



OECD Partnerships

with international organisations

Last update: May 2006

WHY?

Through effective partnerships the OECD aims to carry the OECD's institutional and policy know-how to non-members and to ensure that non-members' views are appropriately included in OECD's global relations programme. Partnerships also improve the OECD's insight into other organisations' work and experience and thereby help avoid duplication of work.

HOW?

The form of this co-operation varies, depending on the issues and circumstances, from jointly financed activities or publications, through formal or informal participation in each other's events, to exchange of information and statistics.

▶ PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL OECD BODIES

An important form of co-operation is the participation of other organisations in the OECD policy dialogue, through, inter alia, observerships in **formal OECD bodies**. More than 70 organisations participate as observer in one or more OECD Committees and Working Groups. Some 30 organisations take part in selected OECD bodies as full members. Council decisions regarding observerships in OECD bodies are made on a case-by-case basis. Monitoring is ensured by the CCNM within the framework of its partnership mandate. Detailed information on the participation of international organisations in formal OECD bodies is available at [OECD's Online Guide to Intergovernmental Activity](#).

▶ PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The most elaborate mechanism by which the OECD co-ordinates its relationship with other international organisations is through partnership agreements signed with comparable organisations with which OECD has close and wide-ranging co-operation. While not legally binding, partnership agreements reaffirm the commitment by the leaders of both organisations to the ongoing co-operative efforts and state in concrete terms future priorities to give further focus to, and enhance co-operation between, the two organisations. The OECD has currently signed partnership agreements with five partner organisations: the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

▶ INFORMAL CO-OPERATION

Co-operation or partnerships with other organisations do not necessarily have to take form of an agreement or memorandum signed by both sides. More informal arrangements can also support fruitful collaboration: sharing information and experience, building networks of policy makers and resource persons, participating in other organisations' events, contributing to a specific publication, etc. Much co-operation is ad hoc. Some organisations are specialised in one area and principally co-operate with one or two OECD Directorates.

▶ CO-ORDINATION

The [OECD Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members \(CCNM\)](#) plays a key role in monitoring the development and implementation of OECD partnerships with international organisations. It ensures the transparency of ongoing initiatives and acts as clearing house for good practices across the OECD regarding co-operation with other organisations.

WHO?

The OECD co-operates closely with a large number of international organisations. Although a comprehensive list of activities or organisations with which co-operation is ongoing is outside the scope of this information sheet, some of OECD's key partners and other international organisations are presented in the following three categories:

- ▶ **OECD Partners** (WB, AfDB, IDB, WHO, UNCTAD)
Organisations with which the OECD has concluded partnership agreements;
- ▶ **Other Major International Organisations**
Organisations with which the OECD has established close and regular co-operation on various projects;
- ▶ **Advisory Committees to the OECD** (BIAC, TUAC).



[The World Bank](#)

The World Bank is a key partner for OECD's co-operation with non-members. It contributes its extensive in-country presence and its long experience with policy applications in widely different settings and across sectors. It is able to combine intellectual and financial support to its borrowers, engage in capacity building and help interpret their wider interests in the global debate. A "[Joint Statement on Co-operation](#)" was signed by the OECD Secretary-General and the World Bank President in January 2006, replacing its 2000 predecessor. It notes that the co-operation between the World Bank and the OECD has matured and become well established in a number of areas, including trade, corporate governance, debt management, pensions, taxation, and in the field of development assistance and highlights other following areas where the World Bank and the OECD should enhance their co-operation: agriculture, anti-corruption, competition, education, environmental sustainability/climate change, governance, health, insurance, investment, labour and employment, lagging regions (territorial development), migration and statistics. The World Bank participates as an observer in more than 30 OECD bodies and takes part as a full participant in the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices and the [International Tax Dialogue](#). It also provides strong support to OECD's [Global Forums](#) and [regional approaches](#) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.



[Asian Development Bank](#)

The "[Letter of Intent between the Asian Development Bank \(ADB\) and the OECD](#)" of March 2005 defines the guiding principles of the OECD-ADB partnership and outlines priority areas of co-operation with particular relevance for Asia. This partnership agreement was concluded following a series of joint OECD-ADB activities, such as the Business Tendency Surveys for Dynamic Asian Economies, the Eurasian Corporate Governance Roundtable or the [ADB-OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative](#), formalising co-operation between both organisations. ADB and OECD agreed to explore possibilities for effective collaboration on development challenges such as aid effectiveness, anti-corruption policies, corporate governance, local economic and employment development, environmental policies, capacity building, regulatory reform, competition law and policy and statistical capacity building. Partnership activities include joint organisation and sponsoring of seminars and conferences, information sharing and staff exchanges.



