

Unclassified**English/French****10 June 2022****COUNCIL****Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, 9-10 June 2022****ROADMAP FOR THE OECD ACCESSION PROCESS OF BULGARIA****(Adopted by the Council at Ministerial level on 10 June 2022)**

1. On 25 January 2022, the OECD Council decided to open accession discussions with Bulgaria as well as five other countries, taking into account the criteria of like-mindedness, significant player, mutual benefit and global considerations and recognising the progress made by these countries toward fulfilling the criteria outlined in the Framework for Consideration of Prospective Members [C(2017)92/FINAL]. It invited the Secretary-General, through a letter agreed by Council, to communicate the Council's decision to Bulgaria and to request Bulgaria to confirm its adherence to the OECD's 60th Anniversary Vision Statement and Ministerial Council Statement adopted in October 2021 and to the letter sent by the Secretary-General. The Council requested the Secretary-General, as positive responses were received from candidate countries, to set out the terms, conditions and process for accession to the OECD in draft Roadmaps for Accession for consideration and adoption by Council.
2. In accordance with the Council Resolution of 25 January 2022, this Roadmap sets out the terms, conditions and process for the accession of Bulgaria with the objective of enabling Council, at the end of the process set out in this Roadmap, to come to a decision on whether to invite Bulgaria to accede to the OECD Convention and thereby become a Member of the Organisation. In response to changing circumstances, the Council may introduce changes to the Roadmap during the accession process.
3. The overarching objective of the accession process is to achieve convergence of Bulgaria with OECD standards, best policies and best practices, resulting in better outcomes for OECD Members as well as for Bulgaria and its citizens. Throughout the accession process, the OECD will work closely with Bulgaria to support the adoption of long-lasting reforms to align with OECD standards, best policies and best practices.

I. Shared Values, Vision and Priorities

4. The shared values, vision and priorities of the OECD membership are set out in the OECD's 60th Anniversary Vision Statement [C/MIN(2021)16/FINAL] as well as the 2021 Ministerial Council Statement [C/MIN(2021)25/FINAL] to which Bulgaria has confirmed its adherence. These shared values, vision and priorities constitute the strength of the Organisation and the accession process will serve to confirm Bulgaria's adherence to these values, vision and priorities in practice. This is a fundamental requirement for membership.
5. OECD Members have set out their shared values, vision and priorities in the OECD's 60th Anniversary Vision Statement: "We form a like-minded community, committed to the preservation of individual liberty, the values of democracy, the rule of law and the defence of human rights. We believe in open and transparent market economy principles. Guided by our Convention, we will pursue sustainable economic growth and employment, while protecting our planet. Our shared endeavour is to end poverty, to tackle inequalities and to leave no one behind. We want to improve the lives and prospects of everyone, inside and outside the OECD. As a global pathfinder, the OECD will therefore continue to develop evidence-based analysis that helps generate innovative policies and standards to build stronger, more sustainable and more inclusive economies, inspiring trust and confidence for resilient, responsive and healthy societies."
6. Candidate countries are expected to demonstrate this like-mindedness in their statements and actions in their relations with the Organisation and its Members. This like-mindedness includes the readiness to engage constructively in open and frank discussions with a view to finding consensus as well as the willingness to accept the Organisation's unique working methods including peer review, a hallmark of the OECD. The actions of candidate countries in other international fora may also be considered as appropriate. Bilateral issues should not be an impediment in the accession process and should therefore be resolved in a like-minded and constructive way.

7. These shared values, vision and priorities shall be a central element throughout the accession process including at the ultimate stage when making a final decision on whether to invite a candidate country to become a Member of the Organisation. Questions related to these shared values, vision and priorities as well as commitment to the OECD's working methods will be regularly reviewed by Council, including in the framework of dedicated meetings to which representatives of the candidate country may be invited to discuss issues of concern.

II. Obligations of OECD Membership

8. The obligations of membership include, inter alia:

- i. acceptance of the aims of the Organisation, as set out in Article 1 of the Convention as well as in the Report of the OECD Preparatory Committee of December 1960;
- ii. accession to the OECD Convention and implementation of all of the undertakings and commitments set out therein;
- iii. acceptance of Supplementary Protocols Nos. 1 and 2 to the OECD Convention;
- iv. acceptance of all decisions, resolutions, rules, regulations and conclusions previously adopted by the Organisation relating to its management and functioning including those concerning the governance of the Organisation, the financial contributions of Members, other financial and budget matters, staff matters (including the judgments of the Administrative Tribunal), procedural matters, relations with non-Members and classification of information as they stand on the date of membership and with no exception;
- v. acceptance of the financial statements of the Organisation;
- vi. acceptance of the working methods of the Organisation;
- vii. acceptance of all substantive legal instruments of the Organisation in force on the date of the decision of the OECD Council to invite the candidate country to become a Member, subject to any agreed reservations or observations reproduced in the Final Statement.

9. OECD membership obligations also include the conclusion of an appropriate Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the Organisation in line with the privileges and immunities which Member countries should be prepared to grant to the Organisation in order to ensure its independence and proper functioning. This agreement must be concluded before a decision is made by the OECD Council to invite the candidate country to become a Member and must enter into force no later than the date of accession to the OECD Convention. Accordingly, it will be important for negotiations on privileges and immunities to start promptly.

III. Technical Reviews by OECD Committees

10. In order to allow Council to take an informed decision on the accession of Bulgaria, Bulgaria will undergo in-depth reviews by OECD substantive committees (hereafter "committees") which will each provide a formal opinion to the Council upon completion of their technical review.

a) Policy Areas Identified by Council

11. As set out in the Council Resolution of 25 January 2022, and the resulting letter sent by the Secretary-General to candidate countries, the Council has identified the following policy areas which will be covered in the technical reviews:

- **Structural reform:** how to shape the candidate country’s structural reform agenda in an ambitious manner as a basis for strong, sustainable, green and inclusive growth;
- **Open trade and investment:** how to reinforce the candidate country’s open trade and investment regime, in light of the value of open, trading, competitive, sustainable and transparent market economies; how to strengthen rules-based international trade. This includes the importance of strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its centre, opposition to economic coercion, the levelling of the international playing field through increased competition, better integration of SMEs into global value chains and the dismantlement of unnecessary barriers to international trade, which benefits consumers and promotes economic growth and innovation;
- **Inclusive growth:** how to put in place efficient and effective social and equality of opportunity policies, in order to contribute to an inclusive growth that delivers for all citizens;
- **Governance:** how to strengthen public governance, integrity and anti-corruption efforts;
- **Environment, biodiversity, and climate:** how to ensure effective protection of the environment and biodiversity, and action on climate change in order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change. This includes the need for whole-of-economy policy measures aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement and in particular the goal of achieving global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through deep emissions reductions enabled by public and private investments. This also includes the importance for each country to adopt and fully implement public policies in line with its climate goals, including reversing and halting biodiversity loss and deforestation as agreed during COP26 in Glasgow, and taking effective actions to translate this on the ground;
- **Digitalisation:** how to advance an inclusive digital economy including through working together at the international level; and,
- **Infrastructure:** how to invest in quality infrastructure in a transparent, accountable and inclusive way.

