



The Sustainable Development Goals: An overview of relevant OECD analysis, tools and approaches



OECD

BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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The 2030 Agenda is a holistic plan for action on all fronts – social, economic and environmental. The universal nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for a profound transition in the way we look at – and work for – development: from a focus mainly on the needs of poor countries, to one that emphasises well-being and sustainability in all countries.



Putting the world on a sustainable and resilient development path requires bold and transformative steps underpinned by new tools, new data, new ways of working and new resources.

The OECD has tools and experience that can be brought together to contribute to achieving the SDGs efficiently and on time. The OECD's strong track record in working with developed and developing economies can help make progress that is relevant to all people, no matter where they live. Since its founding over 50 years ago, the Organisation has worked with its members to promote better policies in areas ranging from education and employment, to trade and gender equality. At the same time, the OECD has increasingly emphasised co-operation with countries outside of its membership, sharing and applying knowledge and experience.

Over the coming years, governments and organisations will redouble their development efforts to create a better future for the planet, people, peace, partnership and prosperity. The OECD is contributing by: 1) improving policies and the way they work together; 2) mobilising resources for sustainable development; 3) working for well-being for all; 4) ensuring the planet's sustainability; 5) leveraging the power of partnerships; 6) strengthening data availability and capacity; and 7) facilitating follow up and review.

“OECD Expertise Relevant to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” maps the organisation's assets – focusing on data, policy tools and platforms for dialogue – against each of the 17 SDGs. The “OECD Action Plan on the SDGs” sets out how the OECD will continue to transform and adapt so as to best support its members and the international community in achieving the SDGs.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/OECD-action-plan-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-2016.pdf>

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/OECD-expertise-relevant-to-the-sustainable-development-goals.pdf>

1. Working with all stakeholders for better policies

The objectives of the SDGs are multi-dimensional. To achieve them, synergies across policy areas and trade-offs of domestic and international policy with regard to development goals must be identified. An integrated approach to policy coherence can help to capitalise on interconnections and avoid conflicts. For example, improved access to safe drinking water (Goal 6) can promote health (Goal 3) and food security (Goal 2), while increasing the use of land for agriculture to help end hunger can actually undermine efforts to curb loss of biodiversity (Goal 15). Goals also work in tandem: the existence of accountable, transparent and effective institutions for water management and regulation can support efforts to improve access to water.

A better understanding of policy interactions and their implications can support more coherent and efficient action to achieve the SDG targets and goals. Greater policy coherence can also help to create enabling environments for sustainable development. For example, it is estimated that reducing global trade costs by 1% would increase worldwide income by more than USD 40 billion, 65% of which would go to developing countries.

In addition to its policy coherence for sustainable development programme (see box), the OECD addresses the multi-dimensional nature of many of issues through horizontal projects and international initiatives, such as the **Multi-dimensional Country Reviews, New Approaches to Economic Challenges**, the **Knowledge Sharing Alliance** and the **Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development**.

Addressing complexities also requires a whole-of-government approach. The OECD supports its members in better aligning their vision, incentives and delivery mechanisms to achieve goals such as inclusive growth, which in essence means placing the planet and people's well-being first.



POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The OECD's tools and instruments for policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) have evolved through close collaboration with governments, international organisations, the business community and civil society. They are founded on a unique understanding of the linkages between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and of the opportunities for creating synergies among them.

- A practical, self-assessment policy toolkit – the **PCSD Framework** – is helping identify and address synergies and trade-offs among economic, social and environmental policy areas. It includes thematic modules on global food security and illicit financial flows.
- The **Network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence** identifies good practice, strengthens policy tools and methodologies, and promotes dialogue among stakeholders, including OECD and partner countries as well as civil society.

Evidence-based analysis of key global challenges is published and shared widely, either in the form of thematic reports – e.g. on food security, illicit financial flows and green growth – or through the annual report on *Better Policies for Development* and the topical *Policy Coherence for Development* reports.

Addressing specific policy issues, such as those of fragile and conflict-affected societies, is crucial to ensuring that the sustainable development needs of the most vulnerable populations are brought to the fore. The OECD provides a platform for dialogue and exchange on the development challenges and opportunities of the most at-risk societies (see box), taking into account the major thematic challenges and opportunities. This includes looking at causal factors, such as violence, and how to manage related risks; programming in areas such as political leadership and social protection; working with local authorities; adapting approaches to middle-income countries and to urban environments; and empowerment of women and girls.

