

Shaping our future at the tech frontier

The OECD Global Forum on Technology: inaugural event

6 June 2023 | OECD Conference Centre

The world faces unprecedented challenges in health, food, climate change, biodiversity, security, and the economy. While scientific and technological developments are at the heart of future solutions, they also pose risks for human welfare, societies and the environment and raise questions about the position of the human at the tech frontier.

To face these mounting global challenges, boost productivity, generate efficiencies, and create economic and social opportunities, a better collective understanding of major technological advancements and the disruptions they may bring is of critical global interest. Disruptive technological advancement can contribute to many spheres of human activity – whether work, education, online communication – but can also erode social cohesion, contribute to inequality, and threaten security and human rights. Linking these developments to public policy is needed to put people at the centre of this global drive for technological solutions and opportunities and promote responsible technology development and deployment.

This inaugural event of the OECD Global Forum on Technology (GFT), held in the margins of the OECD meeting of the Council at Ministerial level, will track three enduring cross-cutting themes for the development of responsible and values-based technology: 1) how can a more responsible and rights-oriented technology development and deployment be ensured, 2) how can emerging technologies foster resilient societies and better address climate change, and 3) how can technology policy better anticipate and bridge digital and technological divides. Bringing together a broad range of country and stakeholder perspectives, this inaugural event will seek to identify and elaborate core questions and open pathways for continuing, inclusive dialogue and action to anticipate and respond to the opportunities and risks technology development brings.

The event will be moderated by a master of ceremonies, Mr. Gareth J. Mitchell, Lecturer: Science Communication Unit, Imperial College London. Following opening remarks and a high-level policy panel, participants will be invited to break into three groups to discuss, under Chatham House rule, the cross-cutting themes above. The afternoon will be dedicated to deep dives of two specific technologies: immersive technologies and synthetic biology. A closing plenary will draw insights from the day to feed into future activities of the Forum.

Participation in this event is by invitation and in person only. However, the opening plenary (9:30-10:45) and closing plenary (17:30-18:00) will be livestreamed on the [webpage](#) of the Global Forum on Technology.

Please contact gfttech@oecd.org for any questions.

REVISED AGENDA

Registration (8:30-9:30)

Plenary session: Opening (9:30-10:45) (CC1)

09:30-09:45

Opening remarks ▶ [Livestream](#)

- **Mathias Cormann**, Secretary-General, OECD
- **Chloe Smith**, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, United Kingdom

09:45-10:45

High-level panel: Shaping our future at the tech frontier ▶ [Livestream](#)

- **Moderator: Chloe Smith**, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, United Kingdom
- **Carne Artigas**, Secretary of State for Digital Transformation and AI, Spain
- **Jose W. Fernandez**, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, United States
- **Valeriya Ionan**, Deputy Minister for Eurointegration at the Ministry of Digital Transformation, Ukraine (video intervention)
- **Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

Coffee break (10:45-11:15)

Breakout sessions (11:15-12:30)

Breakout 1: Responsible, values-based and rights-oriented technology (CC2)

There is broad agreement that technology development and deployment should reflect shared values associated with democracies and open societies, such as liberty, open and trusted markets, pluralism and the protection of human rights. The complexity of embedding these values in the innovation process poses significant challenges for technologists and policy makers alike. In this breakout session, participants will discuss:

- How can emerging technologies be developed and deployed in a way that is ethical, accountable, protects and promotes human rights, including privacy, and advances shared values?
- How can we anticipate and understand the impact of technological development on societies and economies? How can governments and stakeholders pool their knowledge and perspectives to bring about desired technological futures?
- What are potential gaps or pitfalls in existing policy and regulatory frameworks?

Chair: Nita A. Farahany, Robinson O. Everett Distinguished Professor of Law & Philosophy, Duke Law School

Scene-setter (5min): Song Sanghoon, Director General of ICT Policy Bureau, Ministry of Science and ICT, Korea

Opening perspective (5min): Kei Koizumi, Principal Deputy Director for Policy for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, United States

Opening perspective (5min): Elina Noor, Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Breakout 2: Emerging technologies to address climate change and foster resilient societies (CC4)

Climate change, and related critical risks stemming from drought and extreme events, have been described as the greatest global challenge of our time. Likewise, threats to our oceans and biodiversity endanger not only ecosystems but livelihoods across the planet. Emerging technologies are fostering critical transitions in agrifood, mobility, and energy systems and have the potential to help realise a sustainable planet and more resilient societies, but this will also require attention to and active management of potential adverse impacts. In this breakout session, participants will discuss:

- How can emerging technologies foster green transitions? How can the environmental impacts of emerging technologies be managed and monitored?
- What lessons can we draw from different perspectives and experiences towards technology development to support a sustainable future?
- How can policies help leverage emerging technologies and drive sustainability transitions to enable all countries to benefit from technological development?