12. This non-exhaustive list of key areas is without prejudice to the range of specific issues that may be identified as a result of the detailed analysis and assessment of the different committees.

b) List of Committees Conducting Accession Reviews

13. The following committees will conduct accession reviews of Bulgaria and provide a formal opinion to Council, drawing as appropriate on assessments by their subsidiary bodies:

- Investment Committee and the Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct;
- Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions;
- Corporate Governance Committee;
- Committee on Financial Markets;
- Insurance and Private Pensions Committee;
- Competition Committee;
- Committee on Fiscal Affairs;
- Environment Policy Committee;
- Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee;
- Public Governance Committee;
- Committee of Senior Budget Officials;
- Regulatory Policy Committee;
- Regional Development Policy Committee;
- Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy;

- Economic and Development Review Committee;
- Education Policy Committee;
- Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee;
- Health Committee;
- Trade Committee and the Working Party on Export Credits;
- Committee for Agriculture;
- Fisheries Committee;
- Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy;
- Committee on Digital Economy Policy;
- Committee on Consumer Policy;
- Steel Committee.

c) Scope and Conduct of Technical Reviews

14. The technical reviews and resulting formal opinions will cover two principal elements as further described in paragraphs 19 to 24 below:

- i. an evaluation of the willingness and ability of Bulgaria to implement any substantive OECD legal instruments within the committee's competence; and,
- ii. an evaluation of Bulgaria's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices in the relevant area, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in the Appendix to the present Roadmap.

15. The technical reviews will begin with the submission by Bulgaria of an Initial Memorandum (see paragraphs 19 to 22 below). There will then be a phase of intensive information-gathering and in-depth analysis by the Secretariat resulting in a background report to support the review by the committee. The report prepared by the Secretariat will be the basis for a phase of discussions by committees of the elements set out in paragraph 14. There may be several rounds of dialogue with Bulgaria as well as closed session discussions among OECD Members. As a result of this analysis and discussion, committees may recommend changes to bring Bulgaria's legislation, policy and/or practices into line with OECD legal instruments or to bring Bulgaria's policies and practices closer to OECD best policies and practices. Committees may also consider ways to support the candidate countries in making these changes, including through technical assistance by the Secretariat and channels for experts from Member countries to voluntarily share their national experiences.

16. During the accession review, each committee may communicate the conclusions of their discussions to the candidate country by means of letters from the committee Chair outlining the issues identified and recommendations made by the committee as well as next steps in the accession review.

17. Each committee will determine the list of legislative changes and other reforms that must be adopted before the completion of its technical review. When a committee is satisfied with Bulgaria's alignment with OECD legal instruments as well as OECD best policies and practices, it will adopt a formal opinion that will subsequently be submitted to Council once all committees undertaking accession reviews have adopted their formal opinions.

18. While all the legislative changes and other reforms considered essential by committees must be adopted before the end of the accession process, in their formal opinions, committees may make recommendations for additional follow-up actions by Bulgaria and/or state that it wishes to continue to further monitor and thereby support the implementation of reforms adopted during the accession process. For this purpose, committees may propose to Council a timeline for Bulgaria to report back to the committee after accession (see paragraphs 43 and 44 below).

i) Willingness and ability to implement substantive OECD legal instruments

19. In practice, the starting point of the technical reviews will be the submission by Bulgaria to the Secretary-General of an Initial Memorandum, setting out a first self-assessment of the alignment of Bulgaria's legislation, policies and practices with each OECD legal instrument in force that applies to all OECD Members. This includes all substantive Decisions, Recommendations, Declarations as well as international agreements or arrangements developed within the OECD framework (a full list is available at <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org>). The self-assessment should cover legal instruments to which Bulgaria already adheres.

20. Reservations or observations to an OECD legal instrument will only be possible if this is in line with the practice of OECD Members. If Bulgaria considers that further actions are required in order to align with the OECD legal instrument, it should set out a proposed action plan setting out how it intends to modify its legislation, policies and practices for this together with a schedule for these actions.

21. The Initial Memorandum shall be formally submitted following a review by the Secretariat and any appropriate modifications incorporated thereafter. The relevant parts of the Initial Memorandum will then be submitted to the different committees reviewing Bulgaria. The committees will evaluate as part of their technical reviews the alignment of Bulgaria with OECD legal instruments within their competence in order to determine any further actions that are required. The formal opinion of each committee will include an assessment of the willingness and ability of Bulgaria to implement any OECD legal instruments within the committee's competence.

22. For new or revised OECD legal instruments adopted after the submission of the Initial Memorandum, Bulgaria will be requested to provide an alignment self-assessment as soon as possible, and this will be evaluated by the relevant substantive committee. If the committee has already concluded its formal opinion, an evaluation of Bulgaria's position may be undertaken by the Secretariat (see paragraph 29 below).

ii) Comparison with OECD best policies and practices

23. The committees reviewing Bulgaria will also provide the Council with an evaluation in their formal opinions of Bulgaria's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices in their area of competence, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in the Appendix to the present Roadmap.

24. Committees may also take into account Bulgaria's position on other rules, standards and benchmarks by which OECD Members generally abide (e.g. position on major multilateral agreements).

d) Timeline and Organisation of Technical Reviews

25. Technical reviews by substantive committees will be carried out in parallel and the formal opinions adopted by all committees reviewing Bulgaria will be submitted to the Council as one package.

26. The timeline for the technical reviews largely depends on the pace at which Bulgaria provides information to the committees and the pace at which Bulgaria takes appropriate action in response to recommendations by committees for changes to legislation, policy and practice. Bulgaria will be expected to fulfil all requirements of the accession process within a reasonable time and the Council will regularly discuss Bulgaria's level of progress in the technical reviews.

27. Each OECD substantive committee will determine the organisation of its technical accession reviews with due consideration to other priorities in its work programme. With the support of the Secretariat, committees will also consider modalities to manage the workload represented by the accession

reviews. These modalities could include dedicated virtual meetings, a maximum number of accession reviews per meeting, small groups of delegates advancing the work or having a lead delegate or rapporteur.

e) Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information

28. In principle, the accession discussions between the OECD and Bulgaria take place in a confidential setting in order to preserve a space for open and frank discussions between OECD Members and Bulgaria. At the same time, in order to inform discussions and support reforms in Bulgaria, the OECD and Bulgaria may agree to disclose certain information. In this regard, the background reports prepared by the Secretariat to support the accession reviews may be published before the end of the accession process under the authority of the Secretary-General. However, the version of the reports to be published should not contain the final evaluation of the two criteria set out in paragraph 14 above since this evaluation is destined for the Council only.