CONFLICT, FRAGILITY AND RESILIENCE

The SDGs provide a solid foundation for delivering on peacebuilding and statebuilding goals, supporting resilient societies, dealing with humanitarian emergencies, and reducing risks of instability and shocks – even in the most difficult places.

Yet following through on these aspirations requires a new type of partnership among the diverse stakeholders engaged in at-risk countries. The first step is to improve comprehension of just what makes a country fragile, at risk, or in crisis. An understanding of why some nations and communities are more exposed to fragility and shocks is essential for designing policies and programmes that address the real challenges involved.

Quality finance – funding that arrives in the right place, in the right way and at the right time – and the right mix of partners are essential as well. The OECD is helping to understand how the wide range of available financing tools and stakeholders – including the private sector, developing countries and co-operating governments – can be “layered” to deliver the best possible results for each fragile, at-risk and crisis-affected context.

Contexts of fragility, risk and crisis evolve rapidly, and so must organisations and structures if they are to provide the tools, partnerships and systems needed to deliver on ambitions and promises. The OECD is helping its Development Assistance Committee members to review their policies and approaches to working in difficult contexts to ensure they are fit for purpose.

To learn more, please visit:

www.oecd.org/pcd

www.oecd.org/knowledge-sharing-alliance

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/governance-peace/conflictandfragility>

<http://oe.cd/naec>

<http://oe.cd/devpolicies>

www.oecd.org/dev/mdcr.htm

www.oecd.org/dev/migration-development/knomad.htm

www.oecd.org/dac/governance-peace/governance/efc.htm

2. Promoting investment in sustainable development

Aid – **official development assistance or ODA** – is, and will remain, a crucial source of funding for development (see box). It is now clear, however, that aid must also be used as a multiplier to mobilise the full range of resources needed to finance the broad, interlinked Sustainable Development Goals.



SMART AID

ODA is only one of many flows targeted to support development. At over USD 137 billion in 2014, it represented only 24% of all official and private flows from the 28 member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Yet ODA can continue to be a vital source of financing for sustainable development, especially when used strategically and “smartly”:

- ODA can be used to make investment attractive in high-risk situations by spreading and sharing risk, and by creating incentives.
- ODA can help countries raise and manage their own domestic resources through capacity building and sharing of good practice.

Developing countries are increasingly using their potential to fuel their own development and move out of “aid dependency”. The OECD is working with them to:

- Build the capacity of their tax systems through programmes such as the joint OECD-UNDP **Tax Inspectors without Borders** (see page 12). In absolute numbers, tax revenues dwarf ODA: the total collected in 2012 in Africa was ten times the volume of development assistance provided to the continent.
- Find creative ways of harnessing the expanding pool of remittances sent home by migrants working overseas and of reducing their costs. Remittances are the largest source of external finance for many developing countries, reaching USD 423.6 billion in 2014 – higher than ODA and higher than foreign direct investment.
- Attract investment by businesses in other countries, including other developing countries.
- Tackle corruption and the loss of money through illicit financial flows.

Recent reforms to the ODA system are also helping to “make aid smart”:

- OECD members are targeting ODA where it is needed most – the least developed countries and fragile states – and using it to mobilise other resources.
- The ODA concept has been re-engineered to ensure it is fit for purpose in the current financial environment, and to soften the terms and conditions for lending to the countries most in need.

To promote transparency and monitor commitments, the measure of total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD) has been proposed to complement ODA and help to mobilise and monitor a broader array of resources in support of the SDGs. The July 2015 Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia evidenced the renewed determination to agree on a comprehensive approach to post-2015 financing for sustainable development. New resources must be tapped and commitments must be measured and monitored.

The resources that will be needed every year to achieve the SDGs are far greater than current levels of ODA. Private investment can play a key role in filling the financing gap. OECD ministers have endorsed a Policy Framework for Investment (see box) that can help developing countries prioritise reforms to catalyse private investment. In December 2015, the OECD hosted a conference gathering development partners and investment policy makers to share their views on how this framework can best support the implementation of the SDGs.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Private investment is essential to deliver long-term sustainable development. Improving policy frameworks and strengthening public sector capacities in developing countries can encourage private investment – both foreign and domestic.