Chair: Kenneth Cukier, Deputy Executive Editor, The Economist

Scene-setter (5min): Shinichi Nakatani, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan

Opening perspective (5min): Giulia Gregori, Head of Strategic Planning and Corporate Communication, Novamont

Opening perspective (5min): Hila Cohen, Deputy Head, WFP Innovation Accelerator, United Nations World Food Programme

Breakout 3: Digital and technology divides (CC6)

Access to technologies and their building blocks, from connectivity to research infrastructures, vary across geographical regions, gender and age groups. These divides can hinder socially relevant and just technology innovation and outcomes. This session frames these divides not only in terms of access to technology and infrastructure but also of the capacity of individuals and societies to innovate. In this breakout session, participants will discuss:

- How to ensure inclusive development and implementation of digital and emerging technology?
- How can policy help incentivise and shape inclusive platforms for collaboration and co-creation among relevant actors and countries – such as knowledge-producers, entrepreneurs, co-owners and research participants?
- How has the breakthrough of emerging economies to the vanguard of technological change shifted debates about technological divides?
- How does the high speed of technology development, as seen with generative AI or gene editing, affect these potential divides?

Chair: Timo Harakka, Minister of Transport and Communications, Finland

Scene-setter (5min): Pichet Durongkaveroj, Executive Director, Bangkok Bank Pcl.; Former Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand

Opening perspective (5min): Noha Adly, Research and Development Advisor to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Research and Development, Egypt

Opening perspective (5min): Chris Fabian, Co-founder of the Giga initiative, UNICEF

Opening perspective (5min): José Juan Haro, Director Wholesale & Public Affairs HISPAM, Telefonica Hispanoamerica

Lunch (12:30-14:00)

12:30-14:00

Round table lunch for speakers and VIPs (Salle Roger Ockrent)
Networking lunch for all participants (Salon du Parc)

Plenary session: Technology deep dives (14:00-17:30) (CC1)

14:00-14:45

Insights from breakout sessions: Looking to the future

Rapporteurs from the breakout sessions will provide a short presentation of insights from each breakout session, followed by a discussion with two experts on how these themes can inform horizon-scanning exercises as the Global Forum on Technology moves forward.

- **Responsible, values-based and rights-oriented technology rapporteur (3min): Richard Johnson**, Chair, Technology and Innovation Committee, Business at OECD (BIAC); CEO Global Helix LLC
- **Emerging technologies to address climate change and foster resilient societies rapporteur (3min): Pam Dixon**, Founder and Executive Director, World Privacy Forum; Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council (CSISAC)
- **Digital and technology divides rapporteur (3min): Amanda Ballantyne**, Director, Technology Institute, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD
- **Daniel Erasmus**, Author, Futurist, Inventor
- **Matthias Weber**, Professor, Austrian Institute of Technology, Head of Department, Center for Innovation Systems and Policy

Synthetic biology (CC1)

14:45-16:00

A deep dive into synthetic biology

Recent advances in synthetic biology over the last two decades have seen the development of the first synthetic cell, a million-fold drop in the cost of sequencing DNA and the development of CRISPR genome editing. Biotech advances like these could help find new and personalized cures to diseases, make the environment more resilient, and drive cleaner forms of manufacturing. At the same time, these technologies carry risks to security and face challenges of public acceptance.

Synthetic biology in a nutshell

- **Drew Endy**, Professor and Martin Family Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Stanford University; President, The BioBricks Foundation

Panel discussion:

- **Matthew Chang**, Director, Singapore Consortium for Synthetic Biology; Dean's Chair in Medicine and Associate Professor, National University of Singapore
- **Benson Mburu**, Principal Scientist, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya
- **Kenneth Oye**, Professor of Political Science, Professor of Data Systems and Society, Director of the Program on Emerging Technologies, MIT
- **Claudia Vickers**, Adjunct Professor, Queensland University of Technology; Former Director, Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform, CSIRO

Moderated Q&A

Coffee break (16:00-16:15)

Immersive technologies (CC1)

16:15-17:30

A deep dive into immersive technologies

Immersive technologies enhance the resemblance and integration of digital and real-world experiences. Such technologies are heralded as the next step in digital transformation, with the potential to disrupt a variety of sectors, enhance innovation and contribute to sustainability by enabling resource efficiency. The potential of immersive technologies is reflected in the scale of recent investments, including venture capital, in this field.

Immersive technologies in a nutshell

- **Judith Okonkwo**, Founder, Ìmísí 3D

Panel discussion:

- **Pradeep Khanna**, Executive Director, Asia Pacific, VR AR Association (VRARA); CEO, Global Mindset; Co-Founder InSquare
- **Simone Kliass**, Co-founder and Board member, Brazilian Extended Reality Association
- **Kavya Pearlman**, CEO and Founder, XR Safety Initiative
- **Rehana Schwinniger-Ladak**, Head of Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education, European Commission

Moderated Q&A

Plenary session: Closing (17:30-18:00) (CC1)

17:30-18:00

Concluding discussion ► [Livestream](#)

- **Kerri-Ann Jones**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
- **Timo Harakka**, Minister of Transport and Communications, Finland
- **Claire Giry**, Director General for Research and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France
- **Kenneth Cukier**, Deputy Executive Editor, The Economist

- **Nita A. Farahany**, Robinson O. Everett Distinguished Professor of Law & Philosophy, Duke Law School

Cocktail reception (18:00) (Salon du Parc)