IV. Technical Review by the Secretariat

29. Bulgaria's alignment with OECD legal instruments which do not fall within the competence of a committee reviewing Bulgaria or which have not been reviewed by the competent committee because they were adopted after the conclusion of its formal opinion, will be evaluated by the Secretary-General who will present a report to the Council at the end of the process.

V. Participation in OECD Substantive Committees during the Accession Process

30. During the accession process, Bulgaria is invited to participate, on the basis of its status as an accession candidate country, in the meetings of all OECD substantive committees and their subsidiary bodies open to participation by all OECD Members. Where it participates on the basis of its status of an accession candidate country, it will participate in all discussions except confidential sessions and have access to related documents but it will not take part in decision-making. Where Bulgaria is an Associate or Participant in an OECD body in line with the Resolution on Partnerships [C(2012)100/REV1/FINAL], it will maintain this status and the corresponding rights and obligations throughout the accession process.

VI. Development Assistance Committee

31. The Development Assistance Committee will engage in a structured dialogue with Bulgaria during the accession process to discuss the opportunity and feasibility of joining the Committee.

VII. Participation in Optional OECD Bodies or Programmes

32. During the accession process, Bulgaria is invited to state whether it intends to participate, upon becoming a Member of the Organisation, in some or all of the Organisation's optional bodies or programmes in which it does not already participate. This includes the International Energy Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency as well as other optional bodies and programmes, which may have special membership criteria and/or require the acceptance of specific obligations. If Bulgaria expresses its intention to join some of these activities, the relevant bodies or programmes may undertake their established membership procedures in parallel with the OECD accession process.

VIII. Coordination Role of the Secretariat

33. Throughout the process, the Secretariat will:
- assist Bulgaria in complying with the requirements of the accession process and provide its authorities with any necessary information or advice, including reviewing the draft Initial Memorandum and other documentation submitted;
 - provide information and analysis for the technical reviews by committees of Bulgaria, as well as provide procedural guidance and facilitate coordination including on the treatment of any legal instruments or issues that will be reviewed by more than one committee;
 - provide the Council with regular reports on the status of the accession process as well as any material it may require for the consideration of Bulgaria's request for membership.

IX. Conclusion of the Accession Process

A. *Final Statement*

34. When all of the technical reviews and other discussions are complete, the Government of Bulgaria will submit to the Secretary-General a Final Statement:

1. stating that it shall assume all obligations of Member of the Organisation including:
 - i. the acceptance of the aims of the Organisation, as set out in Article 1 of the Convention as well as in the Report of the OECD Preparatory Committee of December 1960;
 - ii. accession to the OECD Convention and implementation of all of the undertakings and commitments set out therein;
 - iii. acceptance of Supplementary Protocols Nos. 1 and 2 to the OECD Convention;
 - iv. acceptance of all decisions, resolutions, rules, regulations and conclusions previously adopted by the Organisation relating to its management and functioning including those concerning the governance of the Organisation, the financial contributions of Members, other financial and budget matters, staff matters (including the judgments of the Administrative Tribunal), procedural matters, relations with non-Members and classification of information as they stand on the date of membership and with no exception;
 - v. acceptance of the financial statements of the Organisation;
 - vi. acceptance of the working methods of the Organisation;
 - vii. acceptance of all substantive legal instruments of the Organisation in force on the date of the decision of the OECD Council to invite the candidate country to become a Member, subject to any agreed reservations or observations reproduced in the Final Statement;
2. accepting that the Privileges and Immunities Agreement between Bulgaria and the OECD must have entered into force at the time of the deposit of the instrument of accession to the Convention;
3. specifying its intention to participate in any optional bodies or programmes upon becoming a Member of the Organisation;
4. noting that any prior agreements between Bulgaria and the Organisation concerning participation as a non-Member in OECD bodies shall be considered to be terminated as of the date of its accession to the OECD Convention;
5. agreeing to submit any progress reports to OECD committees after accession as set out in the decision of the Council to invite Bulgaria to accede to the OECD Convention, to designate a high-level contact point on post accession progress, to contribute financial resources to cover the costs

of the evaluation of these reports and to the publication of annual post-accession progress reports prepared by the Secretariat; and,

6. setting out any additional undertakings that may be appropriate in light of the discussions on the terms and conditions of its membership.

B. Decision by Council on Whether to Extend an Invitation to Bulgaria to Accede to the OECD Convention

35. When all the technical reviews and other discussions are complete and Bulgaria has submitted its Final Statement, the Secretary-General will present the relevant analysis and documents for Council's consideration. This will include a general report on the accession process with the Secretary General's recommendation to Council, the Final Statement of Bulgaria, the formal opinions of all committees reviewing Bulgaria and a report on the technical review by the Secretariat of Bulgaria's position on OECD legal instruments not reviewed by any committee.

36. On the basis of these documents and any other relevant information including consideration of any issues related to shared values, vision and priorities, the Council will decide by unanimity, in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention, whether to invite Bulgaria to accede to the Convention as well as the terms and conditions of that invitation.

37. If the Council Decision is positive, an Accession Agreement will be signed between Bulgaria and the Organisation which would incorporate, as its main elements, the Final Statement of Bulgaria and the Council Decision. This Agreement will be made public.

38. With regard to any new or revised substantive legal instruments adopted between the date of the decision of the OECD Council to invite Bulgaria to accede to the OECD Convention and the date on which Bulgaria deposits its instrument of accession and becomes an OECD Member, Bulgaria will be expected to adhere to these instruments at the time of adoption.

39. Once an invitation to become a Member has been extended, it will be for Bulgaria to take the appropriate steps at the national level to ratify the Accession Agreement and accede to the OECD Convention. In the period between the Council Decision and the date of membership, Bulgaria will be invited to participate, without decision-making rights, in the work of the Council and its standing committees.

40. Once invited to become a Member, Bulgaria will be expected to complete its internal procedures swiftly and the Secretary-General would provide updates to Council on progress. If there is an unexpected delay, the Council may call for a discussion with Bulgaria and consider whether further action is required.

C. Deposit of the Instrument of Accession

41. Once Bulgaria has completed its internal procedures, it will accede to the OECD Convention by depositing its instrument of accession with the French Government, the depositary of the Convention. As from the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession, Bulgaria will be an OECD Member.