The OECD **Policy Framework for Investment** (PFI) is a comprehensive and systematic approach to improving investment conditions, an ideal tool for unlocking private resources for sustainable development. Through its multi-dimensional approach, the PFI can help to fill investment gaps in key sectors – including infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises, responsible business conduct, public governance (including anti-corruption and anti-bribery) and investment for green growth – and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for long-term, quality investment.

The OECD **Recommendation on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government** can help governments assess the strengths and weaknesses of their public investment capacity at all levels and set priorities for improvement. Better knowledge and transparency on the state of sub-national finance can help to identify fiscal gaps, create a climate of trust and accountability, and enhance the multi-level governance of public investment. The OECD, United Cities and Local Governments and the French Development Agency have joined forces to build a **worldwide database on sub-national finance indicators**.

High-quality infrastructure supports the delivery of effective public services in transport, education, health, culture, and many other areas that affect people's lives and by implication the achievement of the SDGs. The OECD is working to strengthen the governance of infrastructure (including its financing) to realise substantial benefits by managing public investment and improving growth outcomes.

The OECD is contributing to promoting resources for sustainable development on many fronts, creating synergies among key areas of work, including: supporting **domestic resource mobilisation** (effective tax policies and administration; the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative; and efforts to curb illicit financial flows, to promote automatic exchange of tax information, and to build tax audit capacity in developing countries); promoting **investment** (the Policy Framework for Investment – see box – the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on responsible business conduct, the OECD Recommendation on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government – see box – and well-being work on anti-bribery); advising on **climate finance** (the OECD Policy Guidance for Investment in Clean Energy Infrastructure); making the most of the contribution of **international development co-operation** (modernisation of the official development assistance measure, the Aid for Trade Initiative); strengthening **financial inclusion** (financial systems development, financial education and consumer protection); and **reducing the cost of remittances**.

To learn more, please visit:

www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/ffdandtheoecd.htm

www.oecd.org/trade/aft

www.oecd.org/investment/pfi.htm

www.oecd.org/g20

www.oecd.org/mena

www.oecd.org/gov

www.oecd.org/ctp

<https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/responsible-business-conduct-matters.htm>

www.oecd.org/corporate/mne

www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery

<http://oe.cd/cleanenergy>

www.oecd.org/dac/development-co-operation-report-2014.htm

www.oecd.org/finance/financial-education

3. Supporting inclusive growth and well-being



The new SDG framework recognises that sustainable development has to be put in motion everywhere, and for everyone. The OECD **Framework for Measuring Well-being and Progress** supports this vision, going beyond traditional measures of GDP growth. Originally developed for OECD countries, it is increasingly being used by developing countries to identify and assess national development challenges. Measuring well-being is also a central aspect of the OECD **Better Life Index**, which monitors and benchmarks countries' performance in promoting well-being. The OECD **Inclusive Growth initiative**, **Multi-Dimensional Country Reviews** and **regional policy assessment programmes** also monitor well-being. Analysis of well-being among youth, as well as the contribution

of social protection to human well-being, are prominent aspects of the OECD **youth inclusion and social protection projects** in developing countries.

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

Governments worldwide have recognised the importance of gender equality as both a goal of sustainable development and a means of realising it. The OECD works with key stakeholders to deliver the SDGs for women and girls through a range of partnerships, which include the **Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality** (GENDERNET), the **Southeast Asia Gender Initiative**, the **MENA Women's Business Forum** and a number of other initiatives.

- The OECD was instrumental in the adoption of a target at the G20 summit in Brisbane to reduce by 25% the persisting **gender gaps in the labour markets of G20 countries** by 2015 – gaps that persist even though young women in these countries are more educated than young men. Together with the International Labour Organization, OECD is tasked with monitoring progress.
- In the Middle East and North Africa, the OECD promotes women's economic empowerment through its MENA Investment Programme, providing guidance for **accelerating women's entrepreneurship**. The MENA-OECD Gender Group on Women in Government Platform and the OECD Southeast Asia Gender Initiative (jointly with UNDP) assess the state of gender equality in public life.
- In 2015, the OECD broke ground by beginning to track ODA in support of **ending violence against women and girls**, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage. This contributes to holding governments accountable for delivering on SDG commitments to eliminate violence against women.
- The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation's **indicator on gender equality**, developed by the OECD and United Nations Women, provides country-level data on national allocations for gender equality.
- The OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index offers a cross-country measure of **discrimination against women** (formal and informal laws, and social norms and practices) in institutions across 160 countries. Discriminatory social institutions act as drivers of gender inequality, perpetuating gender gaps in areas such as education, employment and health.

