

42nd Annual Meeting of the Network of Senior Officials from Centres of Government

OECD, Paris, France
22-23 November 2023

AGENDA



**SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL
DU GOUVERNEMENT**

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42nd Annual Meeting of the Network of Senior Officials from Centres of Government "Fostering social cohesion in the face of polarisation: the role of Centres of Government"

22-23 November 2023

OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France

REVISED AGENDA

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

19:00 – 22:00 **Senior Officials' Dinner** hosted by Claire Landais, Secretary-General of the Government, France
Grand Salon of the Army Museum (Musée des Armées), Hôtel des Invalides, main entrance Esplanade des Invalides, 129 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris

Welcome:

- **Antoine Pellion**, Secretary General for Ecology Planning and Ecology Advisor to the Prime Minister, France
- **Fabrizia Lapecorella**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

Thursday, 23 November 2023

Meeting Chair: **Claire Landais**, Secretary-General of the Government, France

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome remarks**
Room CC6, OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

- **Claire Landais**, Secretary-General of the Government, France
- **Fabrizia Lapecorella**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

Session 1: Centres of Governments at the centre of democratic resilience in the face of polarisation

10:10 – 11:00

Room CC6, OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

Session Chair: Dr. Evi Dramalioti, Secretary General for Co-ordination, Presidency of the Government, Greece

Governments and democratic systems have shown remarkable resilience in the wake of recent shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine and the ensuing economic effects. However, governments continue to face significant pressures, not only from major global challenges and trends such as climate change, sluggish growth, digitalisation, and migration, but also from low trust, increasing political polarisation, citizens disengagement from democratic processes and mis- and dis-information. This session will provide an opportunity for senior officials to reflect on and discuss the role of Centres of Governments in reinforcing democratic resilience. Building on Chapter One of the [OECD Government at a Glance 2023](#), **Build, reinforce and protect: Democratic resilience in an era of multiple crises**, participants will discuss the following questions:

- *What signs of polarisation are CoGs seeing in the current context? How is it impacting on the ability of the CoG and wider government to perform its role and deliver on major challenges?*
- *Is any work being done in your administration to look at this issue? What kind of actions are/can CoGs take in addressing it?*
- *Facing polarisation might include additional efforts around citizen participation, for example. What has worked well for this and what has not?*

Session 2: Centres of Governments at the centre of combatting mis and dis-information

11:00 – 12:30

Room CC6, OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

Session Chair: Stéphane Bouillon, Préfet, Secrétaire général de la défense et de la sécurité nationale, Secrétariat Général de la Défense et de la Sécurité Nationale (SGDSN), France

Whilst the reasons behind increasing polarisation and citizen's disengagement are complex, mis- and disinformation are clearly playing a role in exacerbating the situation. They limit people's ability to access trustworthy information and hinder their capacity to engage constructively in public debate and democratic life. In this session, senior officials will discuss the role of Centres of Governments in strengthening social cohesion in the face of polarisation and misinformation. Building on work from countries reflected in the work from countries reflected in the [OECD DIS/MIS Resource Hub](#) launched at the OECD Public Governance Ministerial Meeting on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy, participants will discuss the new actions needed to build democracies' resilience to mis and dis-information to: promote transparent and healthy information spaces; strengthen societal resilience and stakeholder participation; and reinforce accountable, transparent, and agile governance.

Discussion questions for session 2:

- *What kind of co-ordination mechanisms have been put in place in your administration to implement efforts to strengthen the information space?*
- *What role can CoGs play in developing common guidelines on combatting mis- and disinformation to strengthen the integrity of information as a necessary effort to strengthen democracy?*

- *How can CoGs work more systematically and efficiently with non-governmental stakeholders and international organisations to design and implement effective policies to promote information integrity?*
- *What is the impact of artificial intelligence in the context of information operations and what kinds of AI tools can be used for countering mis- and disinformation?*

12:30 – 12:40 **Family Photo**

12:40 – 14:00 **Lunch at OECD**

Room George Marshall, Château de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

Session 3: Centres of Governments at the centre of fostering the direct involvement of citizens in policymaking

14:00 – 15:30 *Room C, Château de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris*

Session Chair: Thierry Lambert, Délégué Interministériel à la transformation publique, Ministère de la transformation et de la fonction publiques, France.

Giving citizens a direct voice has become a priority for many governments seeking to strengthen the social compact. A number of state modernisation initiatives aim to bridge with the “lost citizen” – those detached or marginalised from political processes and institutions. Governments are increasingly turning to more participation mechanisms to engage citizens directly in decision-making in a bid to get them back on board. A number of visible cases have been held at national level and some countries are also planning to use referenda further. This session will be an opportunity to discuss the role of Centres of Governments in shaping and implementing new ways for collective public decisions and share examples of recent experiences, lessons learned, difficulties of institutionalising these processes into the traditional representation mechanism and assess their success to date.

Discussion questions for session 3:

- *What experience have you had in CoG promoting coordination and integration of participatory processes in your country?*
- *What are promising avenues related to deliberative democracy mechanisms and what are their limitations? What mechanisms have worked well, and which ones have not?*
- *How can centres of government create more opportunities for inclusive public participation, particularly for those who are more marginalised from political processes and institutions?*

Session 4: Priorities for action by Centres of Governments in the face of polarisation

15:30 – 16:15 *Room C, Château de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris*

Session Chair: Loren DeJonge Schulman, Associate Director, Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget, United States

Delegates will be invited to present the priorities for action foreseen for 2024 (2 minutes per country).

Conclusions and closing.

19:30 – 21:30

Social dinner

Hôtel de Cassini, 32 rue du Babylone, 75007 Paris

Friday, 24 November 2023

10:00 – 12:00

Cultural event (optional)

Exhibition at Musée du Louvre, 75001 Paris (main entrance - pyramide)

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