



# Declaration on a Trusted, Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future



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## Background Information

The Declaration on a Trusted, Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future was adopted on 15 December 2022 on the occasion of the Ministerial meeting of the Digital Policy Committee (DPC) held in the island of Gran Canaria, Spain.

The OECD's work on digital economy policy aims to stimulate the growth of an innovative, open, inclusive and trusted and sustainable digital transformation for prosperity. The accelerated digital transformation countries have experienced, in particular since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, brings with it tremendous opportunities but also risks. The OECD provides policymakers with the tools needed to develop a forward-looking, whole-of-government policy response that leverages the potential of digitalisation for growth and well-being across policy areas – far beyond the sole sector of information and communication technologies – and manage related risks. In a rapidly evolving field with transversal implications for economies and society, such policy responses need to be agile, human-centric and values based, and developed in an international, multi-stakeholder context to stay ahead of the curve and remain effective. DPC provides the venue, evidence and analysis to develop and support the implementation of these policy solutions.

The Declaration was developed with input from partner countries and stakeholders to set a vision for a human-centric, rights-oriented digital transformation. At a critical juncture of recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, rising geopolitical tensions, and climate emergency, the Declaration underscores countries' shared values and democratic principles as a foundation for shaping and leveraging digital transformation to drive the global economy, build better societies, put people at the centre and harness the power of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. The Declaration sets a path to: 1) ensure that the OECD maintains its leadership as the go-to place for evidence-based policy making on digital economy policy; 2) showcase the rich and vast work produced by DPC since its 2016 Ministerial meeting in Cancún, Mexico; and, 3) articulate how the OECD can help Members and partners to identify opportunities and address challenges for our societies and economies in the context of accelerating digital transformation.

In the main sections of the Declaration, Adherents: i) acknowledge the OECD's work on digital policy undertaken under the auspices of the DPC since the previous Ministerial meeting chaired by Mexico in 2016 and welcome key outputs launched at the Gran Canaria Ministerial meeting; ii) are committed to working together and with all stakeholders to pursue: values and rights in the digital age, technology governance, connectivity, markets and the economy, technology supply chains, digital divides, mis- and disinformation, online safety, children in the digital environment, consumers, digital security, privacy, data governance, data free flow with trust, and digitalisation for environment sustainability; and iii) call on the OECD, through the DPC and in collaboration with other committees to pursue further work across all of these areas, underpinned by a comprehensive digital measurement agenda.

The Declaration concludes by stating Adherents' determination to work together, through the OECD, to uphold their shared values and pursue the path charted in the Declaration for a human-centric and rights oriented digital transformation that benefits all.

*For further information please consult the DPC Ministerial meeting website: <https://www.oecd-events.org/digital-ministerial/> or contact [Digitaleconomypolicy@oecd.org](mailto:Digitaleconomypolicy@oecd.org).*

**WE THE MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES** of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, met in the Island of Gran Canaria in Spain, on 14-15 December 2022, under the leadership of Spain as Ministerial Chair and with Denmark, Japan, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States as Vice-Chairs, for the meeting of the Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) at Ministerial level under the theme “driving long-term recovery and economic growth by building a trusted, sustainable, and inclusive digital future”.

**WE RECOGNISE** the important role of the OECD in advancing evidence-based policy making and as a forum for OECD Members, partners and stakeholders to share knowledge, experience, and data to identify and improve policy solutions to economic, environmental, and social challenges.

**WE CONDEMN**, in the strongest possible terms, Russia’s unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine as a flagrant violation of international law that shakes the very foundation of the international order, in line with the 2022 OECD Ministerial Council Statement, and **RECALL** the decision of the OECD Council of 8 March 2022 to immediately suspend the participation of the Russian Federation and Belarus in OECD bodies.

**WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY** with the people and the democratically elected government of Ukraine in its efforts to uphold and promote the benefits of an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, accessible, affordable, secure and resilient Internet.

**WE FURTHER CONDEMN** disinformation campaigns, government-imposed Internet shutdowns, and attacks on and threats to communication infrastructures, the Internet, technology supply chains and the flow of data and information, including through malicious cyber activities.

