

# Annotated Agenda



## Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy

Meeting of the OECD Public  
Governance Committee  
at Ministerial level



18 November 2022

# ANNOTATED AGENDA

## THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022: PRE-MINISTERIAL EVENT

### 19:30-21:30 MINISTERIAL WORKING DINNER ON TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

In a challenging economic, social and geo-political context, OECD governments have recognised the importance of strengthening their own democracies. The **2021 OECD Survey on the Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions** finds that while performing well on many measures of trust in public institutions, such as open administrative processes and public service provision, only four in ten respondents trust their national government. What appears to be driving this disconnect is that governments are falling short of citizens' expectations for representation in decision making, and are seen as unresponsive to people's demands. Indeed, only one in four respondents (30.2%) find that the political system lets them have a say, or that it is working well for some, but not for all, young people, women and disadvantaged groups. To address these shortcomings and revive people's trust, governments will have to invest in improving the mechanisms through which all citizens can have a voice. They will also have to enhance integrity and fight undue influence, as well as credibly address long-term challenges such as climate change.

**Keynote speeches by Sam Tanson, Minister of Justice, Luxembourg (Ministerial Chair) and Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD**

Ministers will be invited to discuss a number of **questions**, which will be introduced by high-level representatives at the start of the dinner.

#### Kick-off speakers:

- **Alexandra van Huffelen Minister for Digitalisation, Netherlands**
- **Johann Saarhoff, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Interior and Homeland, Germany**

***Reference document:** Ministerial Brief on the OECD Survey on the Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions*

## FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2022: MINISTERIAL MEETING

### 9:00-9:30 ITEM 1: OPENING

**Opening remarks by Sam Tanson, Minister of Justice, Luxembourg (Ministerial Chair) and Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD.**

#### Short remarks by Ministerial Vice-Chairs:

- **Camilo Eduardo Umaña Hernández, Deputy Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Colombia**
- **Stanislas Guerini, Minister of Public Transformation and Service, France**
- **Giedrė Balčytė, Chancellor of the Government, Lithuania**
- **Jason Miller, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, United States**

***Reference document:** Key Issues Paper*

9:30-10:45      **ITEM 2: PLENARY SESSION ON PUBLIC GOVERNANCE RESPONSES TO MIS- AND DISINFORMATION**

**Session Chair: Giedrė Balčytė, Chancellor of the Government, Lithuania  
(Ministerial Vice-Chair)**

Events during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have all demonstrated that the spread of mis- and disinformation poses a fundamental threat to the free and fact-based exchange of information that underpins democracy and trust in public institutions today. It can fuel polarisation, sow mistrust and disengagement, and ultimately undermine free speech. It weakens governments' ability to protect national interests and preserve national security and democracy, thus underscoring the urgency of creating governance systems that ensure societies are resilient to mis- and disinformation.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following **questions**:

- How does your government support whole-of-society efforts to build resilience of media and information ecosystems? What are the specific ways in which governments can co-operate more effectively with media and civil society organisations in the fight against mis- and disinformation?
- What are the most promising avenues for creating regulatory frameworks to share and analyse relevant data related to mis- and disinformation, encourage greater understanding of algorithms?
- What public institutions are currently being created or reinforced to address mis- and disinformation?
- What tools, mechanisms or products can the OECD develop to best support Members to identify successful responses to the threats posed by mis- and disinformation?

**Reference documents:** *Key Issues Paper and Action Plan on Public Governance for Combatting Mis-information and Disinformation*

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10:45-11:00      *COFFEE BREAK*

11:00-12:15      **ITEM 3: PARALLEL SESSIONS ON REINFORCING TRUST BY DELIVERING ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE ROLE OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE**

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**PARALLEL SESSION 1: TRANSFORMING PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FOR DIGITAL DEMOCRACY**

**Session Chair: Stanislas Guerini, Minister of Public Transformation and Service, France  
(Ministerial Vice-Chair)**

The rapid digitalisation of societies, economies and governments is changing and challenging the traditional institutional mechanisms supporting the functioning of OECD countries. From one perspective, digitalisation has opened new channels for political and public debate participation enhancing the promotion of the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, as well as the accountability of, and oversight over, public institutions. It has promoted transparency and openness in government practices, and given governments new tools to enhance their responsiveness. From another perspective, digital tools have also brought new risks to the protection of fundamental rights and of minorities and vulnerable groups, increased the possibilities of undue influence in policy making (national or foreign), destabilised information ecosystems and democratic intermediation, further participating in the polarisation of societies, all crucial elements of the functioning of advanced democracies. Developed for the analogue

world, the institutions and public governance of OECD countries need to be renewed for the digital age.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following **questions**:

- What examples can you provide of digital initiatives strengthening public participation and government transparency in your country?
- What are the most effective means to reduce polarisation of public debate in the digital space?
- How to ensure that fundamental rights are protected in the digital space?
- How can the OECD better support its Members in navigating the establishment of new forms of regulation and regulators to strengthen democracy in the digital era?

