthcare sector.
- Promote public confidence and trust in the health system.
- Foster public-private coordination of Framework activities.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

The greatest challenge is securing commitments on a sustained basis with regular exchanges and updates among all the signatories.



International Consensus Framework

The International Consensus Framework has an equal partner governance structure and is governed by a rotating Secretariat between its members. The International Consensus Framework represents global industry associations, hospital centers, healthcare professionals, and patient organizations. Among its proudest achievements in 2022 is its engagement and escalation of issues to the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer level.

Year Proposed: 2013

Date Launched: January 2014

Number of Parties: 6

Stakeholder Participants by Type

- Patient organizations
- Hospitals / Healthcare Centers
- Biopharmaceutical industry
- Healthcare professionals

Parties

- World Medical Association
- International Alliance of Patient's Organizations (IAPO)
- International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- International Council of Nurses (ICN)
- International Hospital Federation (IHF)
- International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)

Government Involvement in Consensus Framework

There is no government involvement in the International Consensus Framework.

Governance Structure of the Consensus Framework

The governance structure of the International Consensus Framework consists of a roundtable of equal partners with a rotating secretariat.

Frequency of Consensus Framework Meetings

The International Consensus Framework meets every six to eight weeks.

2022 Goals of the Consensus Framework

- Promote better dialogue, collaboration and interaction among organizations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Align the Framework's parties' codes of ethics.
- Enhance the integrity and credibility of organizations in the healthcare sector.
- Promote public confidence and trust in the health system.
- Enhance public awareness of the Framework and the parties' commitment to ethical conduct.
- Gather additional signatories or endorsers of the Framework.

Progress Update on 2020 Priorities and Activities of the Consensus Framework

The principal alignment of the parties' codes has been achieved but there remains an ongoing effort as Codes are being continuously revised. All other goals are ongoing priorities that require continuous attention. In terms of signatories, the International Hospital Federation has moved its status from endorser to full

signatory partner in 2021. In 2021-2022, the Framework has elevated the discussions with the consensus framework partners to the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer level.

Greatest Challenge of the Consensus Framework

The International Consensus Framework is now part of the IFPMA Health Stakeholders Network. The integration into this larger discussion platform helps move things forward, but also sometimes dilutes the attention for ethical issues.



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