D. Adoption of the Council Resolution Recording Accession

42. The procedure concludes, following the practice of the Organisation, with a Resolution of the Council noting the accession and the date on which it took effect.

E. Post-Accession Reporting Process

43. While all the legislative changes and other reforms considered essential by committees must be adopted before the end of the accession process, committees may make recommendations for additional

follow-up actions by Bulgaria and/or state that it wishes to continue to further monitor and thereby support the implementation of reforms adopted during the accession process. For this purpose, committees may propose to Council a timeline for Bulgaria to report back to the committee after accession (see paragraph 18 above).

44. As noted above (see paragraph 34), Bulgaria would agree in its Final Statement to submit any progress reports to OECD committees after accession as set out in the decision of the Council to invite Bulgaria to accede to the Convention, to designate a high-level contact point on post accession progress, to contribute financial resources to cover the costs of the evaluation of these reports and to the publication of annual post-accession progress reports prepared by the Secretariat.

X. Resources Required for the Accession Process

45. Bulgaria will be required to provide the necessary resources to cover the costs of its accession process. These non-recurring costs associated with its accession process will include OECD staff time and those associated with missions, meetings, documentation, co-ordination and management, communication as well as miscellaneous costs. The accession contributions will also cover the costs of integration of Bulgaria into the Organisation's work during the accession process. If, at the end of the process, the Council invites Bulgaria to become a Member of the Organisation, the accession contributions will also cover any further costs between the date of the Council decision and the date of membership related to coordination or the integration of Bulgaria into the statistical and other work of the Organisation as a Member.

46. Accession costs will be charged to Bulgaria as from the date of the adoption by Council of the present Roadmap and will include accession costs incurred for the period between the Council decision to open accession discussions and the adoption of the present Roadmap.

47. To ensure that the necessary resources are available in time to allow the accession process to proceed, Bulgaria will be required to make payments in advance of expenditure on the basis of Secretariat estimates of costs. These estimates, which will be made annually, will include a margin for unanticipated expenditures during the course of the year ahead.

48. The amount to be paid for the subsequent year may need to be adjusted in the light of the costs actually incurred in the preceding year. For example, if costs incurred in a given year exceed Bulgaria's payment for that year it may be necessary for Bulgaria to make a larger payment the following year.

49. The total cost of accession may ultimately be greater or less than the amount estimated since the progress of the accession process depends on a number of factors including the pace at which Bulgaria provides information to the committees and responds to recommendations made by committees. In this respect and in line with the approach taken for previous accession processes, any unspent appropriations will be automatically carried-forward to the following year.

50. At the end of the accession process, an accounting of the final total amount of the non-recurring costs shall be provided by the Secretary-General to the Council for its approval and final settlement with Bulgaria. Any outstanding balance shall be paid by Bulgaria or reimbursed by the Organisation (including through an offset against membership contributions) as the case may be.

XI. Practical Arrangements

51. Bulgaria shall correspond with the Organisation and make all information available in one of the official languages of the Organisation (English or French) or provide official translations of such correspondence or documentation. The cost of any interpretation or translation into or from another

language shall be covered by Bulgaria as part of the accession contributions referred to in paragraph 45 above.

52. Bulgaria should designate and maintain at all times a high level contact person in capital entrusted with coordinating national authorities involved in the accession process. Bulgaria should also designate a person with authority in charge of OECD accession who will be posted in Paris with the objective of facilitating contacts and handling operational matters arising in connection with the implementation of this process. Finally, Bulgaria should maintain and provide the Secretariat with a list of contact persons responsible for each of the committee reviews set out in paragraph 13 above.

Appendix: List of Accession Core Principles for OECD Committees

This Appendix sets out Core Principles for the technical accession review of each OECD committee. As stated in Section III above, as part of its review, each committee will evaluate the alignment of Bulgaria vis-à-vis all the substantive OECD legal instruments within its area of competence as well as Bulgaria's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in this Appendix. These lists of Core Principles are non-exhaustive and the committees may consider other issues within their competence as appropriate. In coming to their own conclusions, committees may rely on technical opinions provided by their subsidiary bodies.

Investment Committee and the Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

- Full compliance with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and 'standstill', in accordance with the OECD Codes of Liberalisation (the Code of Liberalisation of Capital Movements [[OECD/LEGAL/0002](#)] and the Code of Liberalisation of Current Invisible Operations [[OECD/LEGAL/0001](#)]), as well as the National Treatment Instrument [[OECD/LEGAL/0263](#)] of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises [[OECD/LEGAL/0144](#)] (reservations under the Codes must be limited to existing restrictions);
- An open and transparent regime for foreign direct investment (FDI) restrictions must be limited and concern sectors where restrictions are not uncommon in OECD countries;
- Liberalisation of other long-term capital movements, including equity investment and debt instruments of a maturity of one year or more; commercial credit and other capital operations relating to international trade are also to be liberalised; a timetable for the abolition of remaining controls on short-term capital movements is required;
- No restrictions on payments or transfers in connection with international current account transactions; the candidate countries must comply with all IMF Article VIII requirements;
- Relaxation of restrictions on cross-border trade in services, particularly banking, insurance and other financial services;
- Alignment with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency of policies and predictability of outcomes, proportionality of measures and accountability of implementing authorities, if the candidate country implements investment policies designed to safeguard national security, in line with the Recommendation of the Council on Guidelines for Recipient Country Investment Policies relating to National Security [[OECD/LEGAL/0372](#)];
- Ensuring an investment climate that is aligned with the investment policy principles embodied in the Policy Framework for Investment (PFI);
- Evidence of commitment and effective measures to promote Responsible Business Conduct in relation to disclosure; business respect for human rights, including those of indigenous peoples; employment and industrial relations; environment; anti-corruption; consumer interests; science and technology; competition; and taxation; including the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for

Multinational Enterprises and the use of the OECD Due Diligence Guidances by business, as well as an adequate legal and regulatory framework in the areas covered by the Guidelines;

- An effectively functioning and adequately resourced National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises that operates in conformity with the provisions set out in the Decision of the Council on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises [[OECD/LEGAL/0307](#)], and taking into account the Procedural Guidance;
- Completion of the OECD Survey of Implementation of Methodological Standards for Direct Investment (based on the implementation of the Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, 4th edition (BD4) [[OECD/LEGAL/0363](#)], agreement to report data for the compilation of the OECD International Direct Investment Yearbook, in accordance with the timetable and template agreed by Members.

Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions

- Full compliance with the requirements of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (the Convention);
- A satisfactory legal framework for combating bribery on a domestic level;
- Criminalisation of bribery of foreign public officials;
- A legal framework for corporate liability for bribery of foreign public officials (whether administrative, civil, criminal or hybrid);
- Capacity and ability of investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities to carry out their functions free from undue influence in line with Article 5 of the Convention and particularly as it relates to enforcing the foreign bribery offence under Article 1;
- Express non-tax deductibility of bribes and adequate accounting and auditing requirements;
- Ability to co-operate with other Parties to the Convention;
- Enforcement capacity for investigation and prosecution of bribery cases;
- Readiness and ability to undergo and to participate in peer reviews of other Parties to the Convention; and,
- Strong and effective legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of reporting persons.

Corporate Governance Committee

- Ensuring a coherent institutional and regulatory framework that supports market-based access to finance and provides for the existence and effective enforcement of shareholder rights and the equitable treatment of shareholders, including minority and foreign shareholders;
- Requiring timely and reliable disclosure of corporate information in accordance with internationally recognised standards of accounting, auditing and non-financial reporting;
- Establishing professionalised and transparent ownership and oversight arrangements for state-owned enterprises to safeguard their integrity, accountability, autonomy and performance;
- Establishing effective separation of the government's role as an owner of state-owned enterprises and other state functions that may influence the conditions for state-owned enterprises;
- Ensuring a level-playing field in markets where state-owned enterprises and private sector companies compete, or could compete, in order to avoid market distortions arising from state ownership;
- Having a clear framework for the duties, rights and responsibilities of boards of directors, and that recognises stakeholder rights as established by law or through mutual agreements and encourages

active cooperation between corporations and stakeholders in creating the sustainability of financially sound enterprises.

Committee on Financial Markets

- Market-oriented and sufficiently open, efficient and sound financial system, including the market and regulatory structure, based on high standards of transparency, confidence and integrity, and also evidence of effective and efficient financial regulations;
- Ensuring good market practices and policies with respect to:
 - sustainable finance, including ESG, climate transition, and other environmental considerations;
 - digitalisation of finance, with respect to tokenisation of assets, crypto-assets, decentralised finance, as well as the broader energy efficient use of Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies in financial systems; and,
 - public debt management.
- Relaxation of restrictions on cross-border trade, investment and establishment in banking and other financial services, as required under the OECD Codes of Liberalisation;
- Ensuring appropriate level of access, protection and support for the demand-side, via financial consumer protection and financial literacy policies, to address asymmetries in market power and other consumer vulnerabilities.

Insurance and Private Pensions Committee

- Ensuring efficient, resilient, stable, and inclusive insurance markets, based on sound prudential regulation and supervision of insurers and the protection of policyholders and beneficiaries, that support the capacity of the individuals, businesses, and governments to address risks and challenges, such as population ageing, sustainability and digitalisation;
- Ensuring that funded and private pension arrangements are well designed and inclusive, with sound prudential regulation and supervision, so that they work in the best interest of members, contributing to providing adequate retirement income within the overall pensions system, and addressing the many challenges they face, such as population ageing, sustainability and digitalisation;
- *Market liberalisation*: Relaxation of restrictions on cross-border trade, investment and establishment in insurance and pension services, as required under the OECD Codes of Liberalisation;
- *Consumer finance*: Ensuring appropriate level of access, protection and support for the demand-side, via financial consumer protection and financial literacy policies, to address asymmetries in market power and other consumer vulnerabilities.

Competition Committee

- Ensuring effective enforcement of competition laws through the establishment and operation of appropriate legal provisions, sanctions, procedures, policies and institutions;
- Facilitating international co-operation in investigations and proceedings that involve application of competition laws;

- Actively identifying, assessing and revising existing and proposed public policies whose objectives could be accomplished with less anti-competitive effect, and ensuring that persons or bodies with competition expertise are involved in the process of such competition assessment.

Committee on Fiscal Affairs

- Eliminating international double taxation on income and capital without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through complying with the key substantive conditions underlying the OECD Model Tax Convention;
- Committing to provide appropriate data for the CFA's periodic tax statistics and tax policy publications and also to contribute actively to the analysis of tax policy in terms of its effects on inclusive and sustainable economic growth and well-being;
- Eliminating double taxation through ensuring the primacy of the arm's length principle, as set out in the OECD's Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations, for the determination of transfer pricing between associated enterprises;
- Addressing Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) in accordance with the BEPS package and the ongoing work of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, including the two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy;
- Engaging in administrative assistance in tax matters, including through effective exchange of information as reflected in the international standards on exchange of information on request and on automatic exchange of financial account information in tax matters;
- Reducing uncertainty and risks of double taxation and unintended non-taxation when applying Value Added Tax/Goods and Services Tax in a cross-border context, through the design and operation of these taxes in accordance with the 2016 Council Recommendation setting out the OECD's International VAT/GST Guidelines and the further guidance provided in related reports;
- Combating tax crimes and other crimes in accordance with the 2009 Council Recommendation, the 2010 Council Recommendation and the Principles in Fighting Tax Crime: The Ten Global Principles;
- Committing to provide appropriate data for the International Survey on Revenue Administration for purposes of the Tax Administration Comparative Information Series.

Environment Policy Committee

- Developing and implementing effective and ambitious environmental and climate strategies and policies aimed at achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and commensurate medium-term targets in line with this pathway, while demonstrating actual implementation through robust transparency systems and no backsliding in ambition;
- Implementing target-based, transparent policies to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use, including stopping and reversing biodiversity loss, deforestation and land degradation by 2030 as well as protecting other vital ecosystems, through an efficient mix of economic and regulatory instruments and integration of biodiversity-related objectives into sectoral policies, as well as taking effective actions that are implemented on the ground, while respecting and enforcing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Implementing water policies that are based on long-term sustainable water management plans, encourage joint and shared management of water quantity and quality, and address practices, trends and developments that affect water availability, water demand, and exposure and vulnerability to water risks;

