

Public Governance for Inclusive Growth - Towards a new vision for the
public sector

Closing remarks, by Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

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Distinguished Ministers, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are now coming to the end of an exceptional event. I wanted to thank again Minister Anu Vehviläinen for her leadership and for sharing with us her conclusions which are reflected in the Chair's summary from the meeting. Let me also thank our three Vice Chairs, Minister Shimpei Matsushita from Japan, Mr. Gaurab Bansal, Deputy Assistant to US President Obama, and Minister of State Helge Braun from Germany. But most of all, I wanted to thank you for your ideas and your commitment.

We came here to share our experiences and see how public governance can rise to the challenge of inclusive growth.

To build this new approach, we discussed key directions for government along the four stages of the policy cycle, giving a voice, getting the design right, ensuring capacity for delivery and strengthening accountability.

The vision that we have shared together over the course of today – this “Helsinki Vision” of the Public Sector – is intended to guide us all in our work. You have heard many examples of policy success from around the world. I hope that some will inspire you in your daily work, and I encourage you to contact one another to continue the exchange of experience started today.

Our OECD policy communities – on public governance, regulatory policy and budgeting will also take this agenda forward. Members of your staff who are delegates to these committees will see the fruits of our work today in strengthened work programmes in these committees over the coming years.

Let me mention one very immediate impact: Our Senior Officials from Centre of Government will discuss tomorrow the role of the centre in steering policy priorities, and how to address the perceived disconnect between ambitions and action. This will help to refine the very practical contribution that the centre can make to bring forward the agenda identified during the Ministerial meeting.

The OECD is not only a think tank but also a Do tank. We will be here to help, work with you and your countries to overcome the challenges of implementation, sharing good practices to identify what works and also what does not. Through policy reviews, good practice guidelines, governance indicators, we can help you achieve the objectives that we set for ourselves today, for example:

- unleash the potential of public sector innovation,
- move towards a world class civil service,
- secure a better gender balance in public life,
- build trust in the public sector as effective regulator and deliverer of services to citizens
- fight the risk of corruption and fraud
- and build together a data driven public sector,

This Helsinki Ministerial will stay with us as a landmark event.

Before closing, I also wanted to thank all the teams in Finland and at the OECD, as well as in your countries, who worked very hard to make this happen, with day and night work over the past month.

Together we can build better policies for better lives, for today, tomorrow and the future generations.

Thank you.