[Inter-American Development Bank](#)

In April 2003 the OECD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) signed a [Joint Statement of Priorities](#) aiming to develop further co-operation in the following priority areas: competition and regulatory policy; competitiveness and growth policies; trade integration and investment; private pensions, insurance and financial markets; labour legislation and employment policy; public governance and institutional strengthening; local financing and development policies; taxation; SME and entrepreneurship policies; information and communications technology, and anti-corruption. The IDB is strongly involved in OECD's regionally-focused policy dialogue and capacity building activities in [Latin America](#). For instance, the IDB provides support to the annual [Latin America Competition Forum](#) which will hold its fourth meeting in El Salvador on 11 and 12 July 2006. It also participates in the organisation of regional development forums in collaboration with the [OECD Development Centre](#). Moreover, the IDB is a full member of OECD's International Tax Dialogue, the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) Networks/Working Parties on development evaluation, gender equality, aid effectiveness and donor practices, and the [Local Economic and Employment Development \(LEED\) Programme](#).



[United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#)

The OECD and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) elaborated a "[Joint Statement of Priorities for OECD-UNCTAD Partnership](#)" in 2002 to work co-operatively on poverty reduction, trade and investment. The two organisations have accumulated considerable expertise on trade, investment and development policies in widely differing country contexts. While OECD has experience in building strong open economies, UNCTAD has a track record promoting development and integrating developing countries into the international trading system. The unifying theme for OECD-UNCTAD co-operation is to promote institutional and policy reforms to build a competitive domestic productive capacity for enhancing development and integration into the global trading system. UNCTAD participates as observer in the OECD Investment and Competition Committees and a number of trade-related OECD Working Parties.



[World Health Organization](#)

Since the first framework of co-operation between OECD and the World Health Organization (WHO) in December 1999, many joint projects have been successfully achieved. The revised "[Framework for Co-operation between OECD and WHO](#)", signed in November 2005, reinforces the initial partnership framework by establishing modalities for the joint planning and the co-ordination of joint work. It also identifies new priority areas for future co-operative efforts. In particular, the OECD and the WHO aim to strengthen their co-operation in the following four substantive areas: 1. Statistical Description of Health Systems; 2. Analysis of Health Systems, including their Financing and Efficiency; 3. Biotechnology, Food Safety, Chemicals Management; 4. Development Assistance. The WHO participates as observer in the OECD Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health and the Environment Policy Committee.

[African Development Bank](#)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the OECD have intensified their co-operation over the last decade, in particular in the framework of the OECD Development Cluster and [regionally focussed activities in Africa](#) in the context of NEPAD. The AfDB regularly participates in major OECD development events, activities and publications. The jointly published AfDB-OECD [African Economic Outlook \(AEO\)](#) is a good example of successful co-operation between the AfDB and the [OECD Development Centre](#). Combining the expertise of both organisations, the AEO provides comprehensive and comparable data and analysis of 30 African economies.

[Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation](#)

As the Asian-Pacific countries become major players in the global economy, OECD has strengthened its co-operation with APEC economies. Seven of the 21 APEC members are also member of the OECD. The two organisations share the same values, pursue similar objectives, and make agreements on the basis of consensus. OECD and APEC co-operate in the framework of joint conferences, seminars and [Global Forums](#) on topics such as international investment, security issues, digital economy, taxation, regulatory reform, trade facilitation, corporate governance, and developing small and medium-sized enterprises. OECD Secretary-General Donald Johnston presented a "Common APEC/OECD Agenda" at the [APEC-OECD Investment Opportunities meeting](#) in Korea in November 2005.

[Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

The Food Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the OECD share policy expertise in the areas of agricultural policies, agriculture and fisheries, market liberalisation, sustainable development, agri-environmental indicators, biotechnology in the agro-food sector, food safety and poverty reduction. Within the OECD, the FAO mainly co-operates with the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#), the [Agriculture in Emerging and Transition Economies Division](#) of the [OECD Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries](#) and the [Agriculture Unit of the Sahel and West Africa Club](#). Non-member policy reviews are closely co-ordinated to maximise complementary and to avoid duplication. The FAO participates as an observer in the OECD Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and various OECD Agriculture Schemes and Working Parties.

[International Labour Organization](#)

Co-operation with International Labour Organization (ILO) has traditionally taken place mainly with the [OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs](#), as they both aim to promote social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. While the ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights, the [OECD's Non-Members and International Migration Division](#) reviews labour market and social policies in selected non-member economies, including Eastern/Central European economies, Brazil, China and Chile. The ILO has regularly contributed to OECD's labour-related publications and facilitated the organisation of events such as the [2nd OECD Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise](#) in Istanbul. ILO also participates as observer in OECD's Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSA) and in the Working Parties on Migration, Social Policy, Statistics and the Role of Women in the Economy.

