

ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



For a better world economy

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The OECD's 30 members

The 30 member countries of the OECD are:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Twenty of these countries became members on 14 December 1960, when the Convention establishing the organisation was signed. The others have joined in the years.

In May 2007, OECD countries agreed to invite Chile, Estonia, Israel, Russia to open discussions for membership of the Organisation and offered enhanced engagement, with a view to possible membership, to Brazil, China, India, South Africa.

In contrast to many other international organisations, becoming a member is not something that is automatically open to applicant countries. The member countries of the Organisation, meeting in its governing body (the Council), decide whether a country should be invited to join the OECD and on what conditions. A decision is taken at the end of what might be called the accession process.

Global partners

Over time, the OECD's focus has broadened to include extensive contacts with member economies and it now maintains co-operative relations with many other countries.

The Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members (CCNM) develops and oversees the strategic orientations of the OECD's global relations with non-members. 10 Forums have been established to address trans-boundary issues where the OECD work is dependent on policy dialogue with non-members.

Regional initiatives cover Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Sahel and West Africa Club promotes and facilitates links between the OECD countries and West African countries.

Helping the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe improve corporate governance is the concern of a special programme, Support for Improved Governance and Management (SIGMA). This is a joint venture with the European Union.

Co-operation with Brazil, China and Russia is carried out through individual programmes.

Civil society, parliamentarians and organisations

The OECD has been engaged with civil society since its creation, notably through the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).

The OECD also maintains close relationship with civil society and parliamentarians in member countries, notably through its close and long-standing links with the European Union and its Parliamentary Assembly, and with the Economic Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The OECD has official relations with other International organisations and

as the International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, International Atomic Energy Agency and many other United Nations bodies. The OECD also co-ordinates with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, an independent body linked to the Council of Europe with issues of improvement of all forms of transport.

The annual OECD Forum, held in conjunction with the annual ministerial conference, enables leaders from business, labour and non-governmental organisations to discuss key issues on the ministerial agenda with government ministers and senior international organisations.

The OECD also frequently offers online consultations for various pieces of legislation. **Also available:**

- * Membres et partenaires (French)

Related documents:

- * Policy Brief : Civil Society and the OECD (English)

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