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What is the OECD?
- A forum/platform for discussion: governments get together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of interdependence and globalisation so that they can:
  - Seek answers to common problems;
  - Compare policy experiences;
  - Identify best practices;
  - Co-ordinate policies, set standards, establish level playing ground; strengthen multilateral co-operation.
- A provider of evidence-based policy advice;
- A source of comparative, multidisciplinary data analysis;
- An informal and constructive platform – no money, no sanctions…

Historical Background
- Born after World War II as the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) to coordinate the Marshall Plan for economic recovery after the war;
- Transformed in 1961 into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development with trans-Atlantic and now global reach;
- The OECD has 34 member countries
OECD member countries account for 70% of world GNI (versus 80% twenty years ago); ~60% of world trade; 45% CO2 emissions; 46% world energy consumption. But account for only 18% of the world’s population. So,

- Enhanced engagement with some significant economic players: China, Brazil, India, S. Africa and Indonesia;
- Engaged in working relationships with more than 70 developing and transition economies, many taking part in as observers in OECD committee and other meetings. In all, work with most countries in the world.

OECD’s Mission

Article 1 of the OECD Convention:

- Support economic growth;
- Boost employment;
- Raise living standards;
- Maintain financial stability;
- Assist other countries’ economic development;

Fast facts

- Headquarters: Paris
- OECD Centres: Berlin, Mexico City, Tokyo, Washington
- Secretary-General: Angel Gurría
- Secretariat staff: 2500
- Annual budget: 343 € million
- Nearly 300 expert committees and working groups and over 40,000 officials participating in these bodies’ meetings per year
Who does what?

Council (Ambassadors of member countries)
Oversight and Strategic Direction: issues, budget

Committees
Discussion, Decision-making by consensus

Secretariat
Research, Analysis, Conclusions

Output: Policy Recommendations, Guidelines, Classification systems, Conventions

Peer review

- Examination, monitoring of country policies and practices by experts from other countries:
  - Peer pressure
  - Common methodology and criteria to assess performance for all countries
  - Systematic monitoring mechanism: reviews, meetings, publications
  - Best practices

- Results: Peer learning and capacity building

Better lives from every angle: areas of expertise

Fairer
- Migration
- Pensions
- Employment
- Trade
- Entrepreneurship
- Competitiveness
- Taxation
- Corruption

Stronger
- Education
- Healthcare
- Governance
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Innovation
- Climate change

Cleaner
- Energy
**Special bodies within the OECD**

- International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
- Development Centre
- Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes
- Development Cooperation Directorate and Development Assistance Committee (DCD/DAC)
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) projects (governance and investment)
- Africa Partnership Forum (APF)
- Sahel and West Africa Club
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Centre for Educational Research and Innovation
- International Transport Forum

**OECD Relations with Civil Society:** visibility among stake-holders

**WHO?**
- Think tanks, academia
- Parliamentarians, NGOs
- BIAC
- TUAC

**HOW?**
- Policy dialogue, consultations, networking and outreach
- Parliamentary: Council of Europe, NATO, OECD Centres, Official visits, OECD U.S. Congressional Leadership Group
- Other stakeholders, business, trade, students, etc.: Seminar Programme, Guided tours/visits
- Global Forums, OECD Forum

**Some OECD Achievements**

- Improving transparency and ethics in international business:
  - Principles of Corporate Governance
  - Polluter Pays Principle (PPP)
  - Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
  - Anti-Bribery Convention (legally binding)
- Simplifying tax issues in international transactions: OECD Model Tax Convention, fighting tax evasion and bank secrecy: OECD list of tax havens (link to G20)
- Helping emerging and transition economies: Guidelines on the reduction of poverty; on conflict prevention; co-operation programmes with emerging market economies (China, India, Brazil); regional programmes MENA, SEE.
- Environment: System of Classification on chemically dangerous products, system of identification of genetically modified organisms.