[International Monetary Fund](#)

The OECD co-operates with the International Monetary Fund mainly on policy areas such as financial regulations, international investment, fiscal affairs and tax issues. For example, the [International Tax Dialogue](#), a collaborative arrangement involving the IDB, IMF, OECD, UN and the World Bank, aims to encourage and facilitate discussion of tax matters among national tax officials, international organisations and other stakeholders. Moreover, the IMF has been an important partner for OECD's work on financial regulations and market efficiency, in particular in [European transition economies](#). Co-operation and information-sharing between OECD and IMF is facilitated through IMF's strong participation in [formal OECD bodies](#). The IMF takes part as a full member in the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices of the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) and participates as an observer in more than 30 OECD bodies.

[United Nations Development Programme](#)

UNDP has been a major partner in the OECD initiative on "[Policy Coherence for Development](#)" that explores ways to ensure that government policies are mutually supportive of the countries' development goals. UNDP has collaborated closely in a research project supporting this OECD initiative by conducting a regional case study on the policies of OECD countries and their impact on Asian developing economies. UNDP also actively co-operates in [OECD's regional anti-corruption initiatives](#). These include analytical peer review processes that assess gaps in domestic anti-bribery legislation and practice and that identify technical assistance needs. Moreover, UNDP participates as observer in various networks and working parties of the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#).



[United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is an important partner for OECD's [regionally focused activities in Africa](#). The UNECA/OECD-DAC Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in the context of NEPAD monitors performance and identifies good practice among African countries as regards governance and capacity building, and among OECD countries as regards ODA supply, aid effectiveness and policy coherence. UNECA also facilitates the organisation of regional events in Africa and participates in OECD conferences and roundtables on Africa's development challenges. UNECA shares information and local knowledge with the [African Economic Outlook team](#) of the [OECD Development Centre](#) and the [African Development Bank](#), the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#), the [Sahel and West Africa Club](#) and will co-operate with OECD's newly established [Africa Partnership Forum Support Unit](#). UNECA is a full member of the DAC Network on Governance.



[United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#)

A solid co-operation has been built with UNESCO over years through joint projects like the [World Education Indicators \(WEI\) programme](#), the [Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century Consortium \(Paris21\)](#), several policy reviews of early childhood education and care policy in non-member economies (Indonesia, Kenya, Brazil and China), jointly established guidelines on the quality in the provision of cross-border education and co-operation on gender issues. UNESCO supports the work of [OECD's Directorate for Education \(EDU\)](#), in particular the [Division on Non-Member Economies](#), by actively contributing to various EDU activities, regional events and the [OECD Global Forum on Education](#). UNESCO also participates as an observer in the OECD Working Party of National Experts on Sciences and Technology Indicators (NESTI).



[World Trade Organization](#)

The OECD's programme of work in the trade area often included issues that will be negotiated in future in the WTO or that are too contentious to be analysed there. Some examples of this are work on tariffs, non-tariff barriers, special and differential treatment, trade, debt, and finance and structural adjustment. In some instances, OECD's policy dialogue and expert meetings directly feed into WTO negotiations. In the area of trade capacity building, OECD and WTO jointly established the [Doha Development Agenda Trade Capacity Building Database \(TCBDB\)](#) in November 2002. The [2005 joint WTO/OECD Report on Trade-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building](#) identifies main trends in technical assistance and capacity building programmes and analyses their effectiveness. The WTO participates as observer in various OECD Committees (agriculture, competition, economic and development review, environment policy, investment and trade) and many trade-related Working Parties.



ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE OECD



[Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD](#)

BIAC was created in March 1962 as an independent organisation officially recognised by the OECD as being representative of the OECD business community. BIAC's members are the major industrial and employers' organisations in the [30 OECD member countries](#) and three non-members (India, Latvia and Russia). Via its 34 standing Committees and Policy Groups, BIAC mirrors all economic policy issues the OECD covers, and their impacts on both member and an increasing number of non-member countries like the Russian Federation and China. BIAC's main objectives are to: (i) positively influence the direction of OECD policy initiatives; (ii) ensure business and industry needs are adequately addressed in OECD policy decision instruments; (iii) provide members with timely information on OECD policies and their implications for business and industry. More than 1 500 business representatives are actively involved in the work of the OECD through BIAC.



[Trade Union Advisory Committee](#)

The Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD is an interface for trade unions with the OECD. It is an international trade union organisation which has consultative status with the OECD and its various Committees. TUAC's role is to help ensure that global markets are balanced by an effective social dimension. Through regular consultations with various OECD Committees, the Secretariat, and member governments TUAC co-ordinates and represents the views of the trade union movement in the industrialised countries. It is also responsible for co-ordinating the trade union input to the annual G8 economic summits and employment conferences.