- Implementing policies directed towards ocean conservation, including effective target-based strategies to curb overexploitation and promote sustainable management of marine resources;
- With respect to sustainable management of resources, implementing integrated life-cycle-oriented approaches to waste and materials (including plastics) management and establishing framework conditions for a more resource-efficient and circular economy;
- Ensuring that generation of waste, including hazardous waste, is reduced, export of waste for final disposal is minimised, and that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner;
- Controlling exports and imports of hazardous waste while allowing trade in waste as end-of-life materials and products destined for economically efficient and environmentally sound recovery operations within the OECD area;
- Pursue policies for effective control of air pollution to achieve ambient air quality consistent with international public health standards; implement a national air quality monitoring system;
- Applying the Polluter-Pays Principle so that costs of pollution prevention and control measures, are borne by polluters and not generally subsidised by others, including governments;
- Promoting the use of economic instruments to improve allocation and efficient use of natural resources and better reflect the environmental and social costs of resource use, waste and pollution;
- Working towards phasing out any environmentally harmful subsidies across the economy with a view to directing all financial flows towards activities that are either neutral or positive for the environment;
- Integrating market and non-market instruments into an environmentally effective, economically efficient and socially equitable mix of policies, undertaking regular evaluations of the objectives, effectiveness and efficiency of environment- and climate-related policy and implementation instruments;
- Implementing a requirement for environmental assessment and continuous monitoring of projects, plans and programmes with potentially significant impacts on the environment, with measures for transparency and meaningful participation, early in the decision-making process and throughout implementation, by all people, including vulnerable, indigenous and local communities;
- Implementing integrated approaches for pollution prevention and control, and sustainable management of natural resources, working closely with other countries to address trans-frontier pollution;
- Integrating environmental and climate considerations into economic and sectoral policies and practices, promoting technological and organisational improvements to facilitate achievement of environmental and climate goals;
- Investing in climate resilience and adaptation as part of the national development agenda; mainstreaming adaptation and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity into policy making and spatial and infrastructure planning;
- Improving the process and quality environmental information and reporting, providing objective, reliable, policy-relevant and accessible information on the environment and sustainable development to decision makers and the public, including in ways that make it easy for local communities to access and understand;
- Ensuring effective enforcement of environmental laws by strengthening the capacity of environmental agencies and encouraging civil society's participation in such efforts, including by providing adequate access to justice, fighting impunity for violations of environmental laws and ensuring that acts of violence and intimidation against environmental defenders are rigorously investigated and prosecuted;
- Applying domestic policies and measures that hold polluters responsible for remediation of contaminated sites, and that support and directly engage communities affected by pollution;

- Assuming a similar level of obligations and commitments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as those accepted by most or all OECD Member countries, e.g. the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and setting national policy objectives in accordance with these obligations and commitments;
- Supporting non-OECD Member countries through international co-operation in the development and implementation of effective and ambitious environmental and climate strategies.

Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee

- Agreeing to accept, from the date of OECD accession at the latest, data generated in the testing of chemicals by countries adhering to the OECD Acts on Mutual Acceptance of Data and in accordance with the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice and Test Guidelines, for the purposes for the assessment and other uses relating to the protection of man and the environment;
- Ensuring the harmonisation of their chemical safety policies with those of OECD countries in order to (i) ensure that the instruments used to protect man and the environment are of comparable quality to those in Member countries, (ii) promote an OECD-wide system of chemicals management, thereby contributing to creation of a level playing field, and (iii) increase the possibilities of work-sharing with OECD Partners;
- Giving particular attention to hazard communication in the supply chain and to the establishment of a systematic and comprehensive industrial chemicals management system;
- Promoting and supporting pollution prevention, control and as appropriate remediation;
- Working together with OECD countries to encourage and support convergence of safety policies of non-Members towards OECD standards for chemical and biotechnology products;
- Exchanging technical and policy information to address current and newly-emerging issues associated with chemical management and biotechnology product safety;
- Committing to global agreements related to chemicals management;
- Willingness and ability to take on the obligations consistent with OECD instruments in the fields of chemical safety;
- Assuming obligations in Multilateral Environmental Agreements related to chemicals management to the same extent as the ones accepted by most or all OECD Members.

Public Governance Committee

- A sound structure of government, including the separation of powers and the ability to maintain the rule of law and continuously strengthen trust in institutions and democracy.
- Strengthen the public institutions' ability to promote systemic change as a way to respond to economic, social and environmental challenges through evidence-based and innovative policies;
- Leadership, prioritisation, co-ordination, and foresight capacity within the Centre of Government that ensures a whole-of-government approach to strategic decision-making and effective interface between the political and administrative levels in support of greater public sector effectiveness. This includes coherent enforcement frameworks, as well as robust set-ups for the governance of critical risks and crisis management;
- An open government able to foster transparency and accountability towards citizens, communicate with the public, promote stakeholder participation throughout the policy cycle, and protect and promote civic space;

- The use of ICTs, digital technologies and data, open data and innovation to improve access and quality of public services, including the vision and framework conditions for digital and innovative government as a strategic enabler of public-sector performance and responsiveness to the needs of society and the economy;
- The coherence of the legal, institutional and administrative settings and governance tools needed to design and implement policies, programmes and services to achieve societal goals such as gender equality, youth empowerment and intergenerational equity, access to justice and relevant Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16, underpinned by a strategic vision to enhance policy coherence;
- A coherent and comprehensive public integrity system, enabling effective government accountability and building a culture of integrity, including through sound safeguards at the intersection of the public and private sectors for lobbying and conflict of interest;
- Infrastructure governance frameworks and public procurement systems that are comprehensive, efficient and transparent and contribute to maximise the impact of public spending while achieving pressing policy goals such as sustainability;
- A fit for purpose public service aiming to ensure that adaptive and responsive employment systems enable skilled and effective public servants to work in values-driven culture and leadership, integrating strategic workforce planning and management, diversity, and mechanisms to ensure staff performance and capacity;
- The use of performance indicators and data on public governance, including performance data for eventual inclusion in the OECD public governance database published biennially in Government at a Glance.

Committee of Senior Budget Officials

- Capacity for spending better by the effective allocation and reallocation of public resources based on evidence;
- Capacity to meet existing and upcoming budgetary challenges and address high-level policy priorities in a sustainable manner, including through e.g. Green Budgeting;
- Openness and accessibility of public spending with clear mechanisms for transparency and accountability;
- Effective oversight of the budget process by parliaments and arrangements in place for public engagement.

Regulatory Policy Committee

- Commitment to strengthen public governance through regulatory policy leading to high quality, fit-for-purpose laws and regulations that ensure transparency, legitimacy, accountability and respect for the rule of law to continuously strengthen trust in institutions and democracy;
- Improve and strengthen regulatory policy and governance at all levels of government to promote regulations that respond to economic, social and environmental challenges;
- The approach to policy development, including the establishment of institutions and processes for ensuring sound policy development, including regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and oversight and reporting on government-wide compliance with regulatory management practices;
- RIA assessment capacity, including the implementation of a regulatory impact assessment framework that addresses the appropriateness of regulating, determines the effectiveness of regulations to achieve their objectives, ascertains whether regulations give rise to unnecessary costs

and incorporates explicit consideration of alternative policy instruments, non-regulatory options as well as the efficient use of market mechanisms;

- Adherence to the principles of transparency and public participation in the development of regulations;
- Regulatory performance, including the performance of its regulatory system, focussing on the organisation of the functions of its regulatory agencies and inspectorates, their public accountability and their conformance with review and appeals processes;
- Multi-level governance for regulatory coherence, including the promotion of regulatory coherence through coordination with national, sub-national and supra-national bodies and the promotion of international regulatory co-operation;
- Develop agile regulatory governance to respond to the changing environment with more flexible regulatory systems that will be more resilient to future shocks;
- Capacity to consider relevant foreign and international regulatory frameworks when regulating and the ability to assess the transboundary impacts of regulatory measures.