**Reference document:** *Key Issues Paper*

## PARALLEL SESSION 2: GOVERNING GREEN: GEARING UP PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY TO DELIVER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Session Chair: Sam Tanson, Minister of Justice, Luxembourg (Ministerial Chair)**

While the world's success in addressing climate change and delivering on environmental commitments will depend on the involvement of the whole of society, governments are key drivers of change, both at home and internationally. Yet, against a backdrop of declining trust in public institutions and increasing discontent with democracy, they face difficulties in forging consensus on urgent climate and environmental measures and need to step up their competencies at steering the transition. To successfully handle complex environmental challenges and manage difficult trade-offs, a genuine transformation of democratic governance is required - one that is rooted in trust and consensus, that makes effective and efficient use of public governance tools and is spearheaded by public institutions that lead by example.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following **questions**:

- How is your government addressing the urgent need to build trust and secure buy-in and consensus for the ambitious policy reforms needed to address climate change and other environmental threats?
- In what ways could governments further ramp-up public governance tools (budgeting, regulatory governance, procurement, infrastructure governance, public communication) to deliver in this decade for action?
- How can the OECD continue to support your country's efforts in transforming government to achieve climate and environmental goals?

**Reference documents:** *Key Issues Paper* and *Action Plan on Governing Green*

## PARALLEL SESSION 3: STRONGER OPEN DEMOCRACIES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD: EMBRACING THE GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE TO FOREIGN INFLUENCE

**Session Chair: Camilo Eduardo Umaña Hernández, Deputy Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Colombia (Ministerial Vice-Chair)**

Many of the challenges OECD countries are facing today – from climate change and pandemics to international migration and the digital transformation – transcend borders and can only be addressed through effective international co-operation. While democracies have been at the forefront of global governance since World War II, globalisation has placed a further strain on the

ability of national governments alone to address global challenges. Considering that citizens' confidence in their governments' capacity to address global challenges appears critical to addressing them, governments need to invest in governance tools to effectively address issues that transcend borders, thus reinforcing citizens trust in their democratic governance. Additionally, the present geopolitical situation has made it clear that open democracies must address in order to reinforce democracy the destabilising impacts of foreign non-democratic influences on democracy. This will require addressing regulatory loopholes and assigning key responsibilities for identifying, responding to, and building resilience against foreign influence.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following **questions**:

- What challenges do OECD governments face in engaging citizens in addressing global challenges?
- What have OECD countries learned from the COVID-19 pandemic about the structures, competencies and tools needed to address global challenges at the domestic and international levels?
- What are the most important loopholes that allow destabilising non-democratic influence in OECD democracies?
- What can the OECD do to support governments in strengthening their capacity to effectively address global challenges?

**Reference document:** *Key Issues Paper*

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12:15-12:30 *GROUP PHOTOGRAPH*

12:30-13:45 **ITEM 4: PLENARY WORKING LUNCH ON UPGRADING REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND OPENNESS IN PUBLIC LIFE, AND CITIZEN-FOCUSED SERVICES**

**Session Chair: Jason Miller, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, United States (Ministerial Vice-Chair)**

According to the OECD Survey on the Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions, relatively low levels of trust in public institutions are driven, in large part, by a lack of confidence in government responsiveness, integrity, and equal opportunities. Renewed democratic participation and representation is therefore needed to increase confidence that the political system is working for all. Such a paradigm encompasses strengthening existing and establishing new participatory and more representative democratic institutions, and promoting a vibrant civic space for more open, equitable, and inclusive societies.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following **questions**:

- What are the main opportunities and challenges OECD governments face in increasing citizen and stakeholder engagement in public life? What are the most promising practices?
- What measures do OECD countries need in order to address barriers to women's representation in public life, including deep-rooted gender norms, harassment and cyber violence?
- What can the OECD do to support governments in strengthening representation and participation in national policy making and in service design and delivery?

**Reference documents:** *Key Issues Paper* and *Action Plan on Representation, Participation and Openness in Public Life, including a focus on gender equality*

**13:45-14:15**    **ITEM 5: CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING**

**Reporting back** from the Chairs of the parallel sessions.

**Adoption of the draft Ministerial Declaration.**

**Closing remarks by Kerri-Ann Jones, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD and Sam Tanson, Minister of Justice, Luxembourg (Ministerial Chair)**

**Reference document:** *draft Ministerial Declaration*

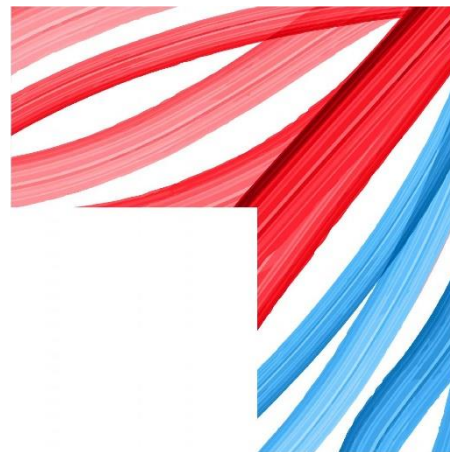
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**14:15-14:45**    **PRESS CONFERENCE**





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<http://oe.cd/reinforcing-democracy>