Inclusive urbanisation is central to achieving Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The OECD engages with mayors, regional leaders and national public officials responsible for urban and regional policies to address the challenges they face, including curbing global carbon emissions; providing adequate water supply and sanitation; establishing efficient public transport networks; dealing with informal settlements and shanty towns; and reducing vulnerability to risks related to natural disasters.

At the same time, the rural dimension cannot be ignored; the majority of the world's 80 million undernourished live in rural areas. The OECD is developing a territorial, place-based approach to rural development that enables governments to deal with food and nutrition security in a more integrated manner. Ongoing migration challenges across the world (see box) have to be considered as realities that concern big cities of settlement as well as the rural communities the migrants are leaving.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Since 1972, the OECD has provided solid, evidence-based analyses of migration policy challenges, helping to dispel stereotypes and misinterpretations that often dominate discussions on migration. The OECD promotes solid and comprehensive policies for the integration of all types of migrants and their children to ensure effective utilisation of skills, as well as successful integration into the labour market, education systems, and – over the long term – the social life of their destinations.

- 1. Migration trends.** The OECD regularly monitors and collects data on migrants and their characteristics in its member countries, as well as a number of non-member countries. This enables the identification of trends in countries of destination and origin, and in the changing composition and characteristics of migrants. The availability of high-quality and internationally comparable data on migrants and migration trends is essential for the design and implementation of effective policies. To respond to growing intra-regional migration, the OECD has developed an approach focused on migration within specific regions.
- 2. Policy analysis.** The OECD conducts thorough analyses of countries' migration policies, with a focus on labour-related migration. Its review series *Recruiting Immigrant Workers* gathers and shares knowledge regarding the key characteristics of effective labour migration policies: policies that promote, develop and fully utilise migrants' skills to address labour market needs, while minimising adverse effects on domestic populations. The OECD also contributes to analysis of policies on family migration policies, focusing on the challenges countries face in managing family migration and effective ways of addressing them.
- 3. Integration of immigrants and their children.** The OECD has developed a series of indicators to measure the integration of migrants and their children, ranging from economic and labour market outcomes to schooling, housing and poverty measures. This work has shown that efficient integration policies can have a major impact on the economic and social well-being of all migrants in their destinations, and in particular of refugees.
- 4. Economic impact of migration.** The OECD has documented the important role migrants play in the economies of their destination countries, contributing to labour markets in key sectors with their skills and knowledge, as well as to population growth. OECD work has also demonstrated that, contrary to common belief, in most countries migrants contribute more in taxes and social contributions than they receive in individual benefits.

This work demonstrates that policies to ensure safe, orderly and regular migrant movements can enhance the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

In addition to this analytical work, the OECD offers a forum for governments to meet and share experiences in migration, promoting policy dialogue and encouraging experience-based solutions to common problems.

Universal access to water and sanitation presents a set of related challenges. Yet the water sector is highly fragmented and largely decentralised and access to water is often more dependent on good governance than on physical resources. Appropriate economic instruments and strategic financial planning can catalyse needed revenues for the water sector and the OECD's **Principles on Water Governance** can support better governance arrangements to mobilise and make the most of water finance.

To learn more, please visit:

www.oecd.org/statistics/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm

www.oecd.org/regional/how-is-life-in-your-region.htm

www.oecd.org/migration

www.oecd.org/gov/cities.htm

www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/watergovernanceprogramme.htm

www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development

www.oecd.org/dac/dcr2013.htm

www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth

4. Ensuring the planet's sustainability

Successful implementation of the SDGs will require striking a balance between socio-economic progress, sustaining the planet's resources and ecosystems, and combatting climate change. Through its work with members, partner countries, and other key actors, the OECD supports sound environmental management that underpins the sustained achievement of inclusive economic development and prosperity, while delivering human security and resilience.