**WE REITERATE**, in particular against this backdrop, our unambiguous commitment to human rights and freedoms, peace, democracy, and the rule of law.

**WE RECALL** the 2021 OECD’s [60th Anniversary Vision statement](#), Trust in Global Cooperation: The Vision for the OECD for the Next Decade, which directs the OECD to support countries in harnessing the potential of digitalisation for economic growth and social inclusion to support open societies in the digital and data driven age and to advance responses to the challenges of digitalisation, including guarding against threats to democracy, digital security and privacy and combatting disinformation online, as well as to seek initiatives that enhance and promote data free flow with trust.

**WE RECOGNISE** that digitalisation has profound and transformational implications for our societies and economies, including immense potential to contribute to inclusive economic and social prosperity, well-being and sustainability, to realising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and to addressing global challenges such as the climate crisis and the COVID-19 response and recovery; and at the same time, that it presents significant challenges, risks and potential harms.

**WE CONSIDER** that seizing the opportunities and mitigating the risks presented by accelerating digital transformation is a critical responsibility of our governments.

**WE UNDERScore** the imperative of multi-stakeholder, cross-disciplinary and international collaboration for building inclusive, resilient and secure societies by shaping and advancing human-centric, comprehensive, coherent, actionable, sustainable and forward-looking approaches to digital policies.

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the OECD’s unique position to spearhead such collaboration and its long-standing leadership in identifying good practices and developing international, evidence-based and consensus based digital policy standards.

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the OECD's work on digital policy undertaken under the auspices of the CDEP since the previous Ministerial meeting chaired by Mexico in 2016, including seminal work under the Going Digital Horizontal Project phases I and II and on artificial intelligence.

**WE WELCOME** the following outputs launched at this Ministerial meeting:

- Four new OECD Recommendations on digital security policy that provide a broad-based and coherent policy framework to strengthen digital security in a way that promotes incentives for innovation and competition and respects human rights and freedoms, in the context of the rise in malicious cyber activity. These Recommendations promote international and multi-stakeholder co-operation and awareness to enhance the digital security of products and services. They guide countries in developing a strategic, whole-of-government and whole of society policy approach to create the conditions for all stakeholders to manage digital security risk, according to their role, which is essential to the functioning and digital transformation of our economies and societies.
- The outcomes of the OECD Horizontal Project on Data Governance for Growth and Well-being (*Going Digital phase III*), which recognise the importance of data as a driver of the global economy, advance a better understanding and measurement of the value of data, and support countries in developing coherent and holistic data governance policies.
- The Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities, which promotes trust in transborder flows of personal data by building a shared understanding of how like-minded democracies protect privacy and other human rights and freedoms when accessing personal data held by private sector entities for law enforcement and national security purposes.

**WE ARE COMMITTED** to working together and with all stakeholders to promote a safe, secure, inclusive and sustainable digital environment, underpinned by an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, accessible, affordable, secure and resilient Internet, and by respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic values in order to enable economies and societies to prosper, by:

- Advancing a human-centric and rights-oriented digital transformation that includes promoting the enjoyment of human rights, both offline and online, strong protections for personal data, laws and regulation fit for the digital age, and trustworthy, secure, responsible and sustainable use of emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Tackling the governance challenges posed by emerging technologies and business models, including online platforms, through inclusive multi-stakeholder discussions among democracies and with policy frameworks that promote technology diffusion, innovation, trust, risk-based approaches, and privacy and data protection, and through approaches such as agile regulation, anticipatory policies, and co-operation on international standards development, while advancing the multi-stakeholder system of Internet governance globally.
- Advancing ubiquitous access to high-capacity, high-quality, affordable, secure and resilient connectivity and computational infrastructure, including through promoting competition and incentivising investment, robust legal and regulatory frameworks, and supporting efficient, transparent and predictable spectrum management, guided by long-term societal and economic benefits.
- Promoting more competitive markets for an innovative and prosperous economy, accounting for diverse business models across firms of all sizes, through policies and regulations for data flows and online platforms and marketplaces including, in particular, in the areas of competition, communication services, digital trade, privacy and data protection, and consumer policy.
- Making digital technology supply chains, including semiconductor design and manufacturing, more sustainable, diverse, secure, and resilient throughout the entire value chain, to protect against shortages and disruptions that would hamper digital transformation and the functioning and safety of economies and societies.