Regional Development Policy Committee

- Data on regional development, including the collection, publication and use of relevant data and indicators at different territorial levels for national and regional policy development, monitoring and performance evaluation;
- Regional development strategies and policies to strengthen regional and national performance, resilience, sustainability and citizen well-being, and reduce territorial divides. This implies place-based approaches to policy design and delivery tailored to the distinct attributes of each region within a coherent national framework and which should include notably:
 - Urban development frameworks;
 - Rural development frameworks;
 - Incentives to foster urban-rural linkages.
- Effective multi-level governance, including effective co-ordination within and across levels of government and policy sectors to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, competitiveness and well-being outcomes nationally, regionally and locally;
- Subnational institutional and fiscal capacity to implement subnational government policy responsibilities as well as contribute to the design and implementation of national policy, while delivering relevant public investments and services for growth, competitiveness, equity and sustainability in each region;
- Framework conditions that enable subnational jurisdictions to make public investments in an effective, efficient and transparent manner.

Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy

- Willingness and ability to fulfil the obligation in Article 3 a) of the OECD Convention to “furnish the Organisation with the information necessary for the accomplishment of its tasks”, including providing short term, structural and other analytical statistics and their associated methodological information needed for adequate policy analysis and surveillance;
- Establishment or maintenance of a legal and institutional framework for statistics and data aligned with the OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice [[OECD/LEGAL/0417](#)] and the Set

of Good Statistical Practices¹ that pertain to the individual provisions of the Recommendation, namely:

- Ensuring professional independence of national statistical authorities;
- Establishing an efficient coordination of the national statistical system and an effective governance of the data system;
- Providing the producers of official statistics with a clear mandate to collect information for statistical purposes, including access to data from administrative sources and to privately held data;
- Developing policies to ensure adequate human, financial and technical resources for the sustainable production of high-quality official statistics;
- Using sound methodologies aligned with international standards, and commitment to professional standards and innovation in methods and sources;
- Developing effective policies and good practices to ensure continuous improvement of the quality of official statistics, and to ensure their equitable and user-friendly accessibility and dissemination;
- Ensuring impartiality, objectivity and transparency of official statistics;
- Providing appropriate protection of the privacy of data providers and confidentiality of the individual information collected for statistical purposes;
- Committing to international cooperation.
- Establishment and maintenance of a sound statistical and data infrastructure (for instance housing and population census, labour force survey or business register) aligned with policies and good practices in OECD Members;
- Successful integration into the Organisation’s reporting and information systems by the time of accession, including appropriate mechanisms to transmit the data and metadata on a regular basis.

Economic and Development Review Committee

- To ensure effective policy-making in order to improve economic performance on a sustainable basis:
 - A robust macroeconomic policy framework and a sound financial system, including in the face of economic shocks;
 - Structural policy settings (including across product, labour and financial markets) consistent with promoting improved economic performance;
 - A well-functioning economy and strong institutions to support sustainable and inclusive growth.

Education Policy Committee

- Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of education and training programmes, and improving the quality of learning outcomes;
- Promoting equality in educational opportunities, ensuring access to and success in quality education for all;
- Gathering and using information to guide skills development;

¹ See <https://www.oecd.org/statistics/good-practice-toolkit/goodpractices/>.

- Using funding instruments and incentives to steer and encourage investment in skills development;
- Engaging stakeholders in designing and implementing policy.

Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee

- Ensuring that labour market, training, social protection and migration policies and institutions are in place to facilitate economic adjustment and promote inclusive and sustainable economic prosperity for all through:
 - appropriate inclusive labour market and training policies and institutions as well as industrial relations systems which are in line with the 2018 OECD Jobs Strategy;
 - policies to improve labour market opportunities for under-represented and vulnerable groups (for example, the unskilled, persons with disabilities, youth and older people) as well as policies to promote social dialogue, labour market inclusion and the transition from informal to formal employment;
 - policies to promote gender equality in employment and pay, as well as in training and access to social protection;
 - policies to promote the economic, employment and social opportunities for all groups of young people;
 - policies to promote the social and labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities and mental health issues;
 - financially and socially sustainable policies to promote social integration and cohesion, including retirement income policies, support for families with children, and measures designed to assist people without work and other vulnerable groups to combat poverty and find productive and rewarding jobs;
 - effective governance of the labour market and social protection systems, including the capacity to monitor the implementation of policies and analyse and evaluate the outcomes achieved;
 - policies to ensure the full respect of labour rights and thorough exercise of individual and collective labour rights, including through effective labour inspection, with a particular emphasis on fundamental labour rights, including the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
 - policies to combat all forms of discrimination in all areas of the economic and social life of the country;
 - policies to better manage migration flows and to foster the labour market and social integration of immigrants and their children, as well as policies to harness the skills of emigrants to support economic growth.

Health Committee

- The ability of the health system to deliver safe, people-centred and appropriate services, including access to preventive health care and medical treatment, to all social groups and in a transparent and timely manner;
- The resilience and preparedness of the health system to prepare for and respond to health emergencies and other crisis. This includes, but it is not limited to, addressing communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential, through alignment with International Health Regulations (IHR), the resilience of health services and interconnected systems and One Health approach to tackle Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and viral pathogens;

- The financial sustainability of the health system, including the ability of government and individuals to meet the financial obligations being placed on them;
- The governance of the health system, which includes effective design, implementation and evaluation of policies; the ability to coordinate different stakeholders; the collection, monitoring and analysis of data on health system and policy performance; and the ability to use health data in a privacy respectful way to advance research and care;
- The policies which are in place in key areas of global concern, including the prevention and treatment of communicable/infectious and non-communicable diseases, the health workforce, and innovation in health goods and services;
- The willingness and ability to provide internationally comparable data and information, and participation in the projects and programmes of the Health Committee and its sub-groups as well as other international organisations involved in health policy, to facilitate mutual benefit and learning;
- The accountability and transparency of stakeholders involved in decision making and the provision of health services.

Trade Committee and the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees

- Record of, and commitment to, transparency and openness of decision making on trade policies and practices;
- Record of, and commitment to, market access in agricultural and non-agricultural goods and services;
- Record of, and commitment to, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights;
- Adoption of, and commitment to OECD standards and best practices on export credits policies and practices;
- Commitment to demonstrate leadership in WTO reform efforts and WTO negotiations as befits members of the OECD.

