

OECD is top performer in its engagement with civil society, according to the 2006 *Global Accountability Project*, published by [One World Trust](#)

The OECD welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with the UK charity One World Trust in its preparation of its **2006 *Global Accountability Report***, an assessment of the overall accountability of 30 international organisations including intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and transnational corporations (TNCs). The OECD is one of seven organisations with an overall score of over 50 percent in three of the four areas used as criteria for measuring accountability.

The OECD began cooperating with One World Trust (1WT) in defining accountability in 2002 when it was one of 18 organisations (non-governmental, intergovernmental and corporate) to participate in the ***Global Accountability Project***, which laid the foundation for the 2006 ***Report***

As part of its mission to promote better world governance, One World Trust seeks practical ways to make global organisations more responsive to the people they affect, and to ensure that the rule of law can be applied equally to all. One World Trust defines accountability as the “*processes through which an organisation makes a commitment to respond to and balance the needs of stakeholders in its decision-making processes and activities, and delivers against this commitment.*” And it identifies four core accountability dimensions critical to managing accountability claims from both internal and external stakeholders: transparency; participation; evaluation and complaint/response mechanisms.

In the Report, the OECD emerged as “top performer” in the stakeholder engagement category with a score of over 70%. The OECD scored 80% (second highest) in participation -- an assessment of member equality in controlling the organisation and external stakeholder engagement. The OECD is among nine organisations that have an information disclosure policy that identifies what, when and how information will be disclosed and what the conditions for non-disclosure are (see [Council Resolution on the classification and de-classification of OECD documents](#)).

The OECD is one of six out of the ten participating IGOs to have organisation-wide documents that guide its engagement with civil society; one of five IGOs in the study to “commit to enabling external stakeholders to initiate engagement on issues of concern to them”; and one of four IGOs to “commit to communicate to external stakeholders before an engagement what the purpose of the engagement is and how much they will be able to influence the final decision.” The OECD’s lowest score was on handling complaints from external stakeholders *in the absence of a clear comprehensive document(s) that guides their approach.*

The 1WT report highlighted as *best practice* an internal OECD networking group of “civil society coordinators” and also cited the [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) .

Next steps

One World Trust will be evaluating a new set of 30 organisations in 2008, and two years from now will re-assess the same organisations as in the 2006 report. The OECD looks forward to cooperating with 1WT in this valuable and instructive enterprise.

For further information contact the [Civil Society Coordinator](#) at the OECD.