- Addressing all digital divides, including gender divides, so that everyone has equal opportunity to participate, learn, work, explore, innovate, contribute to and benefit from digital transformation. This includes, in particular, investing in connectivity, digital technologies, digital public services, mobile government, skills, training, education, and capacity building to empower people to actively participate in digital societies and succeed in workforce transitions.
- Addressing the underlying factors that foster the creation, spread and acceptance of mis- and disinformation while respecting human rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression.
- Working to keep individuals, especially children, safe online by combatting illegal and harmful online content while respecting freedom of expression, and by protecting all children from online manipulation and abuse.
- Promoting a positive, age-appropriate and safe digital environment for children and young people and providing opportunities for all children to acquire the necessary skills and competences to make active, safe and informed choices online.
- Strengthening digital security as a foundation for digital transformation, economic growth and social prosperity by developing policy approaches that enhance trust, security and resilience.
- Securing the welfare of consumers by empowering them to make informed decisions in the digital environment and by protecting them from misleading, manipulative, deceptive, fraudulent, unlawful, and unfair commercial practices, and unsafe and unsecure goods and services.
- Continuing to develop and implement data governance policies and strategies that support data driven decision-making and innovation and promote economic and social prosperity by enhancing the responsible, transparent, trusted and privacy-respecting use, access to and sharing of data within and across public and private sectors.
- Protecting privacy and other human rights and freedoms in the face of new privacy risks and rapid technological developments.
- Strengthening our efforts to further a common understanding and to work towards identifying commonalities, complementarities and elements of convergence between existing regulatory approaches and instruments enabling data to flow with trust, including across borders, in order to foster future interoperability.
- Leveraging digital transformation to advance economies and societies towards sustainability and net-zero targets, including by mitigating its negative environmental externalities and by developing and deploying digital technologies and solutions with positive effects on the environment.

**WE UNDERSCORE** the role of the OECD, in particular its CDEP, as a forum for sharing knowledge and experience on digital policies and practices, building and enhancing the evidence base, identifying good practices, and engaging in international and multi-stakeholder co-operation, including in other relevant international fora, to develop policy standards and guidance for a trusted, sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive digital future for our countries that reflect our shared values and put people at the centre.

**WE CALL** on the OECD, through the CDEP and in collaboration with other committees, to:

- Further develop thematic and horizontal work to advance a global digital policy framework building on the Organisation's historical and institutional expertise, analytical tools and proven capacity to work with a wide variety of countries and stakeholder groups, to inform policy making for increasingly interdependent and global digital economies and societies.
- Enhance our understanding of the economic aspects of digital transformation and its overall impact on economic growth, business capabilities, competitive markets, innovation, productivity, societies, the labour market and employment prospects, including across sectors, and developing related policy recommendations. These may address: online platforms and immersive environments; emerging technologies; artificial intelligence; data free flow with trust and cross-border data flows; digital security; intellectual property; privacy and data protection; and communication and other infrastructures.



