

PROGRAMME

Online meeting of the OECD Global Parliamentary Network

in partnership with Women Political Leaders (WPL)

Thursday 1 October

- 13.00 – 13.05 **Welcome remarks**
Anthony Gooch, Director for Public Affairs and Communications, OECD
- 13.05 – 13.15 **Message from OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría**
- 13.15 – 14.45 **What a strong health system means now**
Francesca Colombo, Head of the Health Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Discussant: Ricardo Baptista Leite, Member of Parliament, Portugal, Founding President of 'UNITE – Global Parliamentarians Network to End HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases'

The COVID-19 global pandemic has had a huge impact on the health of populations worldwide. It has exposed major vulnerabilities in health systems, and tested their resilience. This session will explore early lessons for stronger health systems. It will discuss the need for greater investment in population health and disease prevention to reduce vulnerabilities in disadvantaged population groups. Health systems ability to rapidly scale-up screening, invest in health workforces, and strengthen primary health care and mental health services will be key. Building more resilient health systems for the future will also require greater ability to share and use granular and timely data, agility in managing health system response, and renewed efforts for collaboration within and across countries.

- 14.45 – 15.00 Break
- 15.00 – 16.30 **Learning from international education responses to the crisis**
Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General, OECD

Discussant: Mojca Škrinjar, National Assembly, Slovenia

The pandemic has exposed the many inequities in our education systems - from the broadband and computers needed for online education, through the supportive environments needed to focus on learning, up to our failure to attract talented teachers to the most challenging classrooms. But as these inequities are amplified in this time of crisis, this moment also holds the possibility that we won't return to the status quo when things get back to "normal". Where school closures are needed in the short term, we can mitigate their impact for learners, families and educators,

particularly for those in the most marginalised groups. We can collaborate internationally to mutualise open online educational resources and digital learning platforms, and encourage technology companies to join this effort. We can rapidly enhance digital learning opportunities for teachers and encourage teacher collaboration beyond borders. And we can use the momentum to reshape curricula and learning environments to the needs of the 21st century.

Friday 2 October

13.00– 14.45

A tightrope walk to recovery - Economy & Employment

Laurence Boone, *Chief Economist, Head of the Economics Department and Special Counsellor to the Secretary-General, OECD*

Stefano Scarpetta, *Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD*

Discussants:

Luděk Niedermayer, *Member of the European Parliament, Czech Republic*

Lina Galvez Muñoz, *Member of the European Parliament, Spain*

The COVID-19 pandemic is the largest health, economic and social shock to the global economy since the Second World War. Despite containment and mitigation policies severely affecting social and economic activities, initial government responses were rapid, impressive and appropriate. However, in an environment of high uncertainty they now face crucial and urgent policy decisions to continue supporting workers, their families and companies.

The session will cover the global economic outlook and how to foster an inclusive and sustainable recovery, provide support to the vulnerable and minimise long-term joblessness, income loss and scarring of individuals and economies.

Through a first assessment of the initial labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis and of countries' wide set of policy responses, it will also explore how countries could adapt the measures taken in the first months of the crisis during the gradual reopening of the economy in a context in which we still have to coexist with the virus.

14.45 – 15.00

Break

15.00– 16.30

Business and Financial Outlook: Stabilising finances and fostering business & SME resilience

Greg Medcraft, *Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD*

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, *Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD*

Discussant: Alexander Kulitz, Member of Parliament, Germany

Governments around the world have made commitments to a “green recovery” from the COVID-19 pandemic. Public resources are already being mobilised to this end – but private sector financing and business activities, too, must engender a more

resilient and sustainable recovery. While many industries are considering environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in investment decision-making, investors lack readily available, verifiable, comparable data to judge ESG performance and direct capital accordingly.

This session will take stock of what financial markets can deliver to support sustainability outcomes, and what policy makers can do to make ESG investing more efficient and fairer. It will also provide an early look at new OECD work on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and on government policy responses.

16.30 – 16.45

Closing remarks

Anthony Gooch, *Director for Public Affairs and Communications, OECD*