

For Official Use

English - Or. French

14 June 2022

**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

High Level Risk Forum

Agenda - OECD HLRF Workshop on the Governance of Emerging Critical Risks

16-17 June 2022 14h00
Paris, France

This document presents the draft agenda for the OECD High Level Risk Forum meeting on 'Governance of Critical Emerging Risks'. The meeting is organised in cooperation with the OECD project on long termism and existential risks.

Jack Radish (jack.radish@oecd.org)
Nestor Alfonzo Santamaria (nestor.alfonzosantamaria@oecd.org)
Adrien Valentin (adrien.valentin@oecd.org)

JT03497658

Workshop context, objectives and outcomes

This **OECD High Level Risk Forum** workshop will bring together experts to discuss how to strengthen management of 'emerging critical risks', i.e. novel risks, or recognized hazards that take place in an unfamiliar context, under new conditions, and therefore whose likelihood and consequences are less well understood.

A main challenge with emerging critical risks is how to integrate risk analysis into the disaster risk management, preparedness and resilience policies and planning of an organisation. When experts do not know enough about these risks to assess likelihood and impact with confidence, policymakers tend not to allocate resources for reducing them. The workshop will also discuss how to monitor underlying factors that drive changes in the intensity or frequency of emerging critical risks, and how to bring to bear capabilities and attention to manage these risks before they manifest themselves via shock events. The workshop will include presentations and facilitated break-out discussions to share knowledge on how organisations:

- Use information about emerging risks to inform policy, invest in preparedness and resilience and conduct strategic planning.
- Design agile systems of governance needed to adapt to emerging risks that suddenly arise.
- Develop and invest in capabilities required to treat emerging risks sufficiently in advance that they may be deployed to reduce risk.

The workshop is being organised in collaboration with the **OECD Strategic Foresight Unit** in order to identify synergies with its research on 'Existential Risks', i.e. *risks that threaten the destruction of most of humanity's long-term potential, for example through human extinction or unrecoverable civilizational collapse*. These risks might include e.g. engineered pandemics and advanced artificial intelligence systems that are increasing in complexity and merit the attention of governments.

The workshop will explore:

- How strategic foresight tools and expertise in identifying trends and weak signals well in advance can better position countries to address both emerging critical and existential risks.
- Actions governments take when the likelihood of emerging critical and existential risks changes from negligible to more plausible.
- Policy and behavioural barriers to assessing emerging and existential risks.
- How to account for the potential impacts of emerging and existential risks on future generations when considering risk prioritisation.

Draft agenda

DAY 1 (16 June 2022)- ROGER OCKRENT ROOM	
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Opening and welcome addresses</p> <p><i>Mr. Robert Kolasky, Chair, OECD High Level Risk Forum</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elsa Pilichowski, Director of Public Governance, OECD</i></p>
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 1 : Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Ms. Caitlin Durkovich, Special Assistant to the President,</i> <i>Senior Director for Resilience & Response, National Security Council, United States</i></p> <p>The keynote address will set the stage for the workshop by explaining why governments should give more attention to emerging critical risks, and illustrate the use of foresight to inform decisions on building national resilience to long term, highly uncertain hazards and threats. The keynote speech will be followed by Questions and Answers.</p>
15: 00 – 16:15	<p>Session 2: Ignite presentations</p> <p>Delegates who wish to present are invited to make a concise presentation on their organisation’s efforts to identify and characterize emerging critical or existential risks. The “Ignite presentations” might also address such questions as: How to build institutional capacity to manage such risks? How overcome barriers to implementation of long term actions? What is done in terms of monitoring the underlying, contributing factors to such risks?</p> <p><i>Angus Mercer, Chief Executive, Centre for Long Term Resilience, United Kingdom</i></p> <p><i>Chris Kincaid, National Risk Management Centre, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security</i></p>
16:15-16:30	COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 18:00	<p>Session 3 : Building understanding of the risk drivers</p> <p>This session will discuss specific research on how climate changes, geo-economic and technological developments (such as biotechnology and advanced AI) are key drivers that affect disaster exposures, vulnerabilities and/ or coping capacity. It will discuss what frameworks actions are being taken, or conceived, to prepare whole of society risk management actions in advance.</p>

	<p>Dr. Jade Leung, Centre for Governance of Artificial Intelligence, University of Oxford</p> <p>Professor Kevin Esvelt, Sculpting Evolution Group, M.I.T.</p> <p>Dr. Christian Fjader, Geostrategic Intelligence Group</p> <p>Dr. Henry H. Willis, Director; Strategy, Policy, and Operations Program, Homeland Security Research Division, RAND Corporation</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could governments monitor underlying factors that drive changes in the intensity or frequency of emerging critical and existential risks?
--	--

18:30	OECD HOSTED COCKTAIL- CAFÉ EXPRESSO (RED CHAIRS)
--------------	---

DAY 2 (17 June 2022)- ROGER OCKRENT ROOM

08:45 – 09:00	WELCOME COFFEE
----------------------	-----------------------

09:00 – 10:45	<p>Session 4 : Acting on analyses of emerging critical risks</p> <p>In this session participants will be invited to exchange and reflect on different approaches to acting on analysis of emerging critical and existential risks, e.g. by developing adaptive capacities in governance, such as flexibility into regulations under emergency conditions. It will discuss examples of taking mitigation actions despite a high level of uncertainty, or favouring further research to improve knowledge on whether a risk’s likelihood of occurrence has suddenly and significantly evolved.</p> <p>Professor Magnus Ekengren, Swedish Defence University</p> <p>Alfred Bender, Department of Homeland Security, United States</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use outcomes of analysis to set priorities and drive planning? • What are the most significant ways the management of emerging risk differs from critical risks in general? • Recognizing the challenges of prioritization, what actions can governments take to simultaneously build resilience for traditional and emerging critical risks?
----------------------	---

10:45 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Session 5 : Break-out group exercises</p> <p>In this session participants will form small groups to conduct table top exercises on several emerging risk scenarios, which will be sent ahead of the meeting to help participants prepare. The groups will prepare answers to questions concerning apply, or build-up, internal processes within government to analyse emerging critical risks and ask for their suggested actions how to better avoid or mitigate these risks in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time permitting, each break-out group will be invited to present a summary of its conclusions to the plenary group.
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Session 6: Conclusions and next steps</p> <p>The workshop will close with a group discussion on next steps countries may wish to take - including future meetings focused on potential development of guidance tools for the governance and management of emerging critical risks by the High Level Risk Forum, analysis of different emerging critical risks (e.g. supply chains disruptions, geo-economic risks) or mapping the convergence of multiple risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair's summary of key points and conclusion

Contacts: jack.radisch@oecd.org ; nestor.alfonzosantamaria@oecd.org

The OECD High-Level Risk Forum (HLRF) provides a platform for knowledge exchange on cutting edge themes related to disaster risk governance and crisis management. It convenes officials from relevant government agencies, and invites experts from the private sector and academia, to participate in thematic workshops on the identification, assessment and management of critical risks. “Critical Risks”, are “Threats and hazards that pose the most strategically significant risk, as a result of (i) their probability or likelihood and of (ii) the national significance of their disruptive consequences.