- Advance a comprehensive digital measurement agenda to enhance the OECD's evidence base in support of digital transformation with a particular focus on areas that present challenges to traditional measurement approaches, including but not limited to: the impact of digital transformation and digital divides on the economy, society, human rights, and individual well-being; affordability of communication services; the value of data and data flows; illegal, harmful and misleading content online and their impact on individuals, society and democracy; the impact of digital technologies on the environment and their contribution to the green transition; advancements in research and the use of AI and emerging technologies; as well as privacy and digital security issues.
- Identify and analyse new technology trends, related societal and economic impacts and the implications for policy and regulatory frameworks in support of innovation and of responsible and trustworthy use of digital technologies for the benefit of society, including through continued guidance to promote the implementation of related OECD Recommendations, for example with regards to the development of trusted and secure digital identity systems that will become increasingly essential for citizens and businesses to take active part in social and economic activities in domestic and cross-border settings.
- Realise the OECD Global Forum on Technology to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration on digital and emerging technology policy, to facilitate future-facing strategic discussions on technology governance and inform the development and use of technology in line with shared democratic values.
- Provide guidance to help countries benefit from artificial intelligence as a general purpose technology across all sectors; support the development of forward-looking, coherent and implementable frameworks for governing artificial intelligence and managing its risks effectively; and provide evidence, foresight, tools and incident monitoring for effective policy planning and execution to implement trustworthy artificial intelligence.
- Review the OECD Recommendation on Principles for Internet Policy Making to assess its impact and consider trends that may pose a threat to the open, interoperable, distributed and interconnected nature of the Internet, as reflected in the Recommendation.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing to advance a common understanding of how rights and freedoms should be respected and applicable online as they are offline, including through policy analysis and guidance on how to foster a digital transformation that puts people and the protection of human rights at its centre.
- Identify and analyse trends in the connectivity ecosystem and market structures to support the development of future-proof connectivity policies and regulation, which foster ubiquitous access to high-capacity, high-quality, affordable, secure and resilient communication infrastructures and services for all.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of and policy recommendations to help countries address all digital divides and boost the human-centric adoption and diffusion of digital technologies to promote inclusive growth and help everyone thrive in the digital world.
- Analyse the impact of digital transformation and data-driven practices of online platforms on individual well-being and on societies focusing on issues such as mental health, work life balance, digital literacy, labour standards, and social cohesion, with a particular emphasis on people in vulnerable situations and underrepresented groups in society.
- Support the enhancement of consumer protection and empowerment in digital transformation and the green transition, including by promoting evidence-based policy and decision making and cross-border co-operation.
- Take stock of emerging approaches to advance online safety and improve the evidence base to support related policy recommendations and consistent and complementary regulatory approaches that respect human rights, including freedom of expression and other freedoms. This includes gathering insights and improving transparency on countering harmful and illegal content

and conduct online, including terrorist and violent extremist content and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

- Expand the evidence base about mis- and disinformation online to further develop policy approaches to address the causes and effects of such content, while respecting protections for human rights and freedoms including freedom of expression.
- Support efforts to further build a common understanding of commonalities, complementarities, and elements of convergence between existing regulatory approaches and instruments enabling data to flow with trust, such as Model Contractual Clauses and other transfer tools, in order to foster future interoperability.
- Support the development of comprehensive and effective data governance frameworks that facilitate data access and sharing and that are consistent and complementary to support economic progress and societal goals.
- Support personal data and privacy protection by assessing the impact of related technology trends, and by fostering regulatory and cross-border co-operation, as well as trust, innovation and competition based on fair and responsible data practices.
- Provide further policy guidance to strengthen digital security, with a particular focus on a risk-based approach and areas such as the security of products and services, communications infrastructure security, vulnerability treatment, capacity building for vulnerable users and developing countries, and co-ordinated incident response, based on a better understanding of the economic incentives and the effectiveness of policy approaches to digital security.
- Take stock of and identify policy recommendations and good practices in support of a twin transition that fosters sustainable business models and consumer engagement, promotes the development of green technology that is sustainable by design and by default, and leverages digital technologies to contribute to meeting net-zero targets and mitigating climate change.

**WE ARE DETERMINED** to work together as our countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and in view of threats to sovereignty and individual rights and freedoms worldwide, through the OECD, to uphold our shared values and pursue the path charted in this Declaration for a human-centric and rights-oriented digital transformation that benefits all.



## About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

## OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, around 460 substantive legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions** are adopted by Council and are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. They set out specific rights and obligations and may contain monitoring mechanisms.
- **Recommendations** are adopted by Council and are not legally binding. They represent a political commitment to the principles they contain and entail an expectation that Adherents will do their best to implement them.
- **Substantive Outcome Documents** are adopted by the individual listed Adherents rather than by an OECD body, as the outcome of a ministerial, high-level or other meeting within the framework of the Organisation. They usually set general principles or long-term goals and have a solemn character.
- **International Agreements** are negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangement, Understanding and Others:** several other types of substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.