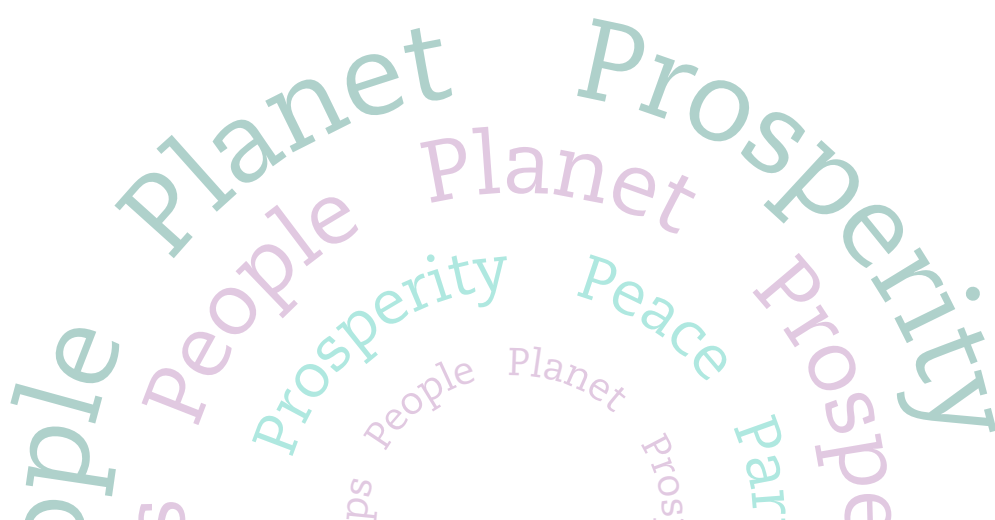
- **Policy analysis for climate mitigation and adaptation to climate change.**

The OECD conducts extensive work on the design, implementation and cost-effectiveness of environmental instruments in areas such as carbon pricing, taxing energy use, and budgetary support and tax expenditures for fossil fuels. Much of this work goes beyond the sphere of environmental policy; in 2015 the OECD published its report *Aligning Policies for a Low Carbon Economy*, along with the International Energy Agency, the International Transport Forum and the Nuclear Energy Agency, to identify misalignments between climate change objectives and policy and regulatory frameworks in a range of domains (e.g. investment, taxation, innovation and skills, and trade). Other publications include *Effective Carbon Prices; Taxing Energy Use 2015: OECD and Selected Partner Economies*; and the *Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil Fuels*. OECD analyses how climate adaptation is being integrated into national planning, focusing on progress in monitoring and evaluating the economics of adaptation. Finally, the OECD supports the integration of adaptation policies into development planning activities.



- **Sustainable management of water and sanitation.** The OECD-GWP Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth has evidenced how water insecurity acts as a drag on global economic growth. Together with the World Water Council, the OECD has created a High Level Panel on Financing Infrastructure for a Water Secure World to guide sustainable investment in water security, and in water and sanitation services, thereby enabling scarce resources to be efficiently deployed, risks to be managed, and new opportunities to be exploited. The OECD also offers policy guidelines to improve the efficiency, timeliness and equity of adaptation responses to changes in the hydrological cycle.

- **OECD Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs)** monitor progress and advise on policy reforms to deliver environmental sustainability for all OECD countries and an increasing number of partner countries. The OECD's **Economic Surveys** also include key sustainability issues. The OECD builds and maintains strategic international and multi-stakeholder partnerships to share best practice in sustainability at the technical and political levels. Through its dedicated programme for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, for example, the OECD is contributing to the development of the Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy in the pan-European region, which brings together a range of concrete actions that could be used to help achieve the relevant SDGs.



CAPTURING SYNERGIES BETWEEN CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

To understand policy trends and needs, the OECD hosted a series of dialogues on post-2015 sustainable development and the environment, including one focused on green finance. Green development finance includes technical assistance that supports developing countries in strengthening enabling environments and building capacity, as well as direct support to climate-change and environmental programmes and activities.

The OECD collects and reports statistics on development finance to local and global environmental objectives. The **OECD DAC databases** allow for the retrieval of activity-level data on development finance flows targeting the Rio Convention objectives, including climate finance. This allows for an approximate quantification of these flows and enables tracking of the degree to which environmental considerations are mainstreamed into development co-operation portfolios. The OECD also co-ordinates a **Research Collaborative** to develop and assess approaches to estimating private climate finance mobilised by developed country action.

Although OECD statistics do not reflect directly what is reported to the UNFCCC, they provide an important overview of the diverse public sources of climate-related development finance and provide early insights on private climate finance flows. The collection and publication of detailed activity-level information increases the transparency of climate-related development finance and also provides an improved recipient-level perspective by identifying where development finance is going.