Committee for Agriculture

- Agriculture policy and other support for the agriculture and agri-food sector, assessing the extent to which policies designed to support the agriculture and agri-food sector support sustainable food systems, including a better-functioning domestic and multilateral market environment, through being transparent; targeted to specific outcomes; tailored to the desired outcome; flexible, reflecting diverse situations; consistent with multilateral rights and obligations; and equitable;
- Whether agriculture policies foster sustainability, in particular the sustainable use of available water, land, energy, soil, biodiversity resources, forest – including with respect to deforestation – and contribute to solutions to climate change;
- Whether the necessary institutional, non-regulatory and regulatory frameworks (including the use of market-based instruments) are in place to enable markets for food and agriculture products to function predictably, efficiently and effectively, including to promote resilience of food systems, attract investment, support innovation and improve productivity;
- Whether policies for the food and agriculture sector are coherent with general macroeconomic, structural, social, climate and other environmental policies.

Fisheries Committee

- The application of sustainable fisheries management policies and practices, including eco-system based management approaches;
- A governance structure that can deliver sustainable fisheries and aquaculture outcomes, including with respect to stakeholder involvement in the management process;
- Sufficient research capacity to support developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- A sufficiently resourced fisheries surveillance and enforcement system to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities;
- National uptake of international principles for fisheries and aquaculture such as the FAO Code of Conduct;
- Participation in international bodies dealing with fisheries and aquaculture – both regional fisheries management bodies and international organisations dealing with fisheries and aquaculture matters.

Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy

- Develop a modern system for the governance of STI policies that promotes interaction across government and is inclusive of stakeholders, civil society and citizens. Such a system of governance should also encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue on the broader goals and normative values that underlie STI policy agendas, including with regard to socio-technical transitions, crisis preparedness and response;
- Develop and maintain institutional arrangements and policies to support fundamental, basic and applied research, including the sustainability of scientific research infrastructures;
- Promote excellence in targeted and curiosity driven scientific research through a balance of appropriate institutional and competitive funding mechanisms as well as evaluation mechanisms;
- Promote inclusivity and diversity in scientific education, research and employment and remove barriers to the participation of women and under-represented/marginalised groups;
- Develop policies and good practices regarding access, use and management of research data from public funding and promote open science;
- Ensure the preservation of academic freedom, respect for research ethics, and scientific integrity in all areas of research;
- Develop policies to foster interactions between industry and science (e.g. co-creation and the commercialisation of public research results via academic spin-offs, the licensing of intellectual property and mobility of highly skilled personnel);
- Promote mutually-beneficial international scientific and technology co-operation, economic growth and social development and address barriers that may affect such co-operation;
- Promote, individually and collectively, advances in scientific knowledge and technological development, while supporting the diffusion and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
- Develop supply-side and demand-side innovation policies that encourage private sector investments in R&D and innovation to improve competitiveness and address societal challenges (e.g. through mission-oriented innovation policies, public-private partnerships, public procurement, regulatory policies, etc.);
- Recognise in policymaking and implementation that technological innovation takes place in quite different sectoral environments, in terms of sources, actors and institutions, and innovation policies may need to be differentiated by sectors and stages of technological development (e.g. early stage, demonstration and deployment);

- Promote responsible research and innovation policies that take into account effects and potential impacts on the environment and society;
- Promote the engagement of science with society through a variety of channels (e.g. public understanding of science, science communication, institutional arrangements for scientific advice, and citizen science);
- Provide comparative statistical information, according to OECD guidelines, on science and technology performance, which is the basis for the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy's analytical work;
- Consider and follow, when appropriate, the best practices in science and technology policy, including intellectual property rights, developed by the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy.

Committee on Digital Economy Policy

- Implementation of effective policies, institutions and legal and regulatory frameworks to foster an inclusive digital transformation, including policies to spur the access to, investment in, development, uptake and responsible use of digital technologies, in particular trustworthy artificial intelligence systems;
- Promoting the expansion of high-quality and secure broadband communication services at affordable prices, including through competitive markets, investments and innovation, while accounting for their environmental impacts;
- Preserve digital technologies' role in stimulating innovation and advancing economic and social goals and in giving voice to democratic aspirations, while promoting a safe and trusted online environment for all users, including vulnerable populations such as children;
- Improving the ability to use data to solve economic and social challenges (e.g., climate change, pandemics) through improved access and sharing;
- Protection of individuals' personal data and privacy and co-operation in the enforcement of privacy laws;
- Promotion of a culture of security risk management in the use of information systems and networks and the protection of critical activities, including development of policies and practices to address those risks.

Committee on Consumer Policy

- Advance consumer welfare through the development and enforcement of policies that are evidence-based, informed by behavioural insights, and promote:
 - protection and empowerment of consumers engaging in e-commerce (including via online marketplaces), and the digital transformation more broadly;
 - enforcement co-operation against deceptive and unfair commercial practices affecting consumers, within and across borders, including by equipping consumer protection authorities with relevant powers and authority to investigate and take action;
 - the development of effective mechanisms for consumers to resolve disputes and obtain redress, including alternative (out of court) mechanisms;
 - effective consumer product safety policy frameworks, including cross-border co-operation informed by online market surveillance and global product recall initiatives;

- initiatives to detect and prevent the sale of unsafe products in all markets, including on online marketplaces;
- enhanced consumer engagement in the green economy;
- education and initiatives aimed at raising awareness of emerging consumer risks and challenges, consumer rights and obligations, as well as businesses' role and responsibilities.
- Develop and implement a process for consumer policy making that enables authorities to: i) define the nature of a problem; ii) assess the degree of consumer detriment; iii) determine whether action is warranted; iv) set desired policy objectives; v) identify the most appropriate policy response options; and vi) develop a process to review the effectiveness of those policy responses.

Steel Committee

- Contribute to a level playing field in steel by avoiding policy measures that distort steel markets and contribute to trade frictions;
- Support Members' efforts to address excess capacity in the global steel sector and its root causes;
- Reduce undue barriers to trade of steel products and related materials, on the import and export side, that increase the likelihood of restrictive trade actions being introduced by other countries;
- Facilitate needed restructuring of the steel sector that will diminish pressures for trade actions and promote rational allocation of productive resources, while making every effort to provide effective programmes to assist workers and mitigate the social costs of structural adjustments;
- Avoid the provision of preferential treatment to state-owned steel enterprises and ensure that such enterprises act in accordance with market principles and principles of competitive neutrality;
- Contribute to plurilateral and multilateral dialogue, best practice exchange and policy learning consistent with the need to address excess capacity, maintain competition, ensure well-functioning steel markets, to promote the green transition and decarbonisation, and to anticipate and prevent emerging problems in the steel sector.