The OECD is sharing its expertise with the international community on relevant international finance flows, and the implications of different methodologies for estimating mobilised climate finance.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://oecd.org/environment>

<http://oecd.org/dac/environment-development>

<http://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/water.htm>

www.oecd.org/greengrowth

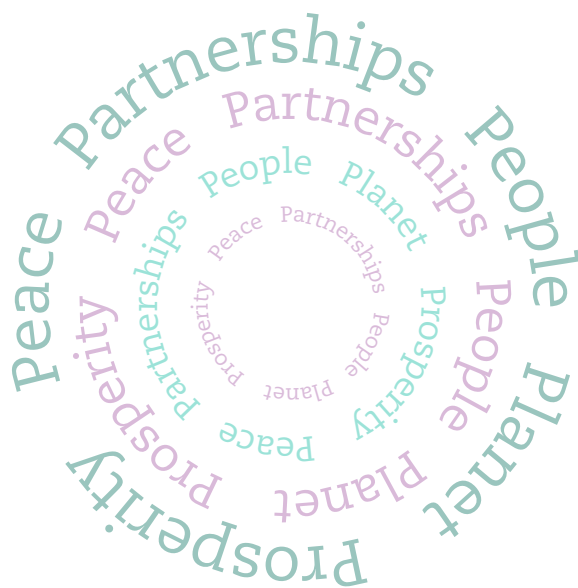
<http://oe.cd/adaptation>

www.oecd.org/env/resources/biodiversity.htm

<http://oe.cd/climate>

www.oecd.org/development/stats/rioconventions.htm

<http://oe.cd/low-carbon>



5. Leveraging the power of partnerships



Programmes to enhance the quality of development partnerships are a hallmark of OECD work, complementing efforts led by the United Nations (UN). The OECD acts as a forum for collaboration with actors from around the world and facilitates inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships among members, low- and middle-income countries, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society in a range of development efforts.

- The OECD and UNDP jointly support the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation**, an inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnership that helps to improve the quality, effectiveness and impact of development co-operation. With evidence-based work informed by data and experience on the ground, it identifies innovative solutions and best practice, and fosters exchange and mutual learning to promote effective implementation.
- The **OECD Development Centre** is a forum where 51 countries at different stages of development come together to share their experiences on economic and social development policies. The Centre's Policy Dialogue on Natural Resource-based Development, Initiative for Policy Dialogue on Global Value Chains, Global Network of Foundations Working for Development, and Emerging Markets Network also involve non-state actors, providing outreach to wider policy communities and helping to support and complement UN activities.
- **The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding** brings together countries affected by conflict and fragility, international partners and civil society. It acts as an open policy forum to share experience on the successful implementation of programmes supporting the transition from conflict-affected to peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies. It also helps stakeholders to agree on and implement a set of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals that guide national and international programming in conflict-affected and fragile states.
- Together with UNDP, the OECD supports the **Effective Institutions Platform**, an alliance of 70 countries and organisations that promote country-led and evidence-based policy dialogue on public sector management and institutional reform. Through collective learning processes, the platform helps its members establish accountable, inclusive and transparent public sector institutions capable of delivering the right policies for poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Its results inform a wider audience through an influential global network.
- **Tax Inspectors without Borders** is a partnership between the OECD and UNDP that works to build tax audit capacity in developing countries. It brings together the OECD's technical competence in tax matters, UNDP's global reach and membership, a network of tax experts and representations in developing countries with access to policy makers at the highest level, as well as policy and programme expertise in public financial management.
- **The Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes** has brought about dramatic improvements in international tax transparency over the past six years in making the tools and insights needed to enhance tax co-operation and to help countries fight tax evasion and illicit flows available to all. It has the reach, capacity and an extensive technical assistance programme to enable developing countries to benefit from this new environment. The Global Forum is comprised of 134 members worldwide who participate on an equal footing and 15 observer organisations including the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the United Nations.

These are just a few examples of the OECD partnerships that are working directly towards achieving specific parts of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together its members, partner countries and other stakeholders.

To learn more, please visit:

www.effectivecooperation.org

www.oecd.org/dev

www.effectiveinstitutions.org

www.pbsbdialogue.org

www.oecd.org/tax/taxinspectors.htm

www.oecd.org/dev/natural-resources.htm

www.oecd.org/dev/global-value-chains.htm

www.oecd.org/social/poverty/networkoffoundationsworkingfordevelopment.htm

www.oecd.org/dev/oecdemnet.htm

6. Strengthening data availability and capacity

Turning the ambition of the SDGs into reality requires robust data to capture progress and evidence to inform decision making. OECD data and evidence-based analyses at the global and national levels can contribute to measuring sustainable development.

Yet measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs will be challenging. Many of the proposed targets are complex and multifaceted, and the goals cover a broad range of fields. The emphasis on reducing inequalities will require detailed data on multiple dimensions, such as gender, disability, socio-economic status and place of living. Very few countries, including OECD members, currently have data meeting all these requirements. The OECD is helping countries to track progress in areas such as trust, health inequalities, green growth, income and consumption inequality, and job quality. It supports countries in developing and using environmental and green growth indicators and in achieving environment-economy integration over time.

Monitoring progress against the goals also requires significant global investment in developing statistical capacity, new types of data and measurement instruments (beyond official statistics), close co-ordination to improve comparability of data, guidance and standards, and improved global governance (see box).



SUPPORTING A DATA REVOLUTION

The SDGs present an unprecedented opportunity to harness new sources of data and foster innovation and technology in support of sustainable development. The data revolution with its explosion in the volume of data is matched by a widespread and growing demand for data. Yet if the data revolution is to be meaningful for inclusive development, the playing field must be levelled by bridging global data gaps and reducing inequalities in data capacity.

The OECD-hosted, multi-stakeholder partnership **PARIS21** (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century) is helping to:

- strengthen national statistical capacity in developing countries
- build bridges among data users and data producers, developed and developing countries, and private and public data providers
- promote dialogue and knowledge sharing to foster international co-ordination and exchange of best practice in data development and in linking data and policy
- strengthen collaboration with national statistical offices to develop measurement standards and gather data in new areas where globally agreed methods are still under development.

Harnessing the promise of the data revolution is essential to making the SDGs a success, ensuring that high-quality and timely data are available to measure and act on what counts most.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://data.oecd.org>

<http://stats.oecd.org>

www.paris21.org/about

<http://oe.cd/jobquality>

7. Facilitating follow up and review

Inclusive follow up and review mechanisms are essential to incentivise action and learning around the 2030 Agenda. The OECD deploys a number of **country assessment, peer review** and **peer learning** mechanisms across a range of policy fields – economic, investment, environmental, energy, migration, education (see box), development co-operation and more. These mechanisms have played a key role in sharing learning and knowledge, improving policies and practices, and building trust and mutual respect among partners. They hold much promise for strengthening the ways and means of implementing a universal SDG framework.

The OECD is adapting its range of assessment and learning mechanisms to the new 2030 Agenda and will contribute their outcomes to the national, regional and global follow up and review of the SDGs, including the High Level Political Forum.



PISA FOR DEVELOPMENT

OECD is working to adapt one of its most successful policy instruments – the Programme for International Student Assessment, or PISA – to the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries, and more broadly to implementing the UN-led 2030 Agenda.

Since its launch in 1997, PISA has become the leading reference on the quality of education systems worldwide. Every three years, PISA assesses the knowledge and competencies of 15-year-olds in three subjects: reading, mathematics and science. It also assesses gender gaps in the performance of students, demonstrating that despite significant progress, gender stereotypes continue to limit girls' choices and aspirations.

To date, more than 70 countries have taken part in PISA, including over 30 emerging economies. The latest round of results, PISA 2015, will be published in December 2016.

To identify how PISA can best support evidence-based policy making in emerging and developing economies while contributing to the UN-led definition of global learning goals, in 2014 the OECD and a number of partners launched a four-year **PISA for Development** initiative. The OECD and its partners expect that from 2018 onwards, the advances made through PISA for Development will enable more countries to use PISA for setting national learning targets, monitoring progress, and analysing the factors that affect student outcomes. In particular, it will help them to zero in on poor and marginalised populations. Finally, it will build institutional capacity to track post-2015 global education targets focused on access to education, as well as on learning.

To learn more, please visit:

www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/pisafordevelopment.htm

www.oecd.org/site/peerreview

www.oecd.org/env/country-reviews

www.oecd.org/pisa

www.oecd.org/eco/surveys

Further reading

<http://www.oecd.org/development/sustainable-development-goals.htm>

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/post-2015.htm>

Supporting the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development: The role of the OECD and its members:

<http://oe.cd/oe cdsdgs>

Views and insights on sustainable development by the OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Dutch minister Lilianne Ploumen and OECD experts and guests:

www.oecdobserver.org/sdg

Overview of the indicators, policy instruments and dialogue platforms available to support OECD members in their implementation of the SDGs: <http://oe